

## Dallas Alumni Time Capsule

### The Trailblazer

**Dr. Emmett J. Conrad**, the son of John and Flora Paulfrey Conrad, was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on October 6, 1923. He graduated from McKinley High School and studied pre-medicine at Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he was initiated at the Alpha Sigma chapter. He



studied for two years before being drafted into the United States Army during World War II. Conrad's performance on an Army IQ test earned him a scholarship to complete pre-medicine studies at Stanford University. Following the war, he entered Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee and earned his M.D. degree in 1948. Dr. Conrad served an internship at Homer Phillips Hospital in St. Louis and then joined the United States Air Force, rising to the rank of captain while stationed at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois. During his internship, he married Eleanor Nelson on July 15, 1949. The couple had one child, Cecilia Ann Conrad, born on January 4, 1955. After two

years in the Air Force, Conrad returned to St. Louis, completed his surgical training, and served as chief resident at Homer Phillips Hospital. He also was a research fellow at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. During a long and distinguished medical career, Brother Conrad made history when he became the **first Black Chief of Staff at St. Paul Hospital** in 1980. This position made him the leader of more than 700 doctors. Conrad continued to practice medicine until his retirement in 1992. Dr. Conrad was also very committed to equal and accessible education for all students. This commitment manifested itself in his being elected as the **first Black Board of Trustees member of the Dallas Independent School District** in 1967. He served in that role for ten years. He promoted free-lunch programs for poor students and worked for the integration of administrative staffs. Later, Gov. Mark



White and the Texas State Board of Education appointed him to the Select Committee of Public Education (SCOPE). The SCOPE committee proposed a number of reforms to improve the quality of education in Texas including the controversial NO PASS, NO PLAY Rule and the implementation of TECAT examinations. Dr. Conrad was also elected to the **Texas State Board of Education (SBOE)** in 1984 and was serving a third term at the time of his death from lung disease. Dr. Conrad joined the Chapter Invisible on September 9, 1993. He served as **Province Polemarch** from 1968 to 1971 and was a mentor to several Brothers within the chapter who would later serve at the provincial level. The chapter's annual college scholarship was named in his honor in 1980 and in 2004 a new DISD high school was named for him as well.

**For a fourth time, in 1969, Dallas Alumni hosted the 33<sup>rd</sup> Southwestern Province Council Meeting.** The co-hosts were Delta Sigma Chapter at Bishop College (which relocated to Dallas in 1961) and Fort Worth Alumni Chapter.