



# press release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Historical documentary features America's oldest black fraternity**

KENT, Ohio — March 20, 2006 — PBS 45 & 49 is proud to present **Alpha Phi Alpha Men: A Century of Leadership**, a new historical documentary about Alpha Phi Alpha, America's largest and oldest black fraternity. The two-hour special will air on Wednesday, April 5 at 9 p.m.

W.E.B. Dubois, Jesse Owens, Duke Ellington, Edward Brooke, Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, and Martin Luther King, Jr. are among the countless Alpha men who have dedicated their lives to "scholarship, manly deeds, and love for all mankind." The history of these men is the history of America, and their place in the vanguard of the Civil Rights struggle is unparalleled.

Local universities where Alpha Phi Alpha chapters exist today include The University of Akron, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Kent State University and Youngstown State University.

Since its founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African-Americans and people of color around the world. The first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans, it was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., by seven college men who recognized the need for a strong bond of Brotherhood among African descendants in this country.

The fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell. The founders and early leaders of the fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character and the uplifting of humanity.

Alpha Phi Alpha chapters were developed at other colleges and universities, many of them historically black institutions, soon after the founding at Cornell. While continuing to stress academic excellence among its members, Alpha also recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political and social injustices faced by African-Americans.

### **About PBS 45 & 49**

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of non-commercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

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