Society stresses service

By Eugene P. Farris
Lantern staff writer

**Alpha Kappa Mu national honor society seeks "scholars and workers," said the president of the new Ohio State chapter.**

"We emphasize community service," said Michael Bailey, president of Alpha Kappa Mu's Ohio State chapter and a graduate student working toward a doctorate in political science.

Society members are expected to be active in the black and minority communities, he said.

Alpha Kappa Mu, a general honorary society, was founded at Tennessee State University in 1937.

The Ohio State chapter was officially chartered Sunday in a ceremony at the Faculty Club.

Though Alpha Kappa Mu is predominantly black, it is open to all qualified students, Bailey said.

The Ohio State chapter is the first chapter to be established at a Big Ten university and the second to be established at a predominantly white Ohio school. The first chapter was established at Kent State University.

Frank W. Hale, vice provost for minority affairs and founder of Alpha Kappa Mu's Ohio State chapter, said having an Alpha Kappa Mu chapter on campus will "motivate minority students to do their best."

Alpha Kappa Mu will also provide members with mentors and professional contacts.

Hale also said the society will enhance the credibility of Ohio State's black community.

"We don't have to wait for other people to found an organization for us. We can do it ourselves," Hale said.

The society requires undergraduate applicants to have a 3.3 grade point average and graduate students to have a 3.7 grade point average.

Applicants, who are either nominated by faculty members or apply directly to the society, must have an interview, place in the top 10 percent of their class and demonstrate community and campus involvement, Bailey said.

The Ohio State chapter has 37 active members and two honorary members, Bailey said. The society has 15,000 members nationwide and 76 college chapters.
Honors fraternity seeks

By Gail Bushman
Lantern staff writer

Wanted: Honor students.
Purpose: To participate in a national honor society established to serve the community and promote the well-being of those in it.

The society is Alpha Kappa Mu, started at Ohio State in September 1985 by Frank W. Hale, vice-provost of minority affairs and professor of communications. Ohio State is the first Big Ten school to have an Alpha Kappa Mu chapter, which has 76 chapters nationwide.

The society, also called Mu Xi, was originally founded for minority students, but is now open to anyone. Juniors and seniors who have an overall grade point average of 3.3 or higher, and graduate students with an average of 3.7 and at least 15 quarter hours of work in the university are eligible for admittance. Prospective members must also pass an interview with the chapter’s membership committee.

The first Alpha Kappa Mu chapter was founded by Dr. George W. Gore Jr., in November 1937 at Tennessee State.

“The original purpose of the society was to recognize superior college students on predominately black college and university campuses. However, since its inception, the society has grown in size, scope and in its influence upon the academic excellence of American college and university students,” said 26-year-old chapter president Michael Bailey from Atlanta. Bailey is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program in political science.

“The student must exhibit leadership abilities, be socially sen-

academic excellence

sitive, and have some experience in community work that promotes the welfare of the community, and not just be a good student,” Hale said.

There are currently 28 graduate members, 12 undergraduate members and two honorary members.

The goal of the society is “basically to involve people who are academically talented to render their services to the community and give to it what they can,” Bailey said.

The organization has tutored children on Saturday mornings in math and English, and has also cleaned the homes of senior citizens.

Suzette Speight, a graduate student in counseling psychology, decided to join the group after receiving a letter from the office of minority affairs.

“I like the goals of the group, that we are service-oriented, and I like being with people who have similar goals of higher education. It’s easy to become isolated on a campus this large,” Speight said.

Members of Alpha Kappa Mu are divided into committees. These include the community outreach relations committee, program committee, membership committee, fund-raising committee, constitution committee and scholarship committee.

The dues per quarter are $3 for undergraduates and $5 for graduates. Each member must pay a $10 national fee for the school year.

The society meets twice a month in the Memorial Room at the Ohio Union. Anyone interested in more information can call 422-4355.
Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society

By Nadine Collins
Lantern staff writer

After three years, the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society will open its doors to the Ohio State University community on Thursday for the first time.

Gwendolyn Garvin, a graduate student majoring in communication from Norton, Mass., is president of the society. She said the open house will orientate the community to the organization in terms of its educational goals.

“We want to introduce to the community of OSU a black network of scholars,” Garvin said.

Alpha Kappa Mu is a historically black honor society that was founded at Tennessee State University in 1937, in Nashville.

Today, there are 76 chapters of Alpha Kappa Mu on college campuses throughout the U.S.

The OSU chapter was the first in the Big Ten. Its idea was initiated by former Vice Provost of Minority Affairs and Special Assistant to the President, now Professor Emeritus, Frank W. Hale Jr.

Alpha Kappa Mu is open to minority juniors, seniors and graduate students. Juniors and seniors are required to maintain an overall grade point average of 3.3, while graduate students must maintain a 3.7.

The honor society is an organization that combines academics and community networking, Garvin said.

According to Garvin, the organization participates in service projects through the year. One year, the organization featured a collection of displays of prominent community black artists in Bricker Hall.

Each spring quarter, the society participates in the Academic Leadership Service and Recognition Awards Program, sponsored by Office of Minority Affairs. New members are inducted during the awards program.

Charles Washington, a graduate student from Milwaukee majoring in music composition, said it would be difficult to be recognized on a large campus such as OSU if it weren’t for the society.

“I don’t think I would have certain opportunities if AKM did not exist,” Washington said.

He said members meet national and local role models, which gives them a sense of their own outgrowth.

The open house will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, at the Honors House on 12th Avenue.
OSU honor society inducts 33 African-Americans

A national honor society at The Ohio State University has inducted 33 African-American students as new members in recognition of their scholastic achievements.

Ohio State's Mu Xi chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony for new members April 15 at the Frank Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center.

The local chapter was founded in 1985 by Frank Hale Jr., who at the time was vice provost for minority affairs at Ohio State. Hale, who is now retired, spoke at the induction ceremony.

During the ceremony, the chapter also recognized Linda Jackson, director of administration in the Office of Minority Affairs. Jackson has been advisor to the chapter since its founding.

Tracey Weldon, president of the chapter, said the honorary does service projects, arranges to hear speakers and plans social activities for the members. Weldon is from Columbia, S.C., and is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in linguistics.

Chapter officers from Columbus include Kenya Jefferson-Davis, corresponding secretary, who is pursuing a master's degree in arts administration, and Melissa Thompson, recording secretary, who is earning a bachelor's degree in criminology.

To be eligible for membership in Alpha Kappa Mu, a junior or senior undergraduate student must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.3 out of 4.0. A graduate student must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.7.

Alpha Kappa Mu was founded in 1937 at Tennessee State University, and there currently are 79 active chapters at campuses across the nation. Ohio State's chapter is the only chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu at a Big Ten university.

The 33 new members inducted at Ohio State are:
- Mae A. Smitherman, Stephanie Renee Turner, Dashawn Washington, Chrissler D. Whaley, Linda Carol Willis, Monique Antoinette Wilson and Jerome Woods.
Ground-breaking honor

By LeShawn Smith
Lantern staff writer

Alpha Kappa Mu, Mu Xi Chapter, the first black honor society chapter founded at Ohio State, and the only existing chapter at a Big Ten university, will induct its new members today at the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center.

"Alpha Kappa Mu is a general scholarship honor society that is open to African-American men and women in all academic areas at the university," said Tenolian R. Bell Sr., president of the honor society. It was founded at Tennessee A&I State College in Nashville on Nov. 26, 1937, Bell said.

In order to be eligible for membership, undergraduates must be full-time students, at least a junior in a degree program, have completed 50 percent of their graduation requirements, and have a minimum grade point average of 3.3, Bell said.

Similarly, graduate students must have a grade point average of at least 3.3, Bell said.

society to induct new members

"Currently, there are about 125 members of Alpha Kappa Mu, and an additional 101 were invited to join this year," Bell said. "Students are selected on a yearly basis, and any student who meets the requirements can be chosen," Bell said.

Alpha Kappa Mu, Mu Xi Chapter, was founded at OSU in 1985, by Dr. Frank W. Hale Jr., with hopes of making both students and the university more aware of organizations like these.

"I wanted the university to be aware that African-American students should be introduced to a common honorary at the university," Hale said.

Hale said he didn't run into any problems when trying to establish a black honor society on a predominantly white campus.

"There was no way anyone could try to stop this organization because it sets standards university-wide, and besides, enhancing academic standards is what the honor society stands for," Hale said. While other honor societies may offer jobs, or networking opportunities to their members, Alpha Kappa Mu has other benefits said one member.

"As a minority, it gives students a chance to interact with other minorities, as well as voice their concerns about school, and advance in their studies," said Danielle Wainwright, vice president of the honor society.

The ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room of the Black Cultural Center.