Pre-Conclave 2017 2016-2017, Issue 4

The Mole O Grow "Capturing the True Spirit of Moledom through Enhanced Relationships"

-Mole Doris Asbury





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Detroit, Michigan **Our Featured Chapter**



Our Featured Chapter Detroit, Michigan



The Detroit Chapter of The MOLES invite you to join us at the

67th Annual Conclave

of The MOLES

June 15-18, 2017

Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center 400 Renaissance Drive Detroit, Michigan

> The Marvelous Moles will be Sparkling in Motown, and YOUR presence is Required to make it complete!

Welcome to Detroit!

In anticipation of your visit, the *Detroit Moles* have made the following resources available to provide a preview of all that Detroit Michigan has to offer.

Visit Detroit - http:/visitdetroit.com/

Additionally - the following website will be updated with the latest Conclave information so, please be sure to check it frequently.

www.detroitmoles.webs.com

We look forward to seeing you in Detroit! Your Hosts,

The Detroit Moles

Moles Yvonne Knox and Monique Parnell Phifer, Conclave Co-Chairs
Mole Gretchen Bailey, President

The President's Corner



My Dear Mole Sisters,

As we prepare our **Pre-Conclave Edition** of the **Mole -O-Grawn**, our excitement is escalating. We are excited that our chapters and **Mole Sisters** have truly embraced the idea of sharing their events and activities with their fellow members. Secondly, we are thrilled to make preparations to meet and greet our **Mole Sisters and Mule Brothers** in the **Motor City**.

During a recent visit to Detroit, it was difficult to tell who was more excited, the **Moles or the Mules**. It appeared that they were engaged in a friendly competition to see who could plan the best activities.

The Detroit Marriott is located on the river and this 76 story facility with 1,298 guest rooms, adjoining the new General Motors Headquarters, is ready to house all of us as we "Sparkle in Motown".

It was great to get a sneak preview of the tour sites since I will be in meetings and cannot participate in June. I feel confident that those of you who have registered for the tours will not be disappointed.

If you haven't registered, you should do so and not miss out on this great opportunity.

Mole Sisters, be sure to pack all of your sparkling outfits because you will need them for this weekend of sparkles.

I can hardly wait for June 15th to begin a weekend of fun in the Motor City. The **Detroit Moles and Mules** have really planned to make this a spectacular affair for all of us. I hope that your registration was submitted in a timely fashion so that our host chapter can finalize the plans for your arrival.

We remain grateful to **Mole Bunny** and contributing chapter courtesy chairs for all of their hard work developing a first class **Mole-O-Gramv** for our reading pleasure Also, many thanks to **Mole Alfreda** for placing it on our website for easy accessibility to all of our members. Please take the time to read about the wonderful activities that our chapters have been involved in during the past months. They have taken our motto: **"Enjoy yourself; It's Later than You Think"** to an all-time high.

Mole Sisters, thank you for all you do for our great organization and I am very grateful for your support and encouragement of this administration.

I am looking forward to greeting each of you in June as we gather for the **2017 Moles Conclave**.

With Sisterly Love, Mole Dorís Mole Doris



Our Baltimore Chapter

THE BALTIMORE MOLES CELEBRATE

This is the season of graduations, birthdays, and celebrating the warm weather that brings buds and beautiful blooms. In Baltimore, while we are in the midst of planning an awesome 2018 Conclave, we nonetheless want to share some of our special news.



Mole Ellen Howard (pictured left) is proud to announce the arrival of her sixth great grandchild, a girl, daughter and second child of granddaughter Cory. Mole Ellen also celebrates that granddaughter Cory has become a producer of The Greta Van Susteren show on MSNBC.

Mole Bea Grant (pictured below left with Mole Marguerite Walker and husband, Mule Otha Grant, are enormously proud of granddaughter Alexandra Elizabeth Brown who will be graduating on June 9th from Glenelg Country School in Maryland. She will be attending West Virginia University's pre-med program.



Congratulations are extended to **Mole Blanche and Mule Paul Beckham** (pictured below) for their grandson, Steward D. Beckham, Jr. who graduates from the University of Maryland with a degree in history. Steward plans to continue his studies towards a master's degree in his field. The Beckhams also celebrate their granddaughter, Taylor Beckham who was featured in the Baltimore Sun as a "Person on the Rise". Taylor has secured a position as an attorney with Gorman & Williams law firm in Baltimore.



Our Chicago Chapter

CELEBRATING MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

How many Mole members do you have in your chapter that have experienced close to 100 years of living? I mean, really how many? Well let me introduce you to our very special MOLE CLARABELLE CLAIBORNE (Pictured below Left and Right). She is......wait for it, Ninety – Nine (99)! Did you hear that?? Ninety-nine (99) years of good living and she deserves to be applauded. Now, listen up, she doesn't use a cane, she doesn't wear eye glasses and she lives alone. She is still sparkling with Mole Enthusiasm and Loyalty. Don't we all want to be like

Mole Clarabelle!







Pictured above left to right are Moles Vivian Curtis, Patricia McCreary, Kimberly Carmen, Lisa Finch, Joanne Cowart, Irby Bray, Linnie Sims, Thelma Smith and Mildred Porter. Seated above left to right are Mole Clarabelle Claiborne and Charter member, Mole Nemi Johnson. Mole Nemi also celebrated a milestone of 90 years and had a wonderful birthday party earlier in April in Laurel, MS where she will be relocating soon. Mole Joanne celebrated her birthday on April 26th.

Our Columbia Chapter

"AIN'T NO PARTY LIKE A COLUMBIA MOLES PARTY"



The Columbia Moles' March 2017 meeting was hosted by chapter Vice President, Mole (Dr.) Vicki Young, pictured above left with National/Chapter Parliamentarian, Mole Jodi Gallman and Chapter President, Mole Cynthia Bennett. Themed Jamaica Me Crazy, the evening's festivities reflected the island theme. Tables were adorned with orange linens, with floral arrangements featuring palm leaves and Bird of Paradise in vibrant bloom. The food and music embodied the distinct flavors and vibe of Jamaica. Mole Vicki took her Moles and Mules on an island trip and we never had to pack a bag, Mon!





Mole Jean and Mule Lewis Pinkston hosted our April 2017 chapter meeting. Themed *A Savoy Sip-n-Sup*, the meeting was followed by an elegant dinner harkening back to the historic Harlem Renaissance. The beautiful Columbia Moles (pictured above left) and suave Columbia Mules (pictured above right) were *dressed to the nines*. Chapter members dined on individually selected entrées from a diverse menu while listening to the music of era favorites such as Count Basie, Sarah Vaughn and Duke Ellington. The dinner tables were adorned in lighted gold, black and white décor and gave all in attendance a sweet taste of the Harlem of yesteryear!



Mole Bunny, National/Chapter Courtesy Committee Chair, and Mule Fred Jones, Sr. ended the Columbia Moles' 2016-17 meeting season on May 5th by hosting *A Moles' Spring Fest*. The ballroom was filled with stunning pale pink and blue table linens with floral arrangements of Gerbera Daisies, Stargazer Lilies and miniature roses. Moles, Mules and guests feasted on a delicious buffet meal and danced to the music of the "Mike Stone Trio". The business meeting, which preceded the dinner/dance, concluded with the installation of new Chapter Officers for 2017 -2019. Pictured above L-R: installing Officer, Charter Mole Alice Hurley; Moles Cynthia Bennett, President; Alison Summey, By-Laws Chair; Jean Pinkston, Financial Secretary; Tammy Rutherford, Treasurer; Edna Langley, Chaplin; Lavita Harriford, Rec. Secretary; and Martha Smith, Nominating Committee Chair. Other Officers not pictured: Moles Jodi Gallman, Parliamentarian; Bunny Jones, Courtesy Chair, and Jeanne Felder, Corr. Secretary.

Our Houston Chapter

CELEBRATING NEW PRESIDENT'S INSTALLATION, PROMOTIONS AND GRADUATIONS



Houston Chapter President, Mole Jackye Alton (above left) installed the President-elect, Mole Linda Burkley (above second from left). The multi-talented Mole Linda is also serves as the National Music Chair. She is busily preparing to lead the choir at the National Conclave in Detroit. Observing the induction are (pictured above left to right) Moles Carolyn Yarbro Smith, Courtney Robinson, Patricia Sewing and Harriet Roberts.



Congratulations to our own Tony Welch (pictured left), son of proud **Mole Mary Ann Welch.** Tony has been named Vice President of Investments for Griffin Communications in Oklahoma.

Look who is graduating from High School this year! Casey Lockhart (pictured right) is graduating from St. Agnes Academy and will be attending Thomas Aquinas College in the fall. Casey is the granddaughter of **Mole Betty Lockhart.**



Our Louisville Chapter

143RD KENTUCKY DERBY: IT'S HATITUDE, ATTITUDE AND PARTIES FOR LOUISVILLE MOLES

The Louisville Chapter of Moles began the 143rd Kentucky Derby on the fourth Saturday in April, our meeting date for each month. Mole June Owens was the hostess for "IT'S HATITUDE TIME." Chic clothing and beautiful hats were worn by all Moles. Mole June was a marvelous hostess.

On April 29, the celebration continued with the **Louisville Moles and Mules** attending the *Links Day at the Races on Millionaires Row*. This was the opening day of Churchill Downs. Night racing began at 4:00 pm as **Moles and Mules** enjoyed each other with Links and friends.

"HATITUDE"



Moles June Owens & Bernadette Hamilton

"CURCHILL DOWNS MILLIONAIRE'S ROW"



Mole President Faye Owens, Laura Douglas, Sherrie Lyons & Bernadette Hamilton

Friday also introduced *The Trifecta*, a gala sponsored by the Mr. U. Bridgeman, Jr. Family to benefit the local West End Boys School for African American young men and the University of Louisville Autism Center. The host was Sinbad with performances by Multi-Grammy Award Winner Jill Scott, Grammy Award Winner Miguel and America's Got Talent finalist, Linkin' Bridge of Louisville, KY. Louisville Moles and Mules enjoyed the evening of entertainment, fine dining and dancing.

On the first Saturday in May, visitors think the two minute race of the 143rd Kentucky Derby is the main event. The true reality is the main event is the *Alpha Kappa Alpha Derby Brunch* at the Ramada Convention Center. **Louisville Moles and Mules** mingled with HBCU sororities and fraternities and friends 1000+ strong. A buffet was served, 20 scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors through the Hortense B. Perry Foundation and Little Miss AKA, Kalia Swann, was the star.

"THE TRIFECTA"



Mule Ed & Mole Bernadette Hamilton; Mole Gladys & Mule Larry Barclay; Mule Ken & Mole Carolle Clay

"AKA DERBY BRUNCH"



Mule Rey & Mole Beth McAlpin

Our Newport News Chapter



Newport News Moles celebrated Mardi Gras at our February meeting hosted by Mole Rosalind McCoy-Sibley. Pictured (left to right) are: Moles Janice Grace, Vivian Blake, Donna Tapp-Reid, Elaine Eatman, Karen Bland-Greene, Michelle Hammond, Glorya Roberts, Marqueta Tyson, Lisa Sapp, Alexis Swann, Rosalind McCoy-Sibley, Kellie Mason, Jeannie Russell, Arlene Blount, Bonita Hunter and Johne Ewell.

We celebrated our March anniversary at a party at Mole Jeannie and Mule Eddie Russell's house. Several of our Mules volunteered to participate in the Anniversary Game (Modeled on the Newlywed Game) which was great entertainment and lots of laughs for us all! Pictured right are (front row R - L): Mules Eddie Russell, Richard Brooks and Bill Grace. Second row (R – L): Mules Darren Swann, Dwayne Blake, Cleve Ewell, Jack Hunter and Richard Blount.







Congratulations to Mule Jack Hunter who was chosen as Co-Member of the Year by the Virginia Peninsula Chapter of 100 Black Men! Pictured with him above left is Mole Bonita Hunter. There to support Mule Jack and the organization are pictured above right: (standing left to right) Moles Johne Ewell, Rosalind McCoy-Sibley, Vivian Blake, Jeannie Russell, Bonita Hunter, Kellie Mason and Janice Grace

Our Philadelphia Chapter

MEMORABLE MOLE MOMENTS

As the Philadelphia chapter embraces the 'Mole Moments' for this year, we relish and have been emphasizing the "joy" and "sparkle" of Moledom. We have been on the move enjoying Ourselves, Life, and Family. Our meetings are lively affairs and our Mole hostesses just weave our motto "Enjoy yourself; it's later than you think" in the very fabric of their gatherings. In March, Mole Millicent captured a 'moment' which added such sparkle as we dined at the restaurant of her choice. In April, Mole Gertrude entertained us in her lovey home, where food and fun were paramount on the agenda. In May, Mole Sue embraced us in her warm, welcoming style of graciousness and legacy as we wet our palates with a most delightful dish with much sisterly discourse.

Founded upon the ideal of friendship, the **Philly Moles** in March celebrated their annual worship service at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Spring Hill, PA with Mule Reverend Keith Hodges delivering the spirited homily – as cited in his message – "Keep your eye on time as the **Moles'** motto – Enjoy yourself; it's later than you think!"



Mole Sue & Reverend Keith Hodges



Worship Service

In April our annual Membership Tea was held with the goal of replenishing our chapter with new affiliates for 2018.



As we look to Detroit and our national conclave, we entrust our year of civic, political, and service planning to our Board Member and Conclave Delegate, **Moles Kweli Archie and Irene Shockley** as they represent us with high regard.

Welcome Back!

President Jocelyn!



Our Portsmouth Chapter

VIRGINIA 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Mole Cynthia Morrison

Mole Cynthia Morrison is the Third Congressional District Chairperson for the Democratic Party of Virginia. She is the chairperson for Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott's congressional district. She will be convening a convention in Portsmouth, Virginia for the purpose of reorganization of the district.



Mule Malcom and Moles Cherron Mitchell, Delois Bailey and Mule Don Bailey

MOLES AND MULES AT SWAN LAKE PERFORMANCE

Mule Malcom and Mole Cherron Mitchell enjoy an afternoon with Mule Don and Mole Delois Bailey at the April 2, 2017 production of Swan Lake at Chrysler Hall during the Norfolk, Virginia Arts Festival.



Mole Rita C. Roberts

PORTSMOUTH MOLE APPOINTED TO PRHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mole Rita C. Roberts was appointed to the Board of Commissioners of the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority in March of 2017. Mole Rita is our National Registered Agent and has held the positions of Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the Portsmouth Chapter.

Rita Roberts became an ACL™ Certified Trainer in 1999 and an ACL Certified Master Trainer in 2010. Mole Rita's professional career includes almost 40 years of Information Systems audit and risk assessment experience with particular emphasis on the use of data analytics with organizations in healthcare, hospitality, banking & financial services, manufacturing, retail and public accounting.

Our Washington, D.C. Chapter

CELEBRATING FOUNDER'S DAY



On April 23, 2017, the Washington D.C. Chapter of the Moles celebrated its Founder's Day at the home parish of Mole Joan McKinley-Shelton, Holy Comforter St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church, where Monsignor Charles Pope delivered the homily. The service was spiritually moving, the choir's singing was heavenly, and the homily was powerful. We left feeling moved by the lessons of the four pillars of Christianity - apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. Many thanks to Mole Joan for hosting our chapter at this momentous occasion where we contributed to its Bonnie Singletary Education Fund. Photo: Left to Right: Baby Mole Antoinette Schooler, Mule Leslie Nelson, Mole Mary Myers-Nelson, Mole Kaye Hayes (Chapter President), Mole Joan McKinley-Shelton, and Mole Verna Frazier.

MOLES' COMPANY WINS SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

On April 4, 2017, the DC Chamber of Commerce announced that **Mole Dr. Carolyn Rudd Johnson's** company (CRP), Incorporated, won its Small Business of the Year Award. **Mole Carolyn** (pictured right) is the founder, C.E.O. and President of CRP. Under her leadership, CRP was among the nation's first minority-owned firms to provide an array of technical support services to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. **Mole Carolyn** was recognized at the Chamber's Champions Small Business & Economic Development Summit and Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, **Mole Carolyn**!



SKI-TASTIC!!

Mole (Dr.) Beverly J. O'Bryant (Wash DC Chapter 2015) is a member of the 40,000

member National Brotherhood of Washington DC Chapter. She is a medals over the years, including a mountain in a NASTAR 2010 do. (The 8th place winner was 12 years old and **Mole Beverly** was summit was held at Keystone Resort and won an individual gold medal, a medal. Wow! Congrats, **Mole Beverly!**



Skiers' (NBS) 1500 Member Black Ski of downhill racer who has won numerous medal for the 9th fastest woman on the Challenge at Aspen/Snowmass, Colorayears old, the 1st place winner was 29 64 years old!). This year, the NBS in Colorado. Mole Beverly competed team gold medal and a team silver

PROUD PARENTS

On March 2017, Alexis Young, member of KIAMSHA Youth Empowerment Organization, was selected as a member of the Prince George's County State's Attorney 2017 Youth Advisory Council. KIAMSHA instills self-worth, self-respect, self-confidence and leadership skills in today's youth, thus positioning them to excel in their education, community, career, and overall life journey. Alexis is the daughter of proud parents, Mole Lynnette Pair Young and Mule Paul Young. Photo: Left to Right: Mole Lynnette Young, Alexis Young, and Angela Alsobrooks, State's Attorney, Prince George's County.



Mole Moments, Milestones, & Memories

CHARLESTON

Graduation Kudos! Malena V. Rousseau was awarded her PhD in Anthropology in May 2017, from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. "Dr. Malena" is the daughter of Mole Linda Rousseau and Mule Alan, and the family is very of proud of her as she adds this degree to the list of her academic accomplishments. Ms. Rousseau has an undergraduate degree from Duke University and two Master's Degrees from East Carolina University, also in anthropology with a specialty in medical anthropology.

in May 2017 to compete in the MIM International BBQ Competition, as a member of "Peyton Place Motley Que BBQ Dwayne will attend graduate school in the fall. Team." Mule Alan and Mole Linda have been part of the team since 1998, and she will join team members from Memphis Moles Dianna Taylor, Ernestine Small, and Dianna's two Mole daughters. Peyton Place Motley Que was the first BBQ team sponsored totally by African American team members.

COLUMBIA

Carlisle Carrington Cooper is the eldest daughter of Mule (Dr.) Noble and Mole (Dr.) Traci Cooper. She graduated from Blythewood High School with Honors Forum distinction. Of her 15 collegiate offers and over \$450,000 in scholarship awards, she will attend Wake Forest University to major in Political Science and Law. Her goal is to work on Capitol Hill as a Congressional Chief of Staff and/or Chief In addition to her academic honors, Arrington received nu-Political Strategist. Prior to beginning her freshman year at Wake Forest this summer, Carlisle will participate in a Youth ples, Italy.

Carlisle spent this past summer at Yale University at a National Youth Leadership Program (Pre-Law Participant), and participated in the Stanford University Summer Pre-Law Program where she explored the field of law, engaged in courtroom simulations, and analyzed high-profile court cases. She is the 2015 Miss South Carolina High School America and the current Miss Irmo, South Carolina Teen. In addition to her academic studies, and community service work, Carlisle has launched her modeling career with features in various fashion print ads and commercials. Carlisle's Columbia Mole Family is extremely proud of all her accomplishments!

Twenty seventeen (2017) continues to be a busy year for Mole Celeste and Mule Dwayne Duckett's family. Adam Duckett, the youngest of their 3 sons, recently returned from the Dubai Invitational International Soccer Tournament where his academy team made it to the finals. Adam graduated with leadership and academic honors from Spring Valley High School on June 2nd and will attend USC Aiken in the fall where he will major in Biology and play for the men's soccer team.

The Duckett's oldest son, Dwayne Duckett, graduated from East Carolina University on May 5th where he received a It's BBQ Time! Mole Linda Rousseau will travel to Memphis Bachelor of Science University Studies (BS US) degree in Bipublic health nutrition and business finance.

> Mole Celeste and Mule Dwayne's middle son, Harrison Duckett, will finish out the year with a Bachelor Science degree in Biology from Lander University. Well done, Duckett brothers, for your accomplishments!! Well done, Mom and Dad, for raising these fine young men!!!

> Thirteen (13) year old Arrington René Jones was one of 200 plus middle school students who were honored by Columbia's Richland School District One as Academic Scholars. Each honoree maintained a 3.5 GPA or higher and was enrolled in a minimum of 3 Advanced Placement (AP) courses in the 6th, through 8th grades. Arrington maintained a 4.0 GPA for the 3 year period and was enrolled in all AP courses.

merous local, state and national awards for her exceptional vocal and acting talents. She is a member of the National International Exchange Program with the Lions Club in Na- Junior Honor Society, the Hand Middle School Chamber Choir, the National Junior Thespian Society and the district and state Honor Choirs. In February, 2017, she auditioned for and was selected to attend the prestigious Discovery Camp at the SC Governor's School for the Arts. Arrington is a rising freshman at Dreher High School. She is the daughter of Mole Kim and Mule Fred Jones, Jr. and the granddaughter of Mole Bunny Jones and Mule Fred Jones, Sr. Way to go Miss Arrington!

> Isom Lowman, Jr., son of proud mother, Mole Irma Smith Lowman, has purchased two more franchises from The Athlete's Foot, Corporation. Grand opening of The Stockbridge Village Store was held in April on Good Friday. The grand opening of the new store in Conyers, Georgia, was held in May during Memorial Day weekend. The Columbia Moles wish Isom continued success with all of his business ventures.

Mole Moments, Milestones, & Memories

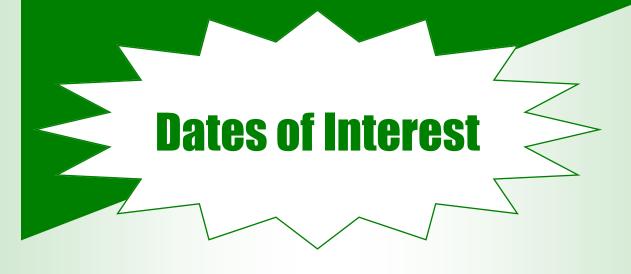
Columbia Baby Mole (Dr.) Jennifer Clyburn Reed was tapped to serve as the University of South Carolina's (USC) Director of the Center for the Education and Equity of African American Students (CEEAAS). As part of USC's College of Education, Mole Jennifer and staff will conduct collaborative research to influence public policy to advance innovative and effective instruction and professional teaching practice. The center will also: serve as a forum for public discourse and debate; advocate for African American students; and, elevate the awareness of their needs, perspectives, and voices. The Center will maintain a clearinghouse of information, resources, literature, and research relating to effectively teaching African American students. Congratulations to Mole Jennifer, a longterm, dedicated educator, who truly deserves this great achievement!

Nancy O. Gallman, Esq. will receive her PhD in History from the University of California at Davis in June. Nancy specializes in early American legal history. Her dissertation is a comparative study of law in the Florida-Georgia borderlands, when Florida was a Spanish colony. Nancy is the sister of **Mole Jeanne** and sister-in-law of **Mule Tom Felder**. Congratulations, Nancy!

PETERSBURG

On March 31, 2017, Mole (Attorney) Pamela Branch was appointed by the Virginia State Bar as an Arbitrator for the 12th, 13th, and 14th Circuit Committee on the Resolution of Fee Disputes. She will be responsible for assisting other lawyers and clients in resolving disputes over fees so that these matters do not become the subject of formal disciplinary cases later. Mole Pam will serve through June 30, 2020. In addition, Mole Pam's law firm, PJB Law, PLLC, has met the requirements to become a Better Business Bureau certified business in Virginia.





June~2017								
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	3	
4		5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	1	12	13	14	15	16	17	
1	8	19	20	21	22	23	24	
2	5	26	27	28	29	30		

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