



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring (FIM) Newsletter



Fatherhood Initiative

Youth Leadership Conferences
Brother, You're on My Mind! ©

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Vol. 7

January, February, March, 2020

NO. 1

"Quarterly Publication of the International Committee on Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring" ©

A Message from the Chairman: *"Spreading the Word"*

Conferences at HBCUs Focus on Fatherhood-Youth Leadership-Empowerment

Alabama A&M University (AAMU) and Florida A&M University (FAMU) were host sites for fatherhood youth leadership conferences sponsored by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



S. Earl Wilson,
Chairman, IFIMC
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AAMU, THE FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE AND MENTORING program of Huntsville-area Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., hosted a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Series Youth Leadership Conference on Saturday, February 22 at Arthur J. Bond Hall (Engineering Building).

The free youth conference was co-sponsored by Project Friendship, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 organization, and designed for male students in grades 3-12, non-resident parents and single parents, as well as special sessions for college sophomores and juniors. Attendees received life skill tools to inspire young men to be productive citizens today and positive future fathers.

Among the presenters were Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., president of Alabama A&M University; Jacobi Gray, executive president of the Student Government Association; Tony Hodge, All State Insurance; LTC (Ret) Perry Caudle, Basileus, Pi Phi Chapter; Fred Windham, KRS, Xi Omicron; Talbot Malone, Regions Bank; Police Chief Henry Irby, president, Alabama Chapter of NOBLE; Hon. JesHenry Malone, Madison County Commissioner; Atty. Kim Brown; Kenyatta Robinson, Alabama Child Support Division; Nikki Goins-Hughes, Madison County Department of Human Resources; Hovet Lee Dixon, Jr., principal, Highlands Elementary School; L.C. Smith, Real Fathers Making a Difference; Michelle Watkins, Huntsville City School Board; Atty. Rochelle Conley; and Carlos Matthews, president of Advance Technology, Inc.

Dr. Hugine stressed the importance of students attending HBCUs because of the nurturing environment the colleges and universities present. In addition, the president informed the students that excelling in subjects associated with STEM curriculums will prepare them for future success in various career fields.

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Parental sessions conducted by subject matter experts and family advocate professionals focused on the challenges of developing male youth. The sessions further enlightened parents on community and law enforcement relations, child support, mediation, and parental rights. **Talbot Malone of Regions Bank** presented sessions on financial education, talent acquisition opportunities for professionals and internships for college juniors and sophomores.

THE OMEGA HBCU YOUTH CONFERENCE 2020 SERIES is being held on college campuses nationwide and is designed to inspire male youth to attend college and to sustain minority higher education growth. For more information about the series, contact LTC (Ret.) Sylvester Earl Wilson at: (404) 219-6624 or by e-mail at undenied16@aol.com.

At FAMU, Fatherhood, Leadership, and Youth were the Focus of a Conference

D**ADS MATTER - CULTIVATING FUTURE FATHERS** was the empowerment theme for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Project Friendship, Inc., Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Fatherhood Youth Leadership Conference at Florida A&M University (FAMU).

Male students in grades 3rd through 12th and parents from around the state of Florida and FAMU students convened for the conference.

Financial education sessions hosted by **REGIONS BANK** representatives, community law enforcement relationship talks conducted by the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executive (NOBLE) North Florida Chapter and life skills dialogues were led by community leaders.

S. Earl Wilson, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., set the frame work, informing the attendees of the conference's purpose: *to inspire male youth to be productive citizens today and positive future fathers*. FAMU, Chief of Police, Terrence Callaway welcomed the visitors to the campus and inspired the students by highlighting the values and advantages of attending FAMU and other HBCUs.

The attendees' viewing of excerpts from the documentary **Spit'in Anger**, captured the essence of why the conference is essential to increasing fathers' involvement in their children's lives. A Father's Anger, fatherhood session led by Pastor Gary Montgomery, Live Stone Church, Akhenaton Thomas, Non-custodial Father, and Vance Wiggins of Tallahassee Child Support discussed challenges fathers encounter when being absent from the family and the negative mental health impact dads face.

Mothers were engaged in "*Both Parents Matter*" conversations as Lashawn Gordon, United Partnership for Tallahassee Human Services; Veronica Jackson, Magnolia Mediation; and Jessica Goodman-Taylor, Teen Court Leon County, provided antidotes and

discussed why courts make decisions with both parents in mind but with **the children being the most important component in the family equation**.

REGIONS BANK representatives, Felicia E. Richardson, Branch Manager, Tallahassee, and Cameron Youmans, Centerville, presented informative *Managing Your Money* sessions for youth and parents that included brainstorming ways to increase income and decrease spending. The interactive financial education topics stressed creating a personal spending plan and setting financial goals. Attendees engaged in financial exercises that discussed borrowing smarter, everyday banking practices and developing savings plans.

Chief Tonja Bryant-Smith, and Deputy Chief, Maurice Holes, Tallahassee Police Department and North-Florida, NOBLE Chapter informed both youth and parents that the ultimate goal of law enforcement during community encounters is for both parties to return home safe.

FAMU students' extensive questioning about police racial profiling and minority encounters allowed law enforcement officers to inform the audiences that these concerns are constantly amplified during training and are a high priority for law enforcement leaders. NOBLE's dialogue with the youth stemmed also from post-test questions ranging from how to make a complaint against a police officer, policy regarding withdrawing consent once given to a police officer, to factors that affect the nature of a police encounter.

FAMU student leader, Michael Moore, Dr. Kristopher Smalls, Principal, Raa Middle School, Darryl Jones, Leon County School Board and Curtis Richardson, Tallahassee City School, held extensive interactive dialogue on how behavior, dress, appearance and attitudes lead to success in the classroom, community and at home.

Students provided insight about how peer influence play a role in the decisions youth make which impact

their behavior, character, dress and attitude. Dr. Willie Williams, youth facilitator emphasized the importance of students being knowledgeable of subject matters relative to the academic fields that they aspired to study.

REGIONS BANK and NOBLE also discussed internship opportunities for college students during the conference. Students and parents were able to interact and discuss with the professional's ways to improve their families.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., HBCU Fatherhood Youth Leadership Conference Series has been held at Alabama State University, Clark Atlanta University and Alabama A&M University which exposes youth to higher education opportunities and emphasizes sustaining male college enrollment.

Thanks for your service,

Brother S. Earl Wilson, Chairman

International Committee on Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Members



See the Fatherhood and Mentoring Information

www.omegafandm.org



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Brother Robert W. Fairchild, Fatherhood Initiative Advisor

About our Fatherhood Work: *“Let’s Get Them Counted ... in 2020”*

Brothers, as we continue our fatherhood work, it is important that we help fathers understand how important their role as a father is to their children and the family. That responsibility also includes those areas that have them being counted as a member in the community so that appropriate funding can be provided. **BEING COUNTED** in the Census is one of those area where African-American men have been historically undercounted in greater numbers than men of other racial or ethnic groups. We have agreed to work with Fathers Incorporated and their **BlackDadsCount** campaign. Below is information that Bro. Thabiti Boone provided which addresses what we are being asked to do to get fathers participating.

We need to fully support the **BlackDadsCount** campaign. For far too long Black fathers and men have been marginalized and disconnected from our children, families & communities. When fathers are counted it improves the opportunity for resources and services that impacts our families and communities. It also gives a clear message to the government that we have fathers who are connected to the well-being of their families.

Here are some key areas of the **BlackDadsCount** campaign:

1. Encourage Black fathers to sign up with **BlackDadsCount Facebook** campaign adding their name to be counted. The goal is to have over 20k Black fathers counted. Log onto Facebook BlackDadsCount to sign up. Once you sign up you will receive on going information on the Campaign, including webinars, conference calls, and much more. We also would like to have Omega Brothers who are fathers to sign up as members.
2. The Fraternity is asked to help promote, share, raise awareness about the campaign, getting Black Dads in our respective networks to sign up to become members with the Facebook campaign; i.e., schools, churches, D9 organizations, community events and barbershops. We should also push for involvement as much as possible thru our social media networks.



3. Promote efforts to get fathers signed in our Fatherhood and Mentoring activities.
4. Share campaign information within all our Fraternity Chapters.
5. Have campaign on the agenda at all Fraternity upcoming District Conferences.
6. Post all photos and activities promoting **BlackDadsCount** campaign.

FYI Notes:

When posting and sharing on social media use the Hashtag **#BlackDadsCount**.

Further information can be received on website www.BlackDadsCount.com

Brother Bob Fairchild

International Notes Brother Thabiti Boone: DAD'S MATTER

www.BlackDadsCount.com

Greetings Brothers,

Hope you and your families are well. I appreciate our Fraternity's continued leadership, staying on the frontline in the interest of our Black Community, particularly as we stay engaged with the Presidential elections. And, just as importantly, making sure everyone is counted in the 2020 Census.

I WANT TO ADD AN EXTRA EMPHASIS on how critical it is to have a direct effort galvanizing Black Fathers to be counted in the 2020 Census. We need to fully support the **BlackDadsCount** campaign. For far too long **Black Fathers and Men** have been marginalized, and disconnected from our children, families and communities. When Fathers are counted it improves the opportunity for resources, services that impacts our families and communities. It also gives a clear message to the Government that we do have Fathers who are connected to the well-being of their families.



When I brought the Campaign idea to Brother Wilson and Brother Fairchild, we felt this effort falls into our Fatherhood and Mentoring mission promoting BlackDadsCount. Therefore, we ask that when posting and sharing on social media use the Hashtag **#BlackDadsCount**. Further information can be received on website www.BlackDadsCount.com. Black Fathers and Black Men are one of the greatest strengths of our communities.

Thanks Brothers!

Brother Boone

~ NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ~

Deadline for 2nd Quarter 2020 is **June 15th**; information will cover April, May and June, 2020.

Goal: To include information from each District each quarter about Fatherhood Initiatives and Mentoring; Youth Leadership Conferences, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Brother You're on My Mind.

Each District Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Chairman, please Submit Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Information from Your District each Quarter to: geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net



The Coronavirus as it Appears Under a Microscope. [CDC Image Library]

A Father's Job in Uncertain Times!

“...we must look out for each other...”

LIFE HAS ALWAYS BROUGHT UNCERTAIN TIMES FOR SONS. These are the times when young men face critical decision points that can determine what will happen in their future, long or short term, based on the decisions that they make.

These decisions can be as simple as what am I going to wear today to - making a decision that could potentially be life threatening. For a father to really appreciate how important his job is during these times, all he has to do is reflect back on the decision points in his own life as a young man.

As a young man grows up and becomes a father one would hope that his life experiences would help him think about what his older self would tell his younger self at those decision points. It should also help him understand how valuable the input and advice from his father was to him. Mix in that thought process, the events and life as it exists in the current times a father should be well prepared to handle the job.

It has been my experience that sons and young men are more likely than not to appreciate, expect and accept their role in looking for guidance, advice and direction. They are more likely to step up and assume their role as a consumer of this advice, guidance and direction as young men looking to their fathers.

The issue for some fathers is that they forget or don't appreciate the value of their role as a provider of guidance, advice and direction. Many fathers are doing a fantastic job and the results show it. It is critical in these uncertain times that fathers are sensitive to their importance in being

available to their children, especially to their sons.

In these difficult times, the reality of this coronavirus pandemic is that around the country and locally, **we must lookout for each other** and take seriously the guidance and instructions on taking the appropriate actions to keep ourselves and others safe. As these sons grow up with fathers doing their job and being involved, uncertain times can be met with confidence that the outcome will yield success.

Brother Bob Fairchild



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FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS



Update on COVID-19, District Meetings, and Fraternity Events

March 17, 2020

Brothers,

In light of the current situation related to **COVID-19** as a rapidly evolving global threat, I have had the opportunity to have many discussions with the Supreme Council, our International Medical and Health Initiatives Committee, and our Grand Counselor and his team over the last week. Based on these discussions and in the interest of protecting the entire brotherhood and our communities in this time of great uncertainty, **the fraternity is adopting aggressive new public health measures.**

Other countries and organizations that have faced or are facing this crisis have proven that immediate, decisive public health measures are necessary to prevent the spread of the virus and protect public health. The steps we've been taking and those to come in the days ahead will help determine how Omega limits the spread of this virus and protects public health and the health of our brotherhood. While these measures may seem extraordinary, and to some extreme, these are extraordinary circumstances, and our response must rise to the challenge.

That is why, effective immediately, all district meetings have been postponed or cancelled (with the exception of the 13th district meeting that occurs at our international meetings). Please see your district representatives for particulars as we are working through the specifics of virtual meetings and secure online voting. All chapters who choose to "meet" between now and June 1, 2020 should only do so by teleconferencing or video conferencing. All other fraternally-related gatherings of more than 10 people, scheduled to occur before June 1, 2020 are to be postponed or cancelled. This includes community forums and programs, social events, and others. All gatherings of less than 10 people should give consideration to postponement unless it can be assured that social distancing of at least 3 to 6 feet (*see CDC guidelines for latest info*) can be maintained between participants, messaging is provided around ill persons not attending, and there are adequate hand washing/sanitizing facilities. This directive is in line with that of the Center for Disease Control (CDC). If there is what the CDC considers to be *substantial* spread of COVID-19 in your community or the community of the event you are considering, you are directed to cancel fraternity-related events of any size. We will revisit these requirements the last week of May 2020.

The fraternity also discourages brothers from travelling to and from areas where there is known to be mild or moderate community spread of COVID-19. If you have traveled to an area where there is community spread, you are encouraged to self-quarantine outside of that community for at least 14 days before attending any fraternal events. Brothers who are ill with flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, etc.) should also self-quarantine for at least 14 days from the start of their illness.

We encourage brothers to keep your families and each other healthy. Develop and discuss a plan for what might need to change if you and your loved ones need to stay home for extended periods.

This situation continues to rapidly evolve and we know brothers will have lots of questions. One of the questions you have is, "will we have our Grand Conclave in July?" We currently are finalizing our plans for a successful Grand Conclave. We will communicate to the brotherhood by June 1, 2020 if a decision is made to postpone or cancel the Grand Conclave and if so, how we'll conduct the business of our fraternity virtually. We may not have every answer today, but we will provide regular updates via our website and social media outlets and respond to your questions as quickly as possible. Be assured that Omega will continue to work closely with the experts on our International Medical and Health Initiatives Committee and our health partners to monitor developments around the world. The Supreme Council recently participated in an Emergency NAACP Tele-Town Hall meeting with the United States Surgeon General and other leading public health and policy experts and 21,000 participants to learn more about the coronavirus and in particular how it is impacting our communities. If we need to implement additional measures to protect each other, we will do so. The health of our brothers and our communities will always be a top priority.

In Friendship

David E. Marion, PhD
41st Grand Basileus

April 2020



The Honorable
Gregory C. Pittman,
Esq.

"From time to time, I
will share commentary
and thoughts, from a
legal perspective on the
issue of Fatherhood."

Presiding Judge
14th Circuit Court
Family Division
Muskegon County
State of Michigan

Greetings Brothers,

I PRAY THAT IN THESE VERY TUMULTUOUS DAYS that you and those whom you love can find peace. As the leaders of our families and our communities, we have the mandate to remain steadfast and unmovable regardless of the circumstances that the coronavirus, our economy, and other matters present. In this writing, I want to focus on a very specific legal maneuver that is used in child custody and visitation issues, specifically, the **EX-PARTE ORDER**.

Ex-Parte orders can be obtained from the courts in many various and diverse types of litigation. The issuance of Ex-Parte orders is not limited to only Family Law type cases, but for our purposes we focus on child custody and visitation.

Ex-Parte is a Latin phrase that loosely translates to "*one party*". It is a type of legal procedure that deviates from the norm of usual legal procedure. In normal legal process, before the court will make a ruling that then results in an order from that court, that both parties to the litigation are required to follow, both parties must have the opportunity to be heard by that court. That's considered "**due process**" which is a bedrock foundational principle of American jurisprudence.

An Ex-Parte order is considered and ultimately issued, by the court, based on the pleadings/information provided to the court by just the one party who is seeking the favorable order of the court. There is no hearing scheduled, there is no opportunity for the other party to challenge or refute the information provided to the court, and there is no means by which to stop the order from going into effect immediately.

How does a procedure that is clearly so opposite to due process and simple fairness find a place in our court system? Ex-Parte orders exist because the evolution of our legal system has come to recognize that there are situations that arise that require this type of exceptional action must be undertaken.

The basis for successfully gaining an Ex-Parte order is very specific. The moving party must show that current circumstances between the parties have reached a very specific point or incident that requires the court's immediate intervention. The moving party must specifically persuade the court that "immediate and irreparable harm will occur...and provision of notice for a court scheduled hearing will result in permanent damage/injury to the moving party." Essentially something irreversible will happen that will be permanently damaging if the court doesn't act...now!

Ex-Parte filings, when instituted appropriately and circumspectly, are a tremendous tool for courts to help families avoid injury that can destroy people and relationships forever. Ex-Parte causes of action have their place without question. Competent and conscientious attorneys advise and guide their clients through this extraordinary procedure carefully.

Ex-Parte filings in child custody and visitation disputes, unfortunately, are far too frequent and misused. And, if maliciously employed, create incredible disruption for families that are already estranged and laboring to find some reasonable means of co-parenting and promotion of healthy parent/child relationships.

EX-PARTE FILINGS OCCUR MOST IN THE CONTEXT OF VISITATION. The filing parent believes that the behaviors of the other parent are so egregious and harmful to that parent and others (especially in instances directly impacting the child) around them that the child may be permanently damaged (physically, mentally, emotionally etc....)

If you are on the “wrong” side of an Ex-Parte order, don’t panic. Built into the process is the fact that the Ex-Parte order:

1. is considered a temporary order of the court;
2. allows for the scheduling of a hearing to “object” to the continuation of the order;
3. is generally viewed as an intervention, by the court issuing the order, which “should” be vacated if the circumstance which caused the concern has been adequately addressed and rectified; and,
4. can be addressed in subsequent hearings to show that rectification has finally been accomplished.

If you are on that “wrong” side of the Ex-Parte order, DO NOT try to deal with the other parent directly. Consult legal counsel immediately, get their assistance and try to get that order vacated as soon as you can. This is the type of legal procedure that I strongly urge you to retain an attorney to guide you through the process. Address the accusations made by the Ex-Parte filing as well and as quickly as you can...the FIRST Time you go to court!

In Friendship, ...

Brother Gregory C. Pittman, Esq.

From Around the Districts:



In science it often happens that scientists say, 'You know that's a really good argument; my position is mistaken,' and then they would actually change their minds and you never hear that old view from them again. They really do it. It doesn't happen as often as it should, because scientists are human and change is sometimes painful. But it happens every day. I cannot recall the last time something like that happened in politics or religion." (1987) -- Carl Sagan

1st District: Brother Anthony Lilley, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

Iota Chi Chapter celebrates over 300 Years of Black History in Boston



Boston, MA - ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29, 2020, IOTA CHI CHAPTER PRESENTED *UPLIFT: A Celebration of 382 Years of African American Brilliance in Boston*. The well-attended event was a showcase of various artforms and featured a walk-through history of notable African Americans and events in Boston's long history. Performances included music from local talented vocalists, Blessed and Janae; liturgical dance from the youth of Grant AME Church; and a moving dance performance by the A. Major Dance Company from the Roxbury Center for the Performing Arts.

Central to the event was a presentation of Boston's often overlooked Black legacy and the key figures that broke down barriers, stood on the front lines in the fight for civil rights, or who were trained here and went on to be impactful on the national level. The presentation was given by Brother Sharrieff Christmas (Gamma, 1991).

The event drew over 150 attendees, including youth and adults and served as an opportunity to educate and inspire the youth in attendance, specifically as the event fell on the last day of Black History Month. *"There are many who may have heard the names or seen them on the side of buildings but don't know their story or how they made so many things possible – not just in Boston, but nationally as well,"* said Brother Christmas.

Iota Chi Chapter presented Ms. Andrea Swain, Executive Director of the Roxbury Boys' and Girls' Club with its 2020 Impact Partner Award. Ms. Swain has been a tireless and long-time supporter of the Chapter and its many programs and events. The Impact Partner Award is Iota Chi's way of thanking those organizations and individuals who partner with the Chapter and make it possible for it to continue its good works. ///

CHI OMICRON CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC. “FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE”



L-R Brothers James L. Carr Spr.19' (Chapter Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative); Dave Burgess Spr.19'; Daniel Boyd Spr.10'

New Haven, CT - For nearly a decade brothers of Chi Omicron have been mentoring children and young men. Our reading program has been serving the community of West River located in the west-end of New Haven continuously on weekends. The young men within the community of West River enjoy exposing their thoughts on how they view life, reading and playing games which challenges their young minds to deal with the everyday

struggles of literacy in urban areas within their heavy populated city. The photos above clearly display the interaction between children and brothers who are captured by reading and intense conversation. Chi Omicron Ques will continue to identify men with similarities of our founders who created a great fraternity to serve communities that need male leadership across the world. ///

Iota Chi Chapter's Brunch & Ball Program Continues to Motivate & Inspire



Boston, MA - The 2020 decade is off to a great start for Iota Chi Chapter's Brunch & Ball program. For over nine years, the brothers of Iota Chi Chapter have presented its signature monthly mentorship program which services the inner-city youth of the Greater Boston area. For the 2019-2020 seasons, Brunch and Ball expanded to Cambridge, MA – officially, the home of Iota Chi Chapter – and has been successfully running in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood and in Cambridge since the Fall.

Brunch & Ball provides the participating boys and girls with the tools to break the so-called *societal glass ceilings*. The Brunch & Ball mentees are taught to shoot for the stars and not just hoops. Every month features a guest speaker who addresses the mentees in a variety of areas including business, sports, community life, and arts & culture. This past December, the Cambridge session of Brunch & Ball welcomed Bro. Justin McCarthy (2-09-DX) who presented a workshop on the evolution of Hip Hop.

Twenty-one (21) kids and 20 adults were taken on a trip through the history of hip hop which touched on the major milestones and turning points of one of the few truly American musical art forms.

In addition to time-traveling to beats and rhymes the attendees were also left captivated by the art of **DJing** and were able to get hands-on experience with real turntables and vinyl records. When it was time to play ball, the youth prevailed in a close and hard-won victory over the adult mentors.

Another example of the diversity of the topics includes the topic of neighborhood sustainability which

was covered this past January at Dorchester's Brunch & Ball. Jefferey Alkins, Program Manager for the Boston Home Center, spoke to the mentees and adults on the topic of neighborhood gentrification, affordable housing and the various factors that impact property values throughout the city.

Alkins successfully kept the presentation at a level that the mentees could understand and was able to keep them fully engaged. This was evident by the great questions the mentees asked and the dialogue that resulted from the presentation. ///



Waterbury, CT - The Brothers of Lambda Rho along with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and New Opportunities, Inc., (NOI) took fathers to a College Basketball Game. DCF was able to get free tickets to the Central CT vs Bryant University. The fathers were able to bring their children as well to the game. To date the NOI program has had two classes graduate from its 24/7 Program. ///

General COVID-19 Information

- [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov), [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus), and [USA.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus)
- https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Keeping Workplaces, Homes, Schools, or Commercial Establishments Safe CDC Framework for Mitigation: Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission
- CDC Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations for U.S. Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease



Brother Greg Benjamin, Director of Admissions for Cheyney University speaks to a parent and daughter about admissions requirements and opportunities at Cheyney. Brother Benjamin was joined by Brother Ebony Davis, Cheyney University graduate and 2nd District Corridor Representative. Cheyney University offered on-site admissions and provided award letters to three students at the event which totaled \$200,000 in scholarship awards. Brothers of the Mighty Mighty Eta Pi Chapter take a moment to strike a pose during the event. ///

Eta Pi Chapter – 2020 Black History College Fair

East Orange, NJ (February 15, 2020) - The Mighty Mighty Eta Pi Chapter of Montclair, NJ held its first Black History College Fair at the Omega Family Resource and Learning Center.

Over one hundred families met representatives from twenty **Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) and the NJ Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Programs**. These institutions were invited based on their history of educating African American students and providing mentoring, counseling, tutoring and financial assistance to families. Each institution was represented by an Admissions Officer, Alumni Organization or an Omega Man that graduated from the participating university.

The EE Just Mentoring Committee designed this event to promote scholarship as a family affair. Brother Tony Hayes was joined by two other alumni representatives from North Carolina A&T University who said, “we attend similar events throughout the year and this event stands in the top tier based on the intimate environment where we are actually allowed to have real conversations with students and their parents.”

The event atmosphere was electric and charged with the enthusiasm of fraternity members, college recruiters, parents and students. Florida A&M University NJ Alumni Chapter helped to start things off by showing a ***Battle of the Bands*** video.

The day also included an acoustic guitar lesson, for the younger members of the mentor program. It was led by renowned musician Brother Brian Harris. Parents and children were allowed to sit in on the session; as a result, three (3) parents registered their sons for the mentoring program.

Non-profit and or Community Based Organizations that participated included the Delta Teens, Essex County Pan Hellenic Counsel, NAACP of Montclair and the Chi Eta Sorority, Inc. Colleges and Universities in attendance included: Howard University, Hampton University, Morehouse College, Cheyney University, Virginia State University, Rutgers University, Florida A&M University, Delaware State University, Elizabeth City University, Seton Hall University, Kean University, Bloomfield College and Montclair State University. ///

Delaware Omega Bridge Builder

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020; GAMMA MU NU Chapter, 2nd District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., located in Middletown, DE hosted their Omega Bridge Builder mentees. The meeting was held at the Raising Kings event in Wilmington, DE. Raising Kings is a collaborative commitment to change the image and expectations of African American males by elevating the level of positive male engagement in the lives of boys.

One Village Alliance leads this effort to build capacity among Men and Boys of Color by leveraging the community's existing assets, resources and connections. Raising Kings creates a platform to redefine success and teach healthy manhood through exposure and education. With a strength-based



approach, this initiative interrupts the generational crisis of failure to create a counter-culture of fortitude, greatness, cultural awareness and self-respect. ///

2nd District "100 Ques in Annapolis" & Introduction of Four Legislative Bills

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020 the men of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc., descended upon Annapolis where the Maryland General Assembly was in session for the annual Legislative Day. This was another proud moment and historical occasion for our Fraternity that witnessed more than 100 plus Omega men responded to the *Call-to-Action*. Much is at stake in this election year! The Count Matters and the Vote Matters!



This was an experience for all participants due to the Committee's outstanding planning and strategic focused outcomes. The Committee's *Call-to-Action* centered around first being *intentional* about the desired outcome by the redesigned and renamed "100 Ques in Annapolis". The planned events included the morning welcome by Corridor 1 Representative, Brother Amir Shareef. The committee members, Brothers Diggs and Brockman, addressed the strategic focused agenda that included brotherhood attendance at the legislative session to receive a State House Proclamation, heard discussions, witnessed in "real time" the electronic voting system used by state law-makers to vote on public policy that impact each citizen. The day's activities continued with Brothers sharing a brotherhood lunch.



L to R: State Legislators Nick Mosely and Nick Charles

Brothers were then asked to visit with their Delegate and State Senate officials. Those who resided in Maryland were issued a personalized letter addressed from each brother to their legislator to **support four legislative bills related to our cardinal principles:** *Manhood* - HB1114; *Scholarship*-HB0001; *Perseverance*-HB1343; and, *Uplift* - HB0416. Afterwards, we toured the Bishop Edgar Amos Love Center at Asbury United Methodist Church. Our collective impact was strategically focused! Congratulation and thank you Delegates Nick Charles and Nick Mosely for all they do to make Omega shine.

An additional blessing was our AKRS for the 2nd District, Brother Waverly DeBraux, who brought his son with him to see Omega men in action. Young Mr. DeBraux (third grader) witnessed Brothers meeting



Brother Waverly DeBraux, AKRS and son

early in the morning and walking to the State Capitol to receive a Proclamation and then lobbying the local politicians. “There is no greater education than a Father illustrating to his son how to affect change. I am reminded of the poem, ‘I’d rather see a sermon than to hear one any day,’” said Brother DeBraux.

Our collective presence makes a difference! Just reported on Friday, March 14, 2020: Today, we made history

and passed HB-1260 *Historic Black Colleges and Universities - Funding*. It has taken 16 years to finally settle this long and overdue lawsuit. The Senate is up next. #working4md #mdblackcaucus2020 **(Pictures by the Committee, Jeff Diggs, Basileus Brockman and Khary Earley, Mu Nu Chapter) ///**

Chairman Attended Train the Trainer Seminar in New Jersey



ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020; ETA PI CHAPTER, 2nd District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., hosted training session called: Mentors Train the Trainer Seminar. On a rainy and foggy morning, we traveled from Maryland to East Orange, New Jersey to support the outstanding work Eta Pi Chapter is doing to help organizations with mentoring programs in the East Orange/Newark community.

Eta Pi reached out to the Newark Mentoring Movement that is part of Senator Cory Booker’s community initiatives and experts in the field. The presenter, Thomas Owens facilitated an excellent program that provided insight on operating a successful mentoring program. The seminar objective focused on helping mentoring organizations achieve sustainability and success in the following areas: Improve day to day operations by recruiting, training and monitoring volunteers; Collaborate with Community Partners by connecting to the official professional mentoring organization in New Jersey; Raise Funds by increasing the Organizations Profile; and, evaluating its effects.

Eta Pi Chapter achieved the goal for the training seminar which was to bring together local community organizations and establish future partnerships. This was an impactful day for networking, gaining knowledge and learning new strategies for operating a successful mentoring program. Thank for the wonderful hospitality from the Chapter’s Basileus Barry Devone, Brother Matt Stevens, Co-Chairman for New Jersey and the men of Eta Pi Chapter.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT OUR FACILITY: The Omega Family Resource and Learning Center is currently under construction so please excuse our appearance. Our grand opening is being scheduled for May 2020. We are located at 132 South Harrison St, East Orange, NJ., (Former Black United Fund Building). (By Donald Williams II and Jeff Diggs FIMC 2nd District Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively) ///

3rd District: Brother Raymond Bell, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

Submitted by Brother Michael Frazier



Dumfries, VA - Pi Lambda Lambda Omega U mentoring program executed on their 4th Annual Black History Program at Freedom High School on February 1, 2020 in Woodbridge Virginia. Omega U has over 268 registered students from 3rd grade to graduating seniors and is the largest male and female mentoring program in the state of Virginia. The program included guest speakers Dwight Vick, Lt. Shannon Davis, and PWC NAACP President Bro. Cozy Bailey Jr.



Fairfax, VA - Psi Alpha Alpha MANUP Mentoring Program completed their awards banquet for the students of Mount Vernon High School on January 29, 2020 in Alexandria Virginia (left). Bro. Tony Wells spent date night with children at the Dale City Father Initiative Daughter Dance on February 8th, 2020. (Right)



Virginia Beach, VA - Gamma Xi Golden Fold Mentoring Program invited Ms. Tracy Beckford of Project Lead the Way, STEM Teacher, to task the young leaders with a challenge to build an apparatus that would allow the spaceship "Meteor" to land safely on Mars. Using a design brief and only the small items on-hand, the young leaders accepted the challenge and went to work. Upon completion the young leaders were tested by simulating the landing. Ms. Beckford was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the young leads, thanking her for taking time out of her evening to facilitate an important lesson.



Fredericksburg, VA – On March 11th, 2020, Tau Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. officially kicked off the 2020 Passport to Manhood Mentoring Program. After many weeks of planning and negotiation with the Boys and Girls Club and the Rappahannock Regional Uplift and Scholarship Foundation (R.R.U.S.F), the Brothers of Tau Rho finalized the funding and the schedule of all activities for the mentorship program this year. The kickoff invites all the parents and guardians of the mentees out for an introduction of the program, its leaders and for information.

Washington D.C. - Kappa Psi mentoring program, DC Rhinos, held a serious discussion on the topic of sexual education and awareness. Bro. Kyle Garrison took the lead on this session and recruited Dr. Joseph Dubery and Dr. Ashlee Jamieson from Howard University Hospital to educate us on the importance of safe sexual practices and the ramifications if you do not. ///



**"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs."
Edgar A Guest August 20, 1881 - August 5, 1959, Birmingham, England**

4th District: Brother Jerry Leftwich, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring



Beta Iota Chapter

BROTHERS JERRY LEFTWICH AND JAMES WINGO, Co-Chairs Cincinnati, OH - The Brothers of Beta Iota helped to host the 65th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance Gala at Duke Energy Center in downtown Cincinnati. The event was February 8, 2020. Twelve-hundred (1200) fathers and several thousand daughters, granddaughters, nieces and Goddaughters, attended the event. The Cincinnati Herald sponsors the event every year.

Virtual Mentoring: Leveraging Technology Beta Iota Chapter – Cincinnati, OH

By Brother Jerry Leftwich

Greetings Brothers: Tough times call for innovative measures. Our committee is dedicated to Fathering and Mentoring our youth. Because of the **COVID-19** threat, we have been forced to control our personal distancing. While challenging, this situation is definitely manageable. We need to turn to technology to support our relationships, our mentoring efforts and in some cases our Fatherhood responsibilities.

As a ten-year **Big Brother's Big Sister's** veteran, we are charged by the organization to reach out to our "littles" by phone, use "Face time", Skype, or other technology-based communication to stay in touch. We use group chat tech for the Brotherhood, we use web conferencing in the workplace to stay connected. All of these vehicles provide ways to stay in touch without risking our health.

We all are feeling the stress of being on "lock down." Kids cannot interface with classmates and friends, graduation activities are in jeopardy, extra-curricular activities are all but shut down. Take this time

DADDIES AND DAUGHTERS WALKED THE RED CARPET into a special evening of dinner, dancing, received a keepsake professional photo, prizes and more! The Brothers of Beta Iota served as ushers, security, and registration help. It was refreshing to see so many Black men spending quality time with their special ladies. The Brothers of Beta Iota were proud to serve! ///



Mentee Andre Burns and Brother Jerry Leftwich kicking it in the Cincinnati Public Library before they closed. "Now we stay in touch via Facetime," *Brother Leftwich.*

to pick up a phone, use your technology to keep mentoring. Contact your children if they are outside of your home. Leverage technology to keep in contact and lift each other's spirits. ///

In Friendship,

Brother Jerry Leftwich

West Virginia: The Birth Place of African American History

Xi Alpha Chapter



Institute, WV - The Brothers of Xi Alpha Chapter annually host a Black History Program for the community. We feel it is fitting since **Brother Dr. Carter G. Woodson** (*the Father of Negro History Week*) had strong roots in West Virginia, and was an academic dean at West Virginia State University. Therefore, we provide a platform for multiple young people to demonstrate their understanding of Black History, through artistic demonstration, dramatic interpretation, speeches, quotations, singing, dancing, and various intellectual presentations of the amazing contributions we have made to the world.

We titled the event **BLACK HISTORY IS WORLD HISTORY**, and the Partnership of African American Churches, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. - Xinos, First Vandalia Missionary Baptist Church Male Chorus, excerpts from the "The Colored Museum" presented by The Alban Arts Center, St Albans, WV, a host of other young poets, psalmist, Brother Kenny Hale (Psi Beta Beta Chapter), Theta Psi and Nu Zeta

Chapters demonstrated a couple of marches as some of the participants for this packed auditorium event.

Throughout the years our Social Action Committee always attempts to structure activities to best impact the needs of our community. Xi Alpha has always participated in multiple mentoring programs to encourage and assist many young minds to display their gifts and intellect. These worthwhile endeavors align with the Fatherhood/Mentoring Initiatives of the Fraternity. The Brothers of Xi Alpha and Theta Psi are father figures, role models, coaches, and mentors to many youths in the Kanawha Valley area. We regularly read to elementary school aged children and mentor high school students.

Xi Alpha Brothers esteem others (especially youth) more highly than we do ourselves as we demonstrate our cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. This demonstration of service is what our beloved Fraternity stands for and Xi Alpha loves the privilege to serve others. ///



Omega Lamplighters Memphis, TN

Memphis TN - Under the direction of Brothers Lloyd Stovall and Anthony Patrick, the Omega Lamplighters of Memphis is an auxiliary organization of Epsilon Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It serves the youth of the Greater Memphis Area, grade levels 5th – 12th. Founded in 2015, the Memphis Omega Lamplighters organization is dedicated to helping Greater Memphis Area young men grow and develop their leadership talents in every phase of human endeavor. The organization provides local and national networking opportunities, and conducts mentorships and partnerships with the highly esteemed men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., both undergraduate and graduate chapters in Memphis.

THE MEMPHIS OMEGA LAMPLIGHTERS PROGRAM is not just a mentoring program, it is a fellowship *quartier* and brotherhood bond that these youth have created themselves. These young men, with the assistance and guidance of the directors, have completed numerous hours of community service and active duty in their Greater Memphis Community. They participate in city-wide community service projects, such as, volunteering at the Le Bonheur Children Hospital's 5K Pumpkin Run, delivering Thanksgiving and Christmas basketball to families in need.



WHAT WE DO: The Memphis Omega Lamplighters is also a competitive Step Team. The Program offers young men an opportunity to explore the world in the form of stepping. The team has competed in 5 Step shows. It is the 2019 National Step League Tennessee State High School Boys Champions; they are ranked 6th in the Overall National Step League High School Male Division. The team performs at different events in the Memphis area such as the Southern Heritage Classic and Whitehaven Christmas Parade, Bridge Build Youth Summer Festival and local step shows and dance shows.



WHERE WE'RE GOING: Due to great success at the 2019 National Step League Competition, the Memphis Omega Lamplighter Step Team is recognized in the step community as one of the hardest working youth step teams in Tennessee. In August of 2019, the team was contacted by the Director of Operations of **World of Step International Step Competition** and invited to compete in the 2020 World of Step International Competition on May 23, 2020 in New York City. The World of Step National Convention is comprised of several step teams from all over the world. They auditioned and received a golden ticket into the competition. Four (4) young men from the Omega Lamplighters Step Team will compete in the small group intermediate-advance "stroll" category. (**Anthony Patrick & The Memphis Omega Lamplighter Step Team.**) ///

See Our Website: omegafandm.org

6th District Working Hard Promoting and Implementing Future Dads Program

Raleigh, NC - The Mighty 6th District has been relentlessly promoting and implementing the Future Dads Program. The District, following national trends, is focusing on young fathers between the ages of 16-25. According to data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Child Support Office, there are 10,000 young men in this age group with *court order* child support cases. Even though the data from the state do not track educational levels, the District conducted surveys on some college campuses in North Carolina and found that there were large numbers of young fathers on these campuses that needed additional support and resources.



Work has begun with Johnson C. Smith University, the Carolina Panthers, as well as several Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., i.e., Iota Iota, Pi Phi, Rho, Xi Mu Mu and community partners, i.e., Proud Fathers, Inc., and **REGIONS BANK**, to host a Fatherhood Conference in fall 2020 at Johnson C. Smith University. Undergraduate brothers from across the 6th District will be invited to attend this day and a half conference in Charlotte, NC to engage in the following 6 pillars that the Future Dad's Program will focus on: Education, Workforce Development, Parenting, Mentoring, Sexual Assault Prevention and Healthy Living to include financial education. The 6th District is very excited about this opportunity and is looking forward to bringing on more Fatherhood Conference partners as the planning starts to expand. ///

TRIANGLE UPLIFT FOUNDATION BUILDS ON SUCCESS OF INAUGURAL YOUTH INNOVATION SUMMIT FOR THE THIRD YEAR WITH A STEAM-FOCUSED EVENT

Cary, NC - **TRIANGLE UPLIFT FOUNDATION PARTNERED** with the Triangle MLK Committee to bring area families, corporate partners, and community organizations together to explore innovative ideas at its Third Annual Youth Innovation Summit. The summit was held at Cary Academy on January 11, 2020. The event provided 5th – 12th grade students with hands-on activities to explore how art and creativity work hand-in-hand with the sciences, technology, mathematics, and computer science to create change in our society. The event featured a collaborative environment to ignite students' interests and understanding of pathways to a successful future in **S.T.E.A.M.** related fields.

The goal of the event was to reach minority, female and other underrepresented students by providing an opportunity to increase their confidence and identity, and to be inspired to be future innovators. The students heard from local and nationally recognized speakers and engaged in a variety of interactive workshops and participatory activities. Examples included: Drone Aviation, Robotics, Programming, Digital Music, Biotechnology, Analytics and TV/Film production. There were innovation immersion sessions for parents designed to equip them with tools to help inspire, support, and develop their students' interest in **S.T.E.A.M.** learning. ///



6th District Goal: By 2024 Every Graduate Chapter Shall Host a Child Prayer Breakfast

Raleigh, NC - Beta Phi, Iota Iota and Xi Mu Mu Chapters hosted their annual Father/Child Prayer Breakfast with their community partners, Martin Street Baptist, Pleasant Grove Baptist, Gethsemane Seventh Day Adventist and Proud Fathers, Inc. This year marks the ninth year of the breakfast with 75 fathers and children attending.

The numbers were down this year but all partners insured that next year we'll get back to our 200 plus in attendance. This event has become a signature event within the 6th district with 15 chapters hosting a breakfast. The goal is for every graduate chapter in the 6th District is to host a breakfast by 2024. ///



7th District: Brother Jonathan Gaines, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

GREETINGS BROTHERS OF THE SEVENTH DISTRICT: I solute you and local chapters on your efforts and accomplishments carrying out Fatherhood Initiatives and Youth Mentorship Projects throughout the states of **Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Georgia**. In this year of 2020, we have an opportunity to continue to lead and positively impact our local communities throughout the 7th District. Echoing the implemented initiatives from the Grand Council and International Committees, it is vital that we maximize our efforts to participate in **the upcoming 2020 United States Census and Presidential Elections**.



Brother Jonathan Gaines, 7th
District FIM Chairman

It is imperative that we not only hold ourselves accountable, but continue to engage and empower our local communities to maximize individual participation in these important social actions. Local Chapters throughout the 7th District are encouraged to exercise mandated programs and Fatherhood Initiative activities, to **drive maximum community participation, to ensure that your local community is accounted for in the 2020 United States Census and Presidential Election**. Thank you for your service; our communities are depending on us. (Brother Jonathan Gaines 7th District Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Chairman.) ///



Bro. David Marion - 41st Grand Basileus and Omega Sparks Mentorship Group - Sigma Phi Chapter of Montgomery, Alabama



The Crossing of Edmund Pettus Bridge to mark the 55th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

SELMA: 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Brother Dr. David E. Marion, 41st Grand Basileus take in an educational moment with the Omega Sparks Youth Mentorship Group of Sigma Phi Chapter - Montgomery, Alabama during the 55th Anniversary of **Bloody Sunday** commemorative march.

THE YOUNG MEN OF THE OMEGA SPARKS Youth Mentorship Group merged into a sea of thousands that descended upon Selma, Alabama, March 1, 2020. They came to honor the brave men and women who marched from Selma to Montgomery, AL (the State Capitol) in 1965, in the fight for the right to vote and social justice. Selma is a city in Dallas County, AL with a population of 20,756; 80% of which is African American (2010 Census).

Pre-dating events of Bloody Sunday in 1965, Selma was a shadow of a story that is all too familiar; a story of taxation and justice without equal representation. Literacy tests and poll taxes were dastardly political barriers in place that discouraged Blacks and others from freely participating in the political and electoral process.

During the initial march from Selma to Montgomery on March 7, 1965, marchers, including U.S. Representative John Lewis (*a student and civil rights worker with SNCC at that time*), were attacked by Sheriff's deputies while crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in route to Montgomery marking the event that came to be known as "**Bloody Sunday**".

So, why do we remember and why do we march? After **Bloody Sunday** and a second unsuccessful march

was attempted mostly by college students; the historic third march that started on March 21st was successful; the federal government provided protection in the form of the federalized Alabama National Guard. Some 3,200 folks departed Selma for Montgomery on Sunday, March 21, 1965, heavily protected by the federalized Alabama National Guard.

The marchers set out to bring attention to the issue of voting rights and social justice for all who resided in Alabama. By the fourth day of the march, those participating in the march had grown to over 25,000 from throughout the United States and abroad. This show of strength and interest awakened the moral compass of our nation and stirred its conscious. Later that year the U.S. Congress passed the seminal Voting Rights Act of 1965; it was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Salute to the Young men of the Omega Sparks Youth Mentorship Group for their continued interest in learning about our rich African American/U.S. history. Salute to the Brothers of Sigma Phi Chapter, Montgomery, AL for their valuable commitment to educating their mentees and sharing with them this special moment of remembrance. ///

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. – International Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee and Project Friendship, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 collaborated with HBCUs and Graduate/Undergraduate Chapters to host 2019 - 2020 Male Youth Leadership Conference
HISTORICAL BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SERIES

THE HBCU SERIES INCLUDE Alabama State University, Clark Atlanta University, Alabama A&M University and Florida A&M University. The conference, Themed "Dads Matter", aims to cultivate future fathers by educating and providing life skill tools that inspire young men to be productive citizens and positive future fathers.



Content discussed and led by subject matter experts during the conference included: Youths & Law Enforcement, Manhood 101, Classroom & Community Success, Healthy Families, Single Parent Rights and Financial Education options presented by **REGIONS BANK**. An added feature of this presentation included internships and career placement opportunities with **REGIONS BANK** for college sophomores and juniors.

Spearheaded by Brother S. Earl Wilson, International Chairman of the Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee, in collaboration with Brother J. Gaines - 7th District Chairman, State and Local Chairmen from the four-state area, the project initiative has exceeded expectations with a scalable plan to add additional Historical Black Colleges and Universities. In addition, **REGIONS BANK** has awarded \$150,000.00 in private funding to further this partnership and support future Youth Leadership and Fatherhood Initiative



Conferences at Historical Black Colleges and Universities.

If your local chapter is interested in participating and hosting a Youth Leadership Conference for the 2020 - 2021 calendar year, please contact and submit (RFI) to Brother Earl Wilson - International Chairman at: undenied16@aol.com or Brother Jonathan Gaines - 7th District Chairman at email 7dfatherhood@gmail.com. Special recognition and thank you to Project Friendship Foundation 501 (c) 3 and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE). ///

State of Georgia Expanding Fatherhood Initiative Programs, Athens, GA

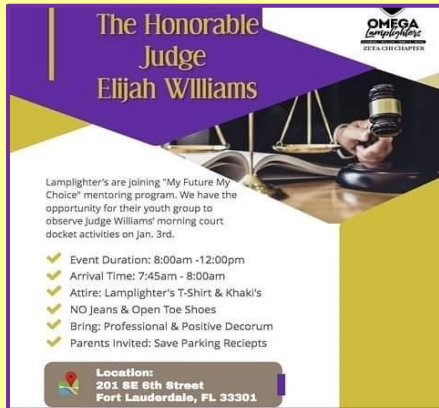


THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES in partnership with Zeta Beta Beta Graduate Chapter, Athens, Georgia and Beta Zeta Undergraduate, University of Georgia joined forces to bring the Fatherhood Initiative Program to Athens, Georgia.

The Fatherhood Initiative Program's primary objective is to assist African Americans Fathers to

acquire employment. The program objective is supported by providing GED educational training, job search/placement, driver license reinstatement, court order modification and other services. The subjects of the program are fathers who are burdened with child payments and fathers wanting to reunite with their child. The overall goal is to find and prepare African American Fathers for long term employment opportunities. ///

Zeta Chi Chapter Lamplighters Meet & Greet with Judge Elijah Williams Fort Lauderdale, Florida



The Honorable Judge Elijah Williams joined by Omega Lamplighters and Brothers of the Zeta Chi Chapter- Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



Judge Elijah Williams speaks on the reality of the Justice System and its impact on youths.

ZETA CHI LAMPLIGHTERS AND YOUNG LADIES of the **My Future My Choice Program** took a guided tour of the Broward County Judicial system to experience firsthand how the law impacts youths their age. The youth sat in on a session with Judge Elijah Williams who provided them with a

moving mix of reality, in-depth lessons and personal stories from the judges. Under the leadership of Brothers Tyrri McCloud and Brian Johnson, the Zeta Chi Chapter Omega Lamplighters have engaged in continuous leadership and educational development of young men consistent with the precepts of the Project Manhood initiative. ///

FORMER NFL QB GREAT, MICHAEL VICK ON EMPOWERMENT TOUR: SPEAKS WITH LAMPLIGHTERS AND STUDENTS AT FAMU



Omega Lamplighters - Chi Omega Chapter takes in a up and close moment with Former NFL QB - Michael Vick.



Former NFL QB - Michael Vick shares his story of success, setbacks and success again on multiple platforms with FAMU Students.

Tallahassee, FL - FORMER NFL QUARTERBACK Michael Vick shares his story of success, setbacks and success again on multiple platforms. On Monday evening, his words echoed across the Grand Ballroom at Florida A&M as part of his Empowerment Tour. This event coincided with the FAMU Student Government Association's (SGA) Leadership Series.

An estimated 300 students packed the area to hear Vick share transparent details of his life. He imparted

lessons regarding work ethic, education, mental health and upholding high standards of personal responsibility.

Vick's Empowerment Tour began as a grassroots display of community service. It has evolved into a national excursion of goodwill. The 13-year NFL veteran, who rose to fame as a member of the Atlanta Falcons in the early 2000s and won Comeback Player of the Year in 2010 with the Philadelphia Eagles, encourages young people to rise above negativity and focus on their dreams. ///

8th District: Brother Skyler Johnson, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

Graduation Outlook on Nobility (G.O.O.N.) Squad: A Thank You to Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy!

Kansas City, MO - The G.O.O.N. Squad meets every first Friday of the month from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. On Saturday March 7th the Squad conducted community service at LATCA (Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy). Part of their learning experience consist of taking care of the facility. They understand that to care for the building in which they are learning each day is extremely important. Thus, they cleaned outside and around the entire school and the gymnasium. Last month the Squad visited the Black Archives Museum in Kansas City's Historic 18th & Vine area. Each organization for which they volunteer commends the young men on their character and positive attitudes.



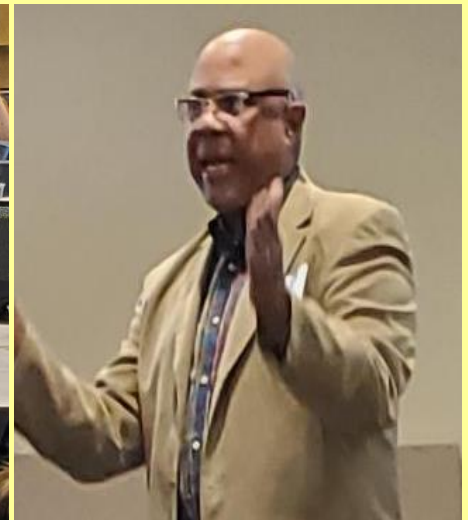
THE MISSION OF THE G.O.O.N. SQUAD is to assist disadvantaged youth on becoming both better versions of themselves and matriculated students. The mission is accomplished through mentoring, tutoring, monthly community service projects, college trips and campus tours and a formal G.O.O.N. squad banquet. ///



Omicron Xi Chapter Kansas City, MO

Kansas City, MO - Brother (Rev., Dr.) Larry E. King, Sr., was a featured speaker at The Educate-Organize-Advocate (EOA) Conference held on the UMKC campus in Kansas City, MO. His topic was: "Black Achievement in White America: What's Wrong with This Picture?"

The presentation was a candid, straight-forward, no "walking on eggshells" discussion, focused on African



American culture (with emphasis on black men/fathers), within the context of white America. It was described as a “pure unadulterated examination of relationships between black and white America.”

Participants had an opportunity to have every question they’ve ever wanted to ask African American people addressed, but didn’t ask, for fear of being offensive. Additionally, specific no “band-aid” approaches and solutions were offered, along with

recommendations for consideration. Young people gained a clear understanding of positive and negative African American perceptions. They were given strategies that would not only enrich their lives but empower them to develop their true God given potential. Adults participants (with emphasis on black men/fathers), were charged with the task of recognizing and addressing cultural biases that may impair the exercise of good judgment. ///

An Authentic Legacy Story in Omaha: Beta Upsilon Chapter

February 21st: Millard North High, Omaha

https://www.omaha.com/sports/high-school/as-hunter-sallis-learns-to-fly-the-millard-north-star/article_94ce2dea-9338-5963-9441-2a2ca4067d03.html

Omaha, NE - Imagine two brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc, both excellent athletes in their prime, now fathers of two stellar athletes. In the Beta Upsilon chapter – that scenario is not left to the imagination. The sons of Brothers Trevis Sallis and Latrell Wrightsell, Sr., are two dominating figures in the Omaha area on the basketball court.

For Brother Wrightsell, the fruit doesn’t fall far from the tree. Wrightsell played for Creighton University between 1988-1992 and has two NCAA tournament appearances under his belt as a guard for the team. Latrell Wrightsell, Jr., plays for Omaha Central High School and just finished his Senior season. Meanwhile Sallis was a wrestler at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, while his son Hunter Sallis plays for Millard West High School.

“They’ve played well throughout their high school years and now it’s basically getting ready for the next level,” said Bro Sallis. That next level for Wrightsell, Jr., and Sallis means their hardwood journey continues into college, with both young men getting Division One basketball offers.

“It’s no joke in college and they’ll have to stay disciplined on that court and in the classroom,” says



Brother Wrightsell. But before that next step, more immediate matters had to take place at Millard North.

While competition is great, when it takes place between the offspring of two Omega Men in the same chapter, it requires the support and love from the chapter.

“This is something special we possibly won’t see for a long time in this chapter,” says Bro. Fred Whitted, Basileus of Beta Upsilon. “This had Brotherhood Night written all over it. Not only to strengthen the bond in the chapter, but to show support to two exceptional young men we know, as well as their families.”

Brothers gathered to watch the Omaha Central Eagles take on the Millard North Mustangs in a hotly contested battle. In a back and forth battle, Central High defeated Millard North. Hunter Sallis ended the game with 35 points while Latrell Wrightsell, Jr., ended up with 37 points. Central wins 83-81.

A successful brotherhood night cheering on two young men that are sons of Omega Men illustrates that by lifting we climb. ///

SEE OUR WEBSITE: omegafandm.org

SPARKS Learning How to Set and Manage Financial Goals

Dallas, TX - OMEGA SPARKS IS A MENTORING PROGRAM for young men ages 12-18 years old. Theta Alpha Foundation (TAF) a 501 (c) 3 organization and Theta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., are the primary sponsors of the program designed to provide guidance, support, and exposure to these young men through direct interaction with role models in the community during their formative years.

The program has three major components: Monthly meetings, Community Events / Outings, and Leadership Training. The Omega SPARKS program continues to mold young men emphasizing the four cardinal principals as our guide. In August, with input from the SPARKS and their parents, Theta Alpha brothers planned a comprehensive program for the fiscal year that includes topics such as Etiquette, How to Engage the Police, College and Career, African American History, experiential outings, and Community Service.

In January, the SPARKS were provided valuable information on college and career readiness facilitated by Brother Odell Brown. The SPARKS were given a career interest survey to find their interests and to match them to mentors for practical research and knowledge. Additional information was provided on the ACAP Summer Program for students interested in accounting.

In February, Brothers Kalon Winn and Marvin Jones facilitated the SPARKS program in observance of African American History Month through experiential activities that included a scavenger hunt and gallery walk of famous and influential African Americans in



History. The activity connected with a previous field trip taken to the African American Museum in Dallas with the SPARKS. In March, the SPARKS were asked a question, “Do you want to be a millionaire?” All SPARKS raised their hands in agreement.

Brothers Roosevelt Hilton and Billy Ratcliff provided an engaging and interactive financial literacy presentation on how to invest and increase their future incomes. “Making your money work for you” was the message as the SPARKS learned about setting goals and managing finances, taxes, credit and debit cards, checking and saving accounts, stocks and bonds, and compound interest. A project was spawned by the SPARKS to observe the stock market and to look at possible opportunities to invest. ///

RHO XI CHAPTER & PROJECT MANHOOD: 6th ANNUAL SOCK-4-SOULS

Rho Xi Chapter and Project Manhood participants spread Holiday Cheers during our 6th Annual Socks-4- Souls Project. The residents at both Park Manor of Quail Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation in Missouri City, Texas and Colonial Oaks Senior Living at First Colony in Sugar Land, Texas received warm fuzzy socks, blankets and Christmas



Cards. In addition to Rho Xi Chapter and Project Manhood members participated in singing Christmas Carols, which caused some teary eyes for some of the residents.

During these visits, Project Manhood participants and those who receive benefits from these visits are provided with an explanation of the why our youth do what they do. For many of these youth, they are being taught many things, including the joy, importance and personal reward of showing and demonstrating love and respect to the elderly especially when elder individuals are separated from their families and living in Nursing Homes and Rehabilitation Centers. Ultimately, it is a glaring example of being Gentlemen on their journey to becoming Men! Submitted by Brother Del Shon Waller, Sr., LM #9744. ///



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Project Manhood visit the Houston Food Bank

Houston, TX - February 28, 2020 - Rho Xi Chapter and Project Manhood visited the Houston Food Bank (the largest food bank in the U.S.). During times like this when food is very limited and financial resources are scarce for some of the Houston and surrounding area families, Rho Xi Chapter and Project Manhood created 450 meal packages, 90 boxes, and 3 full pallets to feed children who may not have any food to eat during that weekend.

Project Manhood participants worked as a group to assemble the meal packages while having fun working as hard as they could to accomplish a goal in a short time. Again, this was another demonstration of male youth being



gentlemen on their journey to becoming men. Exhibiting the selfless need to serve others is just another principle that fits the profile of a Fort Bend ISD (Independent School District) Graduate – Servant Leader.

Several Spring events and projects are scheduled that will be either postponed or cancelled all together due to COVID – 19. Submitted by Brother Del Shon Waller, Sr., LM #9744. ///

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE
of the Newsletter is: JUNE 15, 2020**

Send to: geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net in word format. No pdf.

Nu Phi Chapter Bridge Builder Mentorship Program: College Game Day

By Brother Tawan Williamson – Nu Phi



Houston, TX - WE HAVE LEARNED THROUGH EXPERIENCE, that regular engagement between a mentor and mentee is helpful in the positive development of the mentee. Through the Bridge Builder Mentorship Program, the mentors meet with their mentees on a weekly basis at their respected schools. One Saturday out of the month personal growth workshops are held at the Omega Nu Phi Education Center (ONPEC) to provide positive life skills to the youth.

On November 9, 2019, as part of the Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Program, the Men of Nu Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., “Bridge Builder Mentorship Program” chaperoned 24 young men from Ruby L. Thompson and William P. Hobby Elementary schools to a College Game Day at BBVA

Black History Month Highlighting Black-Owned Businesses

Houston, TX - In the month of February during Black History celebration, students of Thompson Elementary, in Houston’s Third Ward, were tasked with an exciting project. The assignment was to highlight Black-Owned businesses and create a story board that would be displayed in the school’s lobby.

The assignment was less of a challenge for the male students of Nu Phi Chapter’s Bridge Builder Program. Those Mentors that own businesses made themselves available to the students. The students had a list of questions and sat down and interviewed each business owner to document their story of how their business

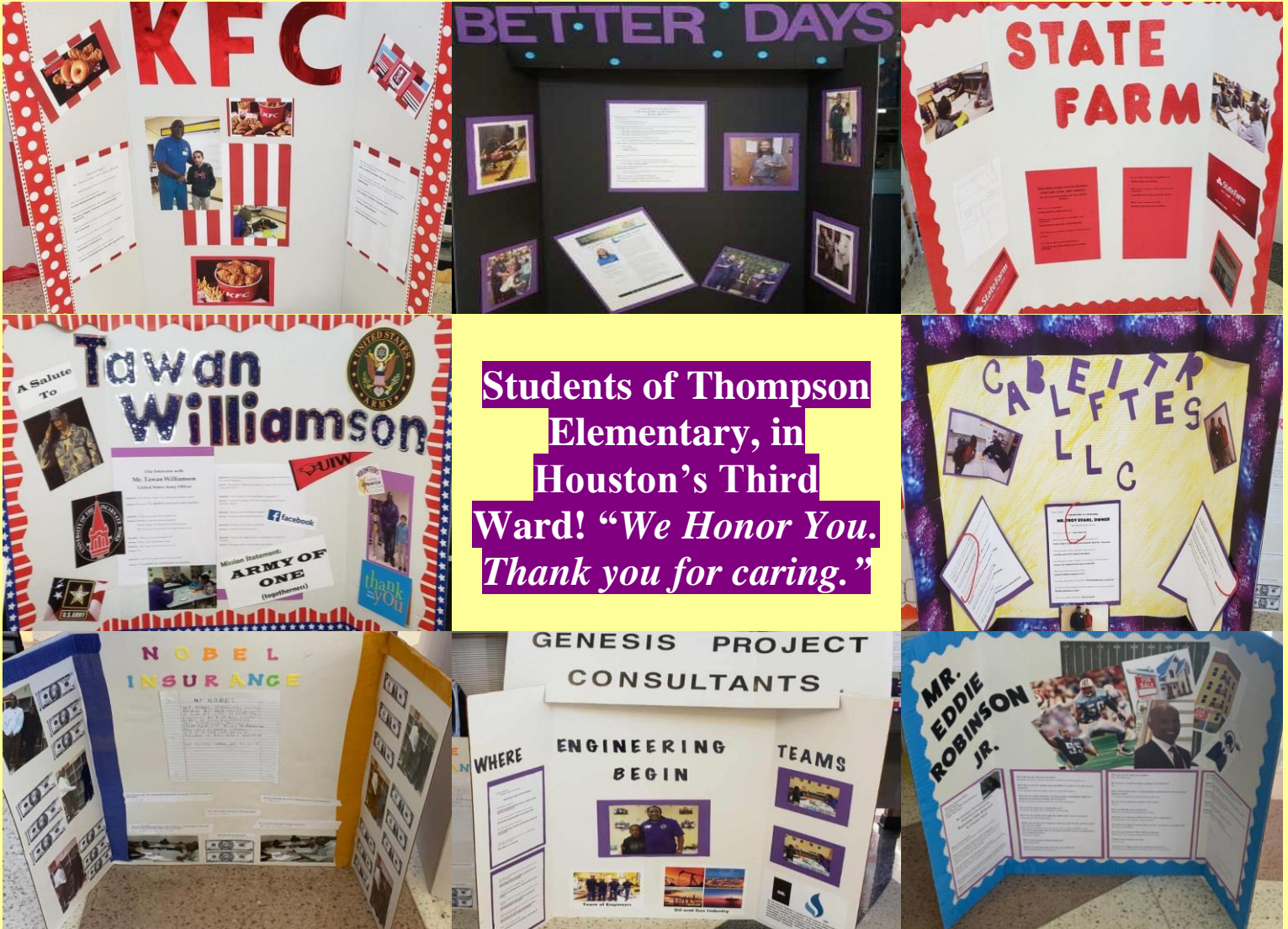
Stadium (TSU vs. ASU). The intent behind this field trip was to expose these young men who ranged in grade levels 1st through 5th to a social outing that would provide them with a life experience outside of their normal and immediate environment.

The young men met and received UPLIFTING messages from Dr. Charles McClellan (SWAC Commissioner), Dr. Quinton Ross, Gamma Sigma SPR ‘90 (President Alabama State University), Ms. Melissa Spaulding (Vice President Development Texas Southern University), as well as took photos with the TSU mascot, the marching band and the Cheerleaders. The event was well attended as we plan for more social outing and community service opportunities moving forward. ///

came into existence. After that, they took photos with the owners and proceeded to type up their reports. From there they created their story boards and were able to be as creative as possible, some using different colors and collages to make their projects stand out.

It was a project that was both beneficial to the students and the brothers. Sometimes we take for granted our journey until we have an opportunity to sit back and reflect on the challenges it took to be able to call ourselves a ‘business owner’. The assignment also had a positive impact on the students because they were able to directly engage with someone that looks just like them and has navigated the choppy water of business ownership. Bro. Karlos w/a K Jackson ///

Our Mentees Pay Tribute to Black Business Owners



Students of Thompson Elementary, in Houston's Third Ward! "We Honor You. Thank you for caring."

“
**We cannot solve problems
with the same thinking we
used to create them.**

Albert Einstein

hellobio.

Epsilon Rho Supports Augsburg's Distinguished Gentlemen of Color (DGoC)



Minneapolis, MN - **BROTHERS OF EPSILON RHO** have participated in a once per month breakfast to meet with the male student-athletes of color at Augsburg University. They were asked to participate by Augsburg's first year Assistant Athletic Director, who quickly assessed that these students were feeling a lack of organizational support by the University and wanted to provide opportunities for growth for these students.

The meetings take place on campus monthly and the Brothers of Epsilon Rho have been providing guidance to these students in many ways. From providing best practices on how to self-advocate with professors during their competitive seasons and interacting with coaches who have cultural knowledge gaps, to conducting interview skills trainings and providing internship opportunities.

Augsburg University in Minneapolis has put a focus on increasing the diversity of their student body over the last few years and have been effective in doing so. This year's freshman class is 64% students of color. Conversely, Augsburg's staff and administration has not reflected a similar trajectory; the students, particularly those participating in athletics, have

recognized this. The name of the breakfast was originally titled "Men of Color Breakfast." However, after the second meeting, the young men took it upon themselves to elevate the objective of the group by creating a new identify for themselves. The name then became "The Distinguished Gentlemen of Color (DGoC)." By attending these meetings, Brothers have had the opportunity to connect with these young men to understand their unique challenges, build bridges between them, the students and the community at large.

As these gatherings continue, Brothers of Epsilon Rho will be assisting DGoC with creating an operating plan, campus events to support non-athlete students of color (i.e. study halls, film viewings, etc.) and community service opportunities. Additionally, there will be a continued focus on connecting these young men with community and professional leaders to build a pipeline for the graduating men to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation in their respective fields.

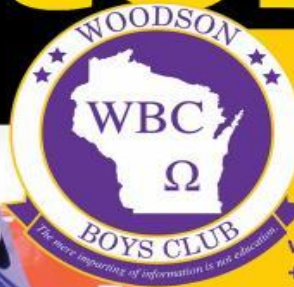
Brother Ashton Penister has connected with many of the Distinguished Gentlemen many of them are pursuing Finance Degrees and his connecting with Ameriprise will be a gateway to some of their post graduate opportunities. ///



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. – Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives

@OmegaFatherhoodInitativesMentoring

where are the mentors?



mentors commit to
3 GROUP
sessions a month

with WBC for the school year
+ individual engagement with
mentees throughout the
program.

Mentees will receive:

1. Monthly Group Sessions

Each month, club based sessions will be presented on a number of topics from sports, study skills and goal-setting techniques, image and personal development.

2. Experiences

Participants will have the opportunity to attend various fun-filled field trip experiences with mentors including sporting events (Bucks + Badgers), Museums, Amusement parks, etc.

3. Personal Development

Mentors will help + encourage mentees to serve as peer leaders while adopting the principles of

- Learning
- Accountability
- Maturity
- Preparedness

This is an official program of the
Carter G. Woodson Foundation
a 5.01(c)(3) charitable corporation

and done in partnership with
The Boys And Girls Club of Dane County

THE **WOODSON** BOYS CLUB
MENTORING

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

WBCMentoring@gmail.com or www.CGWFoundation.com

See our Website: omegafandm.org

WOODSON BOYS MENTORING INITIATIVE EVERY OTHER THURSDAY: MADISON, WI

RECOGNIZING THAT CULTURAL AWARENESS and academic support are missing elements for some within our community, one of the primary purposes of the Woodson Boys Club is to provide life skills, educational opportunities, and access to diverse cultural events and lessons to boys who might not otherwise have access to such.

This year's Woodson Boys Club kicked off with a community cookout that featured a back pack giveaway, RIF (Reading is Fundamental) book distribution, and program presentation to potential mentees and their parents. We also decided that the program needed to be expanded beyond middle school boys to include 4th and 5th graders, as we have recognized the need to reach boys at a younger age.

In addition, we have developed a new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club which has allowed us to expand our reach throughout the community and provide us access to mentees outside of school hours. We hosted a number of recruiting days that culminated in a Parent orientation and welcome dinner at the Boys and Girls Club for our new mentees and their families.

Brothers lead a trust fall activity at the Boys and Girls Club. Recognizing that cultural awareness and

academic support are missing elements for some within our community, one of the primary purposes of the Woodson Boys Club is to provide life skills, educational opportunities, and access to diverse cultural events and lessons to boys who might not otherwise have access to such. If we can improve the academic performance and cultural awareness of our children, we will give them confidence and pride that will carry over into the rest of their lives and hopefully lead them to seek success in the world.

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12th District: Brother George D. Taylor, EdD, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring



An Abbreviated **COVID-19** Statement from the Desk of

Brother Dennis R. Martinez
33rd 12th District Representative



COVID-19 Update #6 - California Statewide Order to Stay Home

BROTHERS, CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOME ISSUED A STATEWIDE "STAY HOME" ORDER, effective 12AM, Friday, 3/20/2020. The details of the order are contained in this link to the CA COVID-19 Response site. Please review and act accordingly. <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>

In light of this order, (and the Grand Basileus' March 17 statement) and with an abundance of caution, I am directing all Basileis of the 12th District to discontinue all chapter meetings, gatherings and events, effective immediately and until further notice. I recommend that you conduct chapter and committee meetings via internet means or teleconference calls. Several chapters have already set up meetings via Zoom ...

My Brothers, these are challenging times in a very fluid state of affairs ... We are set upon by a constantly changing sets of circumstances and information. As an old cop who managed my share of emergency incidents and events, I know that we, as an organization, have some of the best leaders and men that Omega has to offer ... ! I have faith in us. I urge you all to share that faith, to use your best judgement and exercise your duties as the true leaders I know you to be. Do all that is in your power to protect the Brotherhood and their families, your communities, and Omega.

God Bless you, and may He bless Omega and our Nation!

Yours in Friendship and Service

Bro. Dennis R. Martinez



Beta Mu Mu Hosts Valentine's Day with The Ques

By

Brother Dr. Leary Adams, Jr.

Las Vegas, NV - The Beta Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (The Las Vegas Ques), celebrated and chaperoned Valentine's Day with a local historically under-represented school. The students danced, played games, and had faces painted as they enjoyed their Valentine's Day in a safe and fun environment.

Black History Month with Beta Mu Mu Ques and Tuskegee Airmen

By Brother Dr. Leary Adams, Jr.

FEBRUARY IS ALWAYS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY to speak with students about

Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the start of Black History Month. Students of Booker Elementary School, a historically under-represented school, enjoyed an educational presentation from the men of Beta Mu Mu Chapter and the Tuskegee Airmen. The students left eager to interview elderly family members to learn and record their own family history, and to research and learn the history of schools in the local area that were named after African Americans. Students were also treated to the history of the Tuskegee Airmen and their ability to rise above adversity, along with various occupations available to them in the aviation career field. ///



There is Power in Choosing the Right Values: Values are Pillars of Power

By Brother Larry Hammond, Zeta Tau Chapter

WHEN I WAS ABOUT 10 YEARS OLD, my dad took me to an exclusive restaurant in Atlantic City for a lobster dinner – it was my first. After having been seated for some time, I watched my dad become more uneasy. His annoyance rose to a head when he stopped a waiter to inquire about the extended wait time. With no definitive answer, dad insisted on speaking with the manager. The encounter with the manager was colorful and animated. My dad made the point that many others around us that arrived after we did were being served. Of course, the fact that we were the only Black patrons in the restaurant became obvious.

While the manager insisted that our ethnicity had nothing to do with the delay, dad was not hearing it. We were offered a discount on our meal – dad wasn't hearing that either – a scene was made; we left the restaurant with no lobster dinner. I knew that a point had to be made, I knew that my dad (*an Omega man*) had to make it. That was who he was. He taught me his values and demonstrated them at every opportunity as a teaching moment.

NOW, AS A FATHER OF TWO DAUGHTERS, A SON (ALSO AN OMEGA MAN) AND THREE GRANDCHILDREN, I too, realize the importance of transmitting powerful, life

defining values to them. It is my personal values that they will *emulate*. Our personal values are specific to us, a result of our own life experiences. One can discover and refine one's values through life experience or encountering ideas and challenges (**like COVID – 19**) that resonates with us. Values reflect what is important in our life.

Our personal values are a choice. I learned from my dad and my life experiences lessons that I have passed on to my children. I say to them:

Choose values, those that make you powerful:

Knowing your personal values changes your behavior;

Knowing your personal values makes you confident in your decisions.

When you become confident in your values – you can help others.

One's personal brand is a result of the actions and achievements that grow out of one's values and beliefs. Choosing and refining those values that enhance one's power to be a better human being are at the core one's developmental transformation. We are all a rough draft of our future. Rough drafts are to be modified and improved as we aspire to become who we

desire to be. Perfecting who you are is an evolutionary action that makes your life journey meaningful.

As many of us has had the opportunity to reflect during the *corona crisis*, we see what is really important in our lives. As in all tough situations, our children and others that look to us for life guidance, look to see how we handle those situations. Our values influence our character, our character influences our actions. We have the power to be who and what we are by living our life

as the architect we were given the power to be. *We design the virtual house of outcomes for ourselves. We are the one crafting our legacy.* Modeling those values for our children will lead them to a better future.

Elvis Presley once said, “*Values are like fingerprints. No bodies are the same, but we leave them over everything we do*”. Make sure you leave your fingerprints on your children. It matters! They, are your Pillars of Power! ///

Editor’s Note: This article was submitted prior to the Cancellation of this year’s 12th District Meeting. Because of its historic significance, we decided to print it in anticipation of a new start!

75% Men of Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

by Craig A. Mobley, 1973 Graduate Clemson University, Chemistry/Physics
Founding Member, OmegaSTEM – 75th-12th District Meeting STEM Chairman

Founders Frank Coleman, Physics; Oscar J. Cooper, Medicine; Edgar A. Love, Theology and Academic Advisor Ernest E. Just, Biology

WHEN 75% of an organization like the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated is founded by men of science, it is natural for that organization to be expected to embrace and become immersed in propagating Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

I am proud to be selected as STEM Chairman for the 12th District’s 75th Anniversary District Meeting to be held in Anaheim, California May 21 thru May 24, 2020 (**Due to COVID-19, the meeting is cancelled**). As a chemistry graduate with a physics minor, I join thousands of brothers who can claim matriculation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines.

On May 23, 2020 at Columbia Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way, in Downey, CA (see photo above), 100 middle and high school students will participate in day long hands-on activities. These activities include two 2 hour simulated missions from Earth to the moon and the other Earth to Mars. The students will have mission activities that will keep them involved. Robotics laboratories will allow the students to program and test their programming designs.

International OmegaSTEM Committee members will demonstrate the “Code Jam” activities that will be featured during the Grand Conclave in Tampa, Florida in July 2020. Student participants in the 12th District’s Youth Leadership (YLC) along with the OmegaSTEM



Columbia Memorial Space Center, Downey, CA (Photo by Jerry Blackburn)

group, will enjoy a rich day of scientific and technical knowledge mixed with the prudence of the YLC knowledge.

To make this event special and memorable for the 12th District’s 75th Anniversary, we will honor and celebrate twelve science pioneers (African American men) some of whom helped to integrated the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) workforce and made significant contributions to the space program.

Proudly, USAF LTC (Ret) Ed B. Massey (Zeta Tau Chapter) is one of those being honored; he touts being a program manager in the Voyager Spacecraft and Ulysses programs. Voyager has left our solar system and still sends its signals back to earth. Columbia Memorial Space Center has allowed us full and exclusive use of this facility to make this day special.

The few hours we get to spend with students in these future areas of scientific and engineering education continues to highlight our need to expand our involvement with young students. I am thrilled that a concerted effort has started at the international level of

the Fraternity to embrace STEM. At the 80th Grand Conclave in Las Vegas, for example, a new committee launched an effort to emphasize STEM throughout the fraternity. A few districts have started to embrace a broader effort to emphasize STEM. God bless all those brothers who took their personal interests to make STEM viable in their chapters and communities. The ball is in play and we must succeed with our STEM initiative.

So, we cannot turn our backs on our founders who were 75% involved in science and technology. Let us continue to be the beacon that inspires the future in all fields that awaits these young people. Our next inventors, theorists, great thinkers, and science doers await our inspiration. Let's show up and show them through as much hands-on learning as possible and use your words to instruct. You are that good; I know our Founders believed we are! ///

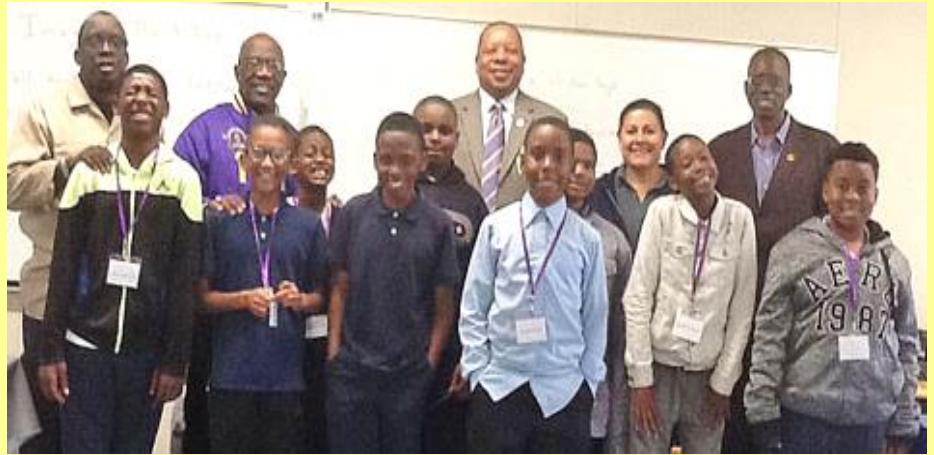
Tau Tau Chapter, Compton, CA – “Service: Mentoring is Our Cause”

By Brother Paul Hodson

Mentoring at McNair January 2020

January 17, 2020, Brothers from Tau Tau Chapter provided mentoring for student at McNair Elementary School located in Compton, California.

Brother DKF Raphael Irving was in attendance and provided additional mentoring and uplift. The men of Omega are committed to mentoring and have scheduled several sessions between now and the end of the school year.



L-R: Brothers Paul Turner, Rodney Brooks, Raphael Irving and Marcus Bedford



Far Right, Brother Rodney Brooks

Mentoring at LA Trade Tech

On February 15, 2020, Brothers from Tau Tau Chapter held a “Mentorship Event”. This event took place during Black History month and was held at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, which is located at 400 W. Washington Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90015. This event was open for boys and men of color ages 12-25, family, which included single parent mothers. This event featured guest speakers, multiple workshops, discussions, presentations, as well as professionally guided male and female mentor dialogue. ///

Mentoring at Aeronautical Museum

On February 1, 2020, Brothers from Tau Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Compton Alumnae Delta's EMBODI, took the mentees to the Aeronautical Museum, located at 961 W. Alondra Bl., Compton, CA 90220. The Aeronautical Museum has exhibits on aviation, plus educational programs targeting inner-city youths.



(Forefront) Brother Gerald Brown, (L-to-R) Brothers Cecil Flournoy, Cameron Nash and Keith Parker

Chi Mu Nu Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative

By Brother John McKay

Shanghai, China and Mumbai, India - Brother John McKay Mentored his son Bryan McKay during Bryan's Biomedical Sciences Capstone Study Abroad Trip to Shanghai, China and Mumbai, India.

Bryan studied culture, clinical facilities, and medical practices in Shanghai and Mumbai from August 26 to September 29, 2019. During this time, Brother John McKay provided mentoring, guidance and training on the Chinese culture and clinical facilities in Shanghai and in Mumbai. Bryan received an A in his Biomedical Sciences Capstone Study Abroad Program.

Preparing Bryan for his trip was truly a team effort. While I was living and working in China and completed travel arrangements, Global TravelPass for the smartphone and Invitation Letters, my wife Kristina took care of these action items with Bryan in the United States: completed meetings with the University personnel to make the Study Abroad Program arrangements; coordinated obtaining the visas in the US Passport office to allow for travel to both China and India; facilitated purchasing the medical supplies, masks, gloves, gowns, shoes, devices, and tools; facilitated purchasing the backpacks, travel supplies, hiking boots, first aid kits, healthy snacks; and, coordinated getting the disease and travel protection shots at the vaccine clinic.

When asked to comment on his experience in China and India, Bryan prepared these comments for the FIM Newsletter:

"In Shanghai, I was able to see the main city and market areas, a few shops, pharmacies, and homes; the city areas were the main appeal for me. There was definitely a culture shock, in a good way, for the density of people, (but then there was) lack of paper towels and hand cleaning facilities, and the stark contrast between wealthy areas and poor areas. Many of the different foods, nightlife, market areas, pharmacies, and sightseeing attractions were very educational and informative. A lot of medical, clinical, and hygiene practices I learned are not allowed in the United States, and vice versa, which was interesting to me.

"In Mumbai, the challenges of poverty, malnutrition, and inadequate public healthcare make receiving adequate sanitation and proper health procedures difficult for most citizens. Lack of resources and contamination risks are major influences on what causes the spread of communicable diseases throughout India. Our university student medical group assisted doctors for 4 weeks and witnessed firsthand, through urban and rural hospital settings, outpatient clinics, and multiple private and government facilities, the efforts made in diminishing these occurrences of communicable diseases.

"Both of these experiences have reminded me that people have different strengths and weaknesses, and it's not about what you have or don't have, its more about coming together as one to work together and to maintain good hygiene practices." ///



Brother John McKay and son, Bryan



Bryan and his mother Kristina McKay visiting Chinese Cultural Sites and Parks



Bryan with Physician at Medical site in Mumbai

Editor's NOTE: Thank you to the McKay family for sharing this educational and enriching experience. Congratulations Bryan, we wish you all the best in your professional pursuits. gdt

Lambda Beta Beta Chapter Participates in Adopt A School Event

By Brother Craig Mickins

Honolulu, Hawai'i - The Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta Chapter participated in the National Adopt-a-School, sponsoring Pearl Harbor Elementary School during the annual Fall Fest on November 8th, 2019. Brothers volunteered to serve the food and lead the game booths for this event. The Faculty Advisor, Ms. Melissa Hangai, was extremely thankful to the Brothers Lambda Beta Beta Chapter for volunteering to help the school. Pearl Harbor Elementary School is a public, coeducational grade school of the Hawai'i State Department of Education that serves around 637 students in grades K-6. The Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta Chapter plan to continue volunteering and assisting the students and faculty of Pearl Harbor Elementary School with future events.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Presentation

By Brother Michael Robinson

Yokosuka, Japan - On Wednesday, January 15, 2020 Brother Michael Robinson of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter visited *forty-three* 1st grade students at the Sullivans Elementary School in Yokosuka, Japan. He described the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with an inspirational PowerPoint presentation. Afterwards each student received handouts that included facts about Dr. King to share with their family and friends. January 15, 2020 marks the 91st birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute featured a poster of Dr. King delivering his message of peace and equality for all Americans. ///



Upsilon Lambda Lambda: In 39th Frostbite Run Sponsored by the Yokota Striders

By Michael Robinson

Yokota Air Base, Japan - Four Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in Mainland Japan joined thousands of local nationals, military members, dependents and youth for the 39th Annual Frostbite Run. The event was held on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at Yokota Air Base and sponsored by the Yokota Striders. The participants enjoyed tasty delicious treats provided by the Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter which included hot chocolate, hot coffee, donuts,



cookies, water and Gatorade. All funds from the event will go towards awarding scholarships to college-bound high school students at various schools throughout the Kanto Plains Community.

In addition to spending time with members of the local community and raising funds to support scholarships for high school students, the Brothers of

Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter also donated \$300 to support the Yokota Girls Basketball Team. The 41st Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion, 13th International District Representative Trevor Hodge and the Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. supports uplifting communities around the world and mentoring our youth to reach their goals. ///

SGG takes their Anti-Bullying Campaign International

By Brother Toneo Gulley

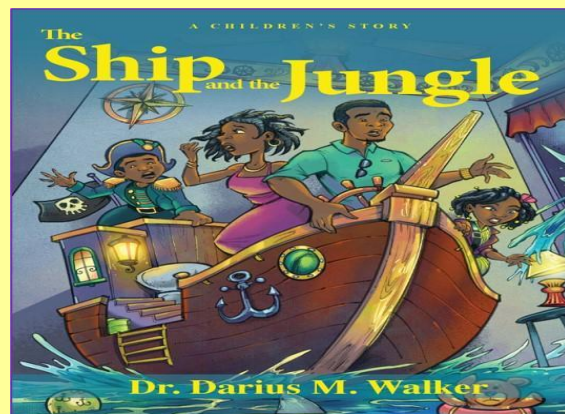
Okinawa, Japan - SGG along with families and friend continued their Anti-Bullying Campaign by supporting the Brazilian Soccer Club Tournament that hosted American and Japanese teams in Okinawa, Japan. Basileus Brother Cortez Pree coordinated the event as 36 American and Japanese students signed and recited the Anti-Bullying Pledge. Several parents also signed and recited the pledge. The pledge consisted of the following statement: **I, (NAME), AM A BETTER BUDDY AND FRIEND AND WILL TAKE A STAND AGAINST BULLYING BY SPEAKING UP WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL FEELS BULLIED, REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE BULLIED, CONTACTING AN ADULT IF I SEE BULLYING, AND WILL BE A BUDDY INSTEAD OF A BULLY.** The Chapter also provided the players and parents with Chips, Drinks, and Hot Dogs.



BULLIES NEVER WIN (and *winners never bully*) is the motto for SGG Anti-Bullying campaign! ///

Delta Nu Nu Chapter: Participates in the American Community School Literacy Week

By Brother Dr. Darius M. Walker



Doha, Qatar - Bro. Dr. Darius M. Walker, Delta Nu Nu Chapter, United Arab Emirates visited the American Community School (ACS) of Doha, Qatar on March 2, 2020 to support ACS' Literacy Week. During his visit, Bro. Walker read a chapter from his forthcoming publication entitled: "The Ship and the Jungle." This publication is Bro. Walker's first authored project and is set to be released in early 2020. In addition to reading one chapter of the fourteen-chapter book, Dr. Walker also took time to highlight his career as a molecular biologist now turned research administrator. His participation in the ACS Literacy Week helped encourage the aspirations of 3rd and 4th grade students. ///

Sigma Gamma Gamma Black History Month Bowl/Banquet

By Brother Robert E. Townes



Okinawa, Japan - On February 26, 2020, Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter collaborated with the Lester Middle School by hosting the Black History Bowl/Banquet at the Camp Foster Community Center Auditorium in Okinawa, Japan.

This was Sigma Gamma Gamma's second Black History Month Bowl event and with the community in full attendance it led to a spectacular evening. The community interaction demonstrated the chapter's continued growth and nurturing of relationships with local organizations. The most impressive part of this year's event was the adding of the banquet to make the occasion more special, so with two fish and five loaves of bread (*figuratively speaking*) the brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma feed the multitude.

The goal of the event was to educate and inspire the young and impressionable students as well as those who may have forgotten about the accomplishments and contributions that African Americans have made throughout the world. This year's Black History Month event also showcased the local talent which heightened the excitement of the occasion. The Kadena High School step-team performed high stepping marches,

clapping hands and songs to further illustrate the achievements of African Americans. Cortez Pree Jr., and Grover Cleveland wooed the audience with their poems of "Freedom Walk" and Poetry Master Piece to include performances by the Footloose Dance team and a song of praise by Sigma Gamma Gamma 2019 Talent Hunt Winner Kaylee Bailey which brought a heartwarming touch to the evening.

The question and answer session of the Black History Month Bowl consisted of two teams from the Lester Middle School ready to intellectually battle it out and complete the evening with The Winning Wildcats vs The Lucky Six in great competition. The questions consisted of categories ranging from Arts, Business & Education, History, Military & Politics, Science and Sports in a five-round contest.

The Winning Wildcats dominated the first four rounds and it looked as though all hope was lost for The Lucky Six. However, round five proved to be a game changer as the points were tripled and in a stunning comeback team Lucky Six stayed focused, dug deep into their collective *cerebral cortices* and won the last and final round with a score of 35 to 31.

The Chapter Basileus Cortez Pree closed out the evening by reminding all in attendance of this year's Black History Month theme *African Americans and the Vote*. He also stated the we have come a long way but there is still work to be done and that the members of Omega Psi Phi will continue to uphold the cardinal principals of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. ///

Sigma Gamma Gamma Black History Month Reading Program

By Brother Robert E. Townes

Okinawa, Japan - Brothers Cortez Pree, Dwayne Bryant and Robert E. Townes continue to remind everyone of the acronym RIF (*Reading Is Fundamental*). These brothers continue to use this motto as part of their Black History Month reading program. The goal of the reading program is to continue

and build comradery with the Staff and Faculty of the local schools but most importantly to educate the young students on the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans and knowing that embracing diversity is okay.

On February 26, 2020 the brothers of Sigma Elementary School on Kadena Airbase in continue to be a major inspiration with community. As the brothers of Sigma classes and one 4th grader class of School, there was no doubt that attentive and excited to hear them.

The books that were “Daddy Why Am I Brown” Am Enough” by Grace Byers American” by Langston Hughes. these books continue to emphasize knowing why you are the color you believe in yourself and to never let are a proud African American.

The brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Black History Month which is “African also gave a brief history lesson on the importance of Rights Act of 1965. Brother Dwayne Bryant said it *conversation on a particular topic that will have a major*

Gamma Gamma visited Stearley Heights Okinawa. The members of the chapter positive and long-lasting effects on the Gamma Gamma read to two 3rd grade (SHE) Stearley Heights Elementary the students were well prepared, the stories that were read to

read to the students were by Bedford Palmer, “I and “I, Too, Am The main idea in all the importance of are, that you should anyone forget that you

also reflected on the theme for Americans and the Vote”. They the 15th Amendment and the Voting best, “*It is never too early to have a effect on a young students’ life.*”

SGG Serves as Guest Judges for KES Spelling Bee

By
Brother Toneo Gulley



Okinawa, Japan - The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma served as guest judges for the Kadena Elementary School (KES) Spelling Bee that was held January 22, 2020. Brothers Robert Towns, Dwayne Bryant, Ronald Baron, Toneo Gulley, and Basileus Cortez Pree assisted with the set-up and tear-down of the Spelling Bee in addition to serving as guest judges. The Brothers witnessed 27 students battle it out to claim the title of Spelling Bee Champ for Kadena Elementary

School 5th Grade Class. Brother Robert Townes stated the competition was keen across the board as the winner will represent Okinawa and the Far East Pacific in Tokyo, Japan. The winning speller was Julissa and she will have chance to make it to Nationals that will be conducted in the United States. Basileus Brother Cortez Pree stated that the Chapter will continue to support the Kadena Elementary School in which they adopted in 2019. ///

Brothers of Omega Making a Difference in Panama City, Panama

By Former 13th International District Representative Brother Matthew Coleman



Former 13th District Representative, Brother Matthew Coleman and line Brothers Ricarldo Washington, Shelton Shatteen, Duane Brown, Lentford Mitchell, Bernard Kelly, and Darrell Harris, as well as Brothers Barry Hodges, Federico Waldron, Eric Nobles, and Francisco Landers, at the Hogar Rosa Virginia Center. Brothers of Xi Psi Chapter's 1985 line pledged monetary support to the Hogar Rosa Virginia Center in the amount of \$19,000 over the next ten years.

Panama City, Panama - February 21, 2020 highlighted Xi Psi Chapter's 1985 Line's 35th Anniversary celebration. The day was not only filled with fun and fellowship, it was also filled with service. Far from the hallowed halls of South Carolina State University where their Omega journey began, the brothers took their celebration to Panama City, Panama.

Always enthusiastic about their commitment to service and to mark their historic milestone, the brothers decided to complete an historic community service project. Led by former 13th International District Representative, Brother Matthew Coleman along with his Line Brothers Ricarldo Washington, Shelton Shatteen, Duane Brown, Lentford Mitchell, Bernard Kelly, and Darrell Harris, as well as brothers Barry Hodges, Federico Waldron, Eric Nobles, and Francisco Landers, decided to visit the **Hogar Rosa Virginia Center**.

The facility is a well-known outreach center which combines an orphanage for children abandoned by their parents and left at the Capilla Santa Eufrasia Mission, and housing for underaged mothers that were sexually abused and impregnated by a close relative.

The brothers successfully coordinated with Ms. Norma Lewis, Founder and President of Amigas, Friends of Children 501 (c) 3 Nonprofit Organization to establish this community outreach event. The Brothers were accompanied by Ms. Lewis and received an orientation by the center's director, Hermana Carmen Maria Ramirez. The Brothers toured both sides of the center gaining an appreciation for the center's work and the need for external support. The Brothers held babies and spent time with the kids, playing and being entertained with songs by the center's children.

This time at the center, combined with the brothers' undying commitment to service, motivated the brothers to make an on-the-spot donation to the center for the purchase of milk and diapers for the children. Moreover, *the brothers were so moved, they pledged monetary support to the center in the amount of \$19,000 over the next ten years.* The sum of \$19,000 is in commemoration of 19 Brothers on the Xi Psi 1985 Line. This commitment promises to make a significant impact on the children in these centers. The center's staff was extremely touched by the Brothers' generosity and sincerity.

This experience deeply touched the brothers, especially Brothers Landers and Waldron, both of which are natives of Panama. More importantly, this experience galvanized each brothers' devotion to support this humanitarian initiative.

Throughout the weekend, the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. were formally recognized at every

large public Pre-Carnival and Carnival events further demonstrating the Fraternity's ability to impact communities and uphold Omega as a shining light around the world. It is the hope that this experience and example might inspire other Brothers of Omega to gladly seek opportunities to be of service to others "*far and nigh*". ///

Project Aspirations Open-House

By Brother Ajaya K. Martin

Honolulu, Hawai'i –The Project Aspiration (PA) open-house was an information session held in January 2020. Its purpose was to provide parents, potential mentees, and the Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta (LBB) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., with an overview of the mentorship program. The open-house focused on the program's mission and vision, the statistics associated with mentoring programs, the current events of the mentee program, the curriculum and all the upcoming events for the fiscal year.

Our mission is to develop the character and talents of young males to become leaders within their schools and local community; our vision is to extend the cardinal principles of the fraternity by cultivating and encouraging leadership development, scholastic achievement, character building, and community service.

The focal point of the Project Aspiration open house was to provide an overview of the mentorship program and answer any and all questions. Brother Ajaya Martin led the information session and encouraged crowd participation and an open-floor discussion. Brother Martin presented a formal PowerPoint presentation and provided the audience with follow along slides in the welcome packet. The welcome packet also included a memo pad, the Project Aspiration application for entry, and a scholarship flyer provided by Brother Britton London.

The Project Aspiration open house is value added to the Chapter's mentoring program and ensures that parents, mentees and the Brothers of LBB are informed and focused on the upcoming Project Aspirations events. The Chapter is looking forward to building on the success of last year's program and increasing the number of mentees and lives we affect. //



Parents, Potential mentees, and the Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta Chapter in Honolulu, Hawai'i

Friendship is Essential to the Soul!