

GREENWOOD-ITTA BENA ALUMNAE CHAPTER  
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

PRESENTS

*A  
Symphony  
of  
Grace & Glamour*

Delta Debutante Presentation

SATURDAY  
APRIL 26, 2025

THE ANDREW MCQUEEN, JR. CIVIC CENTER  
200 MS-7 HWY | GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

# Message from the Chapter President



Greetings:

Welcome to a night of “Grace and Glamour.” This evening is a culmination of 6 months of enrichment activities dedicated to providing these young ladies with the skills needed to enter into society with all the “Grace” needed to make a positive impact on the world and to let the world know that they have arrived. Today is the day the debutantes will be presented to society with beauty, grace, and poise.

On behalf of the members of the Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter, I would first like to thank the parents of our debutantes for allowing us the opportunity to work with their daughters. I would also like to thank their escorts for taking the time to participate in this grand occasion with our debutantes and to the parents of our escorts as well for allowing their sons to participate in this event.

Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae would also like to thank all of those who supported these young ladies through donations or any other acts of encouragement rendered. “It takes a village,” and we would like to thank you for being a part of that village.

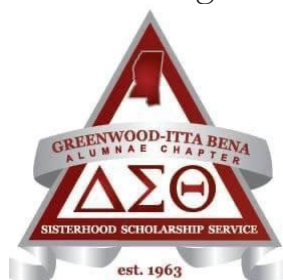
Finally, I would like to thank the members of our chapter who worked tirelessly to ensure that our 10th Debutante Presentation is a success. A very special thanks goes to Contenina Magee for serving as chair of this event.

To our 2025 Debutants, congratulations on your debut, keep following your dreams, and striving for the best. We wish you all the luck in your future endeavors.

With Sincere Gratitude,

*Valerie Simpson*

Valerie Simpson, President  
Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc



# Message from the Chairperson



Greetings!

It is with extreme pleasure to welcome esteemed guests, patrons, friends, families and members of the illustrious Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

It has been an honor spearheading one of Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter's signature events. Tonight, you will be dazzled by the grace and elegance of four remarkable young ladies whose hard work and commitment will be showcased. These young ladies have maintained their scholastic achievements and extra curriculum activities, along with participating in a six-month program consisting of community service, fellowship, and various activities. Alongside the parents, it is our hope that these young ladies will continue to attain monumental success.

To the parents, we thank each of you for allowing us to mentor and nurture your daughters during this journey. Your physical presence and financial contribution have afforded us the opportunity for this successful event.

To the debutantes, it is with great joy and pride that we celebrate each of you on this unforgettable occasion. This evening marks not only a beautiful celebration of grace and elegance, but also the beginning of a new chapter in your lives. As you step into society with poise, confidence, and dreams in your hearts, know that this is your moment to shine.

It has been a great pleasure celebrating your growth and your achievement towards the bright future that awaits you. May tonight be filled with cherished memories, laughter, and the warmth of family and friends.

This is your night to let your light shine as you bask in the "Symphony of Grace and Glamour"!

With kind regards,  
Contentina M. Magee, Chair  
Delta Debutante, 2025



# Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter History

## The Chartering of Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter

The year was 1962, when sixteen concerned, devoted, and dedicated Deltas in the area of Greenwood, Itta Bena, and Indianola became interested in organizing a graduate chapter in this section of Mississippi. The sixteen Deltas met with Leola Williams, a member of Delta, an English teacher, and civic worker in Greenwood, Mississippi, to discuss the possibility of establishing an alumnae chapter in the Delta area of Mississippi, since there were no sororities or fraternities active in this immediate section of the state.

Most of the original sixteen women were employed at Mississippi Valley State College or in the public schools of Leflore and Sunflower counties. The group elected four officers: a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer in order to make the necessary contacts to set up a chapter. Maggie McDowell of Memphis, Tennessee was the Regional Director at the time this chapter was established. Mrs. McDowell made many trips from Memphis to Itta Bena and gave great leadership and assistance in helping establish the chapter.

On December 14, 1963, the Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated received its charter; the following visionary, dynamic, and focused sorors are depicted as the sixteen charter members:



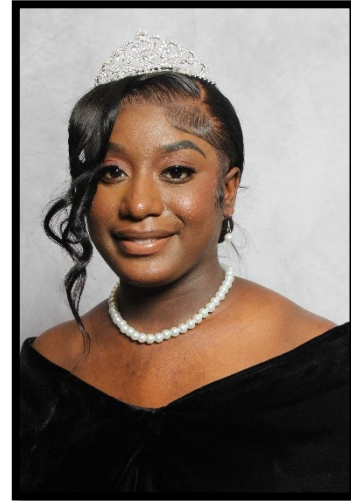
\*Janice Faye Allen  
\*Josephine Brown  
\*Ethel S. Clay  
\*Bernice Gamblin  
\*Ruth Johnson  
\*Bessie C. Taylor  
\*Mary Ward  
\*Leola Williams

\*Jo Louise Brown  
\*Irma P. Burks  
\*Mildred P. Davis  
\*Betty Harris  
\*Ruth W. Malone  
\*Clara Turner  
\*Augusta C. White  
\*Margarett Worthy

\*Deceased Sorors

# **GREENWOOD-ITTA BENA ALUMNAE CHAPTER**

## **CLASS OF 2025 DEBUTANTES**



# MISTRESS OF CEREMONY



*Dr. Ora Starks* is an award-winning professor at her alma mater, Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) in Itta Bena, Mississippi. Most recently, Dr. Starks received the Education Award where she was recognized by MVUS students on campus for her outstanding leadership.

Dr. Starks holds a bachelor of science and a master of science in Criminal Justice from Mississippi Valley State University, and received a doctoral degree in Human Services with a specialization in Criminal Justice at Walden University.

Professionally, Dr. Starks began her career in the criminal justice profession as a correctional officer with the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) in 1995. During her 17 years of tenure with MDOC, she worked tirelessly and was granted several opportunities to move up the ranks within the Department of Corrections. She has served as a Correctional Officer, Sergeant, Case Manager, Alcohol and Drug Coordinator, and Operations Management Analyst Principal (Compliance Officer/Auditor).

Advancements in her career afforded opportunities to serve as the Warden of Bolivar County Regional Correctional Facility in Cleveland, Mississippi. This appointment led to two major milestones in Bolivar County's history. Dr. Starks is the first female warden and the first African-American female to hold this position.

During Dr. Starks 26 years of tenure of corrections, she has received numerous awards and accolades. To add to her many recognitions, she co-authored a chapter for a book "Routledge Companion to Gender and Crime" for one of the top publishing companies Routledge Publishing.

Dr. Starks is a distinguish member of Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, where she serves as chair of the scholarship committee.

In her spare time, she enjoys various hobbies such as traveling, shopping, watching investigation shows, participating in public service, public speaking, and mentoring young ladies in the community.

Dr. Starks favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me", and her quotes are "Excuses are for those who make them" and "Failure is not an option."

*Introducing the*

2025

Delta Debutantes

*"A Symphony of Grace & Glamour"*

# Debutante Jalexis Galloway

**Parents/Guardian:**  
Markeisha Galloway and  
the late Armeil Galloway

**Presenter:**  
James B. Hull

**Escort:**  
Zion Jones

**Escort  
Parents/Guardian:**  
Amanda and Octavious  
Jones

**High School:**  
Gentry High School





# Debutante A'Nya Nichole Hilton

**Parents/Guardian:**  
Margie Hilton and  
Johnny Adams

**Presenter:**  
Johnny Adams

**Escort:**  
Xzavion Hilton

**Escort**  
**Parents/Guardian:**  
Margie Hilton

**High School:**  
Greenwood High School



# Debutante Jada Michele Rosa

**Parents/Guardian:**  
Cassandra Hart and the  
late Michael Rosa

**Presenter:**  
Jerrold Hart

**Escort:**  
Edmond Ward

**Escort**  
**Parents/Guardian:**  
Markese Ward and  
Cynthia Hart

**High School:**  
Mississippi School of  
Math and Science



# Debutante Sarah Christeen Spells

**Parents/Guardian:**  
Trameka Spells and  
Undrell Ellis, Sr.

**Presenter:**  
Undrell Ellis, Sr.

**Escort:**  
Undrell Ellis, Jr.

**Escort  
Parents/Guardian:**  
Niema Jones and Undrell  
Ellis, Sr.

**High School:**



Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

*Delta Debutante Presentation*

Andrew McQueen Civic Center ▲ Greenwood, Mississippi  
Saturday, April 26, 2025 | 6:00 PM

**“A Symphony of Grace and Glamour”**

Dr. Ora Starks  
Mistress of Ceremony

Music Prelude

Waltz of the Flowers .... London Symphony Orchestra & Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky

Delta Emergency Response Team .....Erianna Ball  
Committee Member, Delta Debutante  
Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae

Invocation .....Minister Juanita Lacy-Larry  
Chaplain, Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae

Greetings.....Dr. Valerie Simpson  
Chapter President, Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae

Introduction of Mistress of Ceremony..... Cynthia House  
Committee Member, Delta Debutante  
Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter

Occasion ..... Annie Lewis  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae

**TRUMPET**

Grand Entrance of 2025 Debutantes  
New World (Aladdin's Theme) by Alan Menken



## DANCE I

Presenter Waltz .....Presenter & Debutante Dance  
“My Girl” by Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Announcement of Donations/Sponsorships.....Tonya Ball  
Committee Member, Delta Debutante  
Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chair

## DANCE II

Debutante Waltz ..... Debutantes & Escort  
“Golden Hour” by Ground Zero Academy Orchestra

## AWARD CEREMONY

Scholarship Presentation ..... Dr. Valerie Simpson  
Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter

**Diamond Award ▲ Fortitude Award ▲ Scholastic Award ▲ Miss Congeniality**

Closing Remarks .....Contentina M. Magee  
Delta Debutante Chair  
Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter

## Grand Finale – DANCE III

Contemporary Dance ..... Debutantes  
“The Most Beautiful Girl in the World” by The Gary Tesca Orchestra

Benediction..... Minister Juanita Lacy-Larry  
Chaplain, Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter

# *Donation Levels*

*Crème*

*\$15*

*Crimson*

*\$25*

*Violet*

*\$50*

*Pearl*

*\$100*

*Diamond*

*\$300*

# *Sorors Donation*

Syreeta Amos  
Earlean Anderson  
Tonya Ball  
Cassandra Brown  
Celdrick Course  
Cynthia H. House  
Veronica Johnson  
Juanita Larry  
Contentina M. Magee  
Carolyn McGee  
Jeana McGee  
Donna Murry  
Jacqueline Ratliff  
Deshannon Smith  
Angela Stancil

## *Diamond*

Valerie and Allyson Simpson

## *Pearl*

Fairley Construction  
Tonya and Erianna Ball  
Lynn Agency, LLC  
Motor Mouse, MC  
Janice Galloway  
Ladell Jackson  
Muriel Pollard

## *Violet*

Verna and Cornell Ransom  
Galveno White  
William Martin

## *Crimson*

Welcia Galloway  
Malika Pulk-Lee  
Martha Coleman

## *Crème*

Wilson Hutchins  
Jacques Johnson  
Gretrude Hazlett  
Robert Terrell



### **Future Plans:**

To attend Mississippi Delta Community College, major in heating ventilation air conditioning and refrigeration in pursuit of becoming entrepreneur.

### **Honors:**

Superintendent Scholar

### **Activities:**

Marching Band  
Basketball Team  
Softball Team  
Media Team  
Delta Overload Robotics Team  
Works at BB King Museum – Gift Shop





*A'Nya Hilton*

**Future Plans:**

To attend Mississippi Delta  
Community College, major in nursing  
and become registered nurse.

**Activities:**

HOSA Nursing Program  
DFCA  
Delta G.E.M.S.  
Works at Sonic

*Diamond*

Curressia Brown

*Pearl*

Lillie Hilton  
Johnny Adams  
Annie Lewis  
Derrick and Contenina Magee

*Violet*

Sonja Jones  
Kevin Hilton  
Robert Anderson  
Veronica Johnson  
Syreeta Amos

*Crimson*

Pamela Hilton  
Krystal Jones  
Octavia Gill  
Lillian Trotter

*Crème*

Betty Shaw  
Johnnie Williams  
Gloria Addison

## *Pearl*

Cassandra Hart  
Lamar Swint  
Rochell Hawkins  
Donald Ray Coleman  
Veronica Carter (VNP Financial Services)  
Dr. Margie Pulley  
Crystal Nevels  
Juanita Larry  
Verna Wilson

## *Violet*

Percy and Glory Powell  
Ivory Lampkin  
Jacqueline Ratliff  
Minister Roderick Jackson  
Debra Dace (Exit Southern Charm Realty)  
Jess Dean (Jess Hair Extension)  
Shirley Little  
Amber Lampkin  
Alonda Jones  
Vanessar Mitchell

## *Crimson*

Martha Nikson-Gaines  
Dr. Tawanda Shannon  
Jacquelin Gibson Presastly  
Shewonda Donn  
Ti-hesha Smith  
Angina Brown  
Carol White-Richard  
Lakymba Longstreet  
Barbara West-McCline  
Yolanda Rush  
Catrena Hawkins  
Mrs. Rosetta Washington  
Carmen Ware

## *Crème*

Eric House  
Patricia Martin  
Elizabeth Woodard  
Jessie Williams  
Sheronda Powell  
Tolanda Jones  
Shakevia Burns  
Alyncca Hawkins  
Betty Lowe  
Diane Rosa



### **Future Plans:**

To attend University of Mississippi,  
major in accounting and become a  
Certified Public Accountant.

### **Honors:**

National Honor Society of High School  
Scholars – Phi Theta Kappa  
Middle College

### **Activities:**

Varsity Cheerleading  
Fast Pitch Softball Team



*Diamond*

Spells Family

*Pearl*

Cassandra Brown

Greenwood High School c/o 1999

Spells Family

Spells Family

Cannon Nissan Greenwood

Cannon Motors of MS

Alonda Jones

Barbara Duncan Waits

Sign Dreamers of Ridgeland

*Violet*

Greenwood High School c/o 1999

*Crimson*

Greenwood High School c/o 1999

**Future Plans:**

To attend University of Southern Mississippi, major in Child Psychology and become a Child Psychologist.

**Honors:**

National Honor Society

**Activities:**

Black Student Alliance

Fashion Board

Future Business Leaders of America

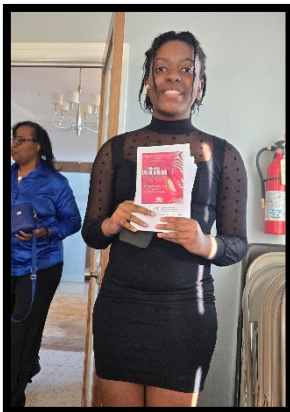
Indigenous Student Alliance - Historian.

Interact Club

Delta G.E.M.S.



# Memories





*'Elegance  
is when the  
inside is as  
beautiful as  
the outside.'*

*~ Coco Chanel ~*



# *Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter*

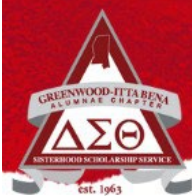
## *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*

### 2023-2025 Chapter Officers

President	Valerie Simpson
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Annie Lewis
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Cassandra Hart
Recording Secretary	Belinda Robinson
Corresponding Secretary	Crystal Nevels
Treasurer	Curressia Brown
Assistant Treasurer	Earlean Anderson
Financial Secretary	Syreeta Amos
Assistant Financial Secretary	Carolyn McGee
Sergeant-at-Arms	Donna Murry
Chaplain	Juanita Larry
Immediate Past President	Cassandra Hart

### Delta Debutante Committee Members

Syreeta Amos	Sonja Jones
Erianna Ball	Cynthia House
Tonay Ball	Carla Lawrence
Cassandra Brown	Annie Lewis
Marnay Chapell	Carolyn McGee
Jenai Gray	Contentina M. Magee
Cassandra Hart	Valerie Simpson



# *Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter*

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED



[WWW.GIACDST.ORG](http://WWW.GIACDST.ORG)



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[GIAC\\_DST](#)

# *Acknowledgements*

## **CHOREOGRAPHY**

Chaya Jones

## **MEETINGS AND REHEARSALS**

Greenwood-Leflore County Chamber of Commerce  
M&S Blessed Hands and Creations

## **VENUE**

Andrew McQueen Jr. Civic Center

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

James Purnell

## **EVENT PLANNER**

M & S Blessed Hands and Creations

## **PRINTING SERVICES**

MVSU Print Shop

The ladies of **Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated** affectionately thank the debutantes, their parents, escorts and the parents of the escorts for making this year's event a special occasion. A heartfelt "thank you" to all of our patrons and to those who simply congratulated the young ladies on today.

This event is dedicated to our visionary, Mrs. Doris Banks. It is because of her vision and foresight we are able to present to society four remarkable young ladies.