



Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library

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Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library Becomes Custodian of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Historical Collection

\$125,000 investment supports digitization and preservation of more than a century of fraternity records, expanding global access to rare materials documenting Black leadership, scholarship, and civic life

ATLANTA, July 29, 2026 — The Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, one of the nation's premier repositories for African American academic archives, history, culture, and research, has announced a major partnership with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the nation's oldest intercollegiate Black fraternity, to preserve and digitize rare historical materials documenting more than a century of leadership, service, scholarship, and civic engagement.

The landmark partnership includes a \$125,000 investment from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to support the preservation of more than 200 boxes of archival materials and records. The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Collection will be permanently housed at the AUC Woodruff Library and parts of the collection will be digitized in partnership with the HBCU Digital Library Trust and HBCU Library Alliance. Together, the partnership represents a significant milestone in expanding access to African American archival collections and ensuring that historically important records are preserved for students, faculty, scholars, researchers, and the public.

Founded in 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has long stood at the forefront of civil rights, public service, education, and leadership. Its members include some of the most influential figures in American history, among them, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Thurgood Marshall, activist and actor Paul Robeson, the late Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Ambassador Andrew Young, and U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock.

“We know the critical importance this partnership carries,” said Dr. Kimberley Bugg, CEO of the AUC Woodruff Library. “Ensuring that more than a century of intellectual, civic, and leadership legacy is safeguarded, preserved, and available to students, faculty, scholars, researchers, and communities around the world is more important than ever.”

“As the first intercollegiate fraternity founded by African American men, our history and legacy not only belong to Alpha, but also provide important context for the history of all Divine Nine organizations that followed and fought for African American progress,” said General President Lucien J. Metellus Jr. “This urgent initiative ensures that the fraternity’s priceless archives are protected, elevated, and accessible for generations.”

The addition of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Collection further strengthens the AUC Woodruff Library’s role as a leading center for the preservation, study, and interpretation of African American history and culture. The Library’s Archives Research Center is home to nationally significant collections, including the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, and the Joseph Echols Lowery and Evelyn Gibson Lowery Collection.

About the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library

Established in 1982, the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library serves Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College. The Library supports teaching, learning, research, and scholarship across the Atlanta University Center and houses the Archives Research Center, renowned for its extensive collections related to the African American experience. Through its archives, digital collections, research services, exhibits, and public programs, the AUC Woodruff Library preserves and expands access to materials of enduring historical, cultural, and scholarly significance.

About Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity founded by African American men. The fraternity has a long history of leadership in civil rights, education, public service, and community advancement.

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