



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring (FIM) Newsletter



SPECIAL *VIRTUAL* GRAND CONCLAVE EDITION

Fatherhood Initiative

Youth Leadership Conferences

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Brother, You're on My Mind! ©

Vol. 7

April, May, June, 2020

NO. 2

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

A Message, International Youth Leadership Conference Vice-Chairman:

July 1, 2020

TO: PARTICIPANTS AND SPONSORS THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE

RE: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., International-Youth Leadership Conference (I-YLC)

Greetings,

We are pleased to announce that the **2020 International –Youth Leadership Conference (I-YLC)** will be held in conjunction with the 2020 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Grand Conclave. The I-YLC has been reduced from its previous 3-day schedule to a single 2.5-hour virtual conference meeting.

The I-YLC will be held via a Virtual Meeting platform on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. Exact start time 12:30pm EDT. The virtual conference will deliver multiple interactive sessions. This free youth leadership conference is for minority males ages 14 years to 18 years (9th to 12th grade). Please note each participant must have a local chapter and chapter contact included in their application for it to be considered complete.

Youth are expected to participate from Ghana, Dubai, the United Kingdom, Canada, the Bahamas, the U.S. Virgin Islands and across the time zones in the United States. Districts that participate will receive International recognition for their participation and support of the I-YLC via the Oracle, OPPF Website, I-YLC Website and the Fatherhood Initiative and Mentorship Committee Newsletter.

If you have any questions please contact Brothers Keith G. Pemberton: k.g.pemberton@poyfs.org (336.560.7693) or John D. Cooper cjd78230@gmail.com (210.602.7901).

Sincerely,

Brother Keith G. Pemberton,



Keith G. Pemberton
Vice-Chairman
k.g.pemberton@poyfs.org

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See the Fatherhood and Mentoring Information

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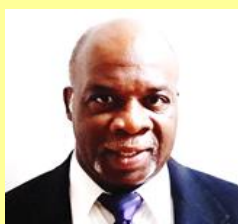
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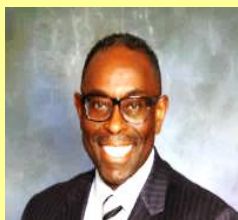
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Brother Robert W. Fairchild, Fatherhood Initiative Advisor

About our Fatherhood Work:

“THE MY BROTHER’S KEEPER INITIATIVE”

Brothers, when President Obama was in office we signed up in partnership with his Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative. As we worked in this partnership, he introduced the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative. This initiative included a partnership relationship with over 250 mayors, corporations and private funders supporting the effort. We worked and supported this initiative. When he left office, he established the Obama Foundation in which he included the **My Brother’s Keeper Alliance (MBK)**. Because of our partnership in the past they reached out and expressed a desire to work in partnership with all the Divine Fraternities.

Brother Grand Marion has recently signed an MOU to participate in this partnership. Much of what the partnership includes we are already doing in our Fatherhood and Mentoring and Project Manhood programs. This initiative gives us the opportunity to work in partnership with the MBK Alliance in the various cities. In so doing, it will provide us access to resources, collaborations, and potential funding opportunities.

As we proceed to engage in this partnership, we find ourselves in a challenging time. The **COVID -19** pandemic has caused students to be in a lock down environment for safety reasons. Considering this, it is really important that we modify our approach by doing *virtual* mentoring. We should not discount the impact that our efforts have had on working with our mentees. The current climate demands that we continue our efforts virtually. As we proceed with our virtual efforts and with the newly signed partnership, keep in mind the MBK Areas of Focus shown below.



Bro. Fairchild

Below is information about the Initiative:

AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Getting a healthy start and entering school ready to learn
2. All Children should be at reading level by third grade
3. Graduating from high school ready for college and career
4. Completing postsecondary education or training
5. Successfully entering the workforce
6. Keeping kids on Track and giving them second changes

MISSION

MBK Alliance leads a cross-sector national call to action focused on building safe and supportive communities for boys and young men of color where they feel valued and have clear pathways to opportunity.

VISION

Our vision is to make this a reality for all of our nation’s boys and young men of color, each and every one of whom is critical to our collective success. By realizing this vision, we are creating a brighter, more promising future, not just for our boys and young men of color, but for our country.

THE CHALLENGE

Our country's persistent social inequities are widespread, rooted in structural and institutional racism, and prevent our boys and young men of color from reaching their full potential.

Poverty: Black, American Indian, and Hispanic children are between six and nine times more likely than white children to live in areas of concentrated poverty.

Discipline: African American students represent 16 percent of the public-school student population but make up 42 percent of those suspended more than once, and 34 percent of students expelled.

Graduation: High school graduation rates for Black and Hispanic students are 16 and 12 percentage points lower than white students, respectively. Many districts see 50% graduation rates or worse for boys of color.

Employment: A Black baby boy born 25 years ago has a 1 in 2 chance of being employed today.

Crime: While only 6% of the overall population, Black males account for nearly half of all murder victims.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Improving life prospects and outcomes for young people, including young men of color, is the right thing to do for our economy.

Closing the Education Gap: If we closed the gap in educational attainment between working-age (25-64) men of color and non-Hispanic white men of the same age, the share of working-aged men of color who have a bachelor's degree or above would double and the total U.S. GDP would increase by 1.8 percent (\$350 billion).

Closing the Labor Force Gap: If we closed the gap in labor force participation between 16-to-54-year-old men of color and non-Hispanic white men of the same age, total U.S. GDP would increase by 2 percent.

GOAL

SUPPORT COMMUNITIES in developing and executing rigorous action plans focused on near-term impact and systemic solutions to the most pressing challenges facing boys and young men of color.

BUILD A NATIONAL MOVEMENT of citizens and institutions committed to effective and urgent action to build safe and supportive communities for boys and young men of color.

IDENTIFY AND PROMOTE effective programs, policies, and people that have a tangible, measurable, positive impact on life outcomes for boys and young men of color.

Brother Bob Fairchild

~ NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ~

Deadline for 3rd Quarter 2020 is **September 15th**; information will cover July, August and September, 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

FOUNDERS: FRANK COLEMAN, OSCAR J. COOPER, ERNEST E. JUST, EDGAR A. LOVE



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FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS



Statement from the Grand Basileus on Nation Wide Protests

Dear Brothers,

On Mother's Day, the social media team of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., created a very powerful video wishing a **Happy Mothers' Day** to the mothers of **Emmett Till (deceased), Tamir Rice, Botham Shem Jean, E.J. Bradford, Jr., Sandra Bland, Darius Tarver, Jonathan Ferrell, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, Walter Scott (deceased), Brandon Webber, Amadou Diallo, Terence Crutcher, Michael Brown, Jr., Jordan Davis, Antwon Rose, II, Aiyana Jones, Miles Hall, Dontre Hamilton, Jamarion Robinson, Renisha McBride, Alton Sterling (aunt), Stephon Clark, Wendell Allen, Ryan Twyman, Terrance Franklin, Trayvon Martin, Laquan McDonald, Sean Bell, John Crawford, III, Philando Castile, Oscar Grant, Jimmy Atchison, Atatiana Jefferson (deceased), Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery.**

Although his mother died two years ago, **George Floyd** called out to his momma as he lay dying. The tragic, infuriating, and systematically violent events over the past several weeks in Georgia, Kentucky, and Minnesota are unacceptable and even considered unthinkable and unimaginable by some. However, Will Smith once have said, "racism is not getting worse, it's getting filmed." The mayor of Petal, Mississippi looked at the same video we looked at and stated "the police officers are getting crucified." He said, "I didn't see anything unreasonable. If you can say you can't breathe, you're breathing."

"...cell phone video, flashed across social media ... seen around the world ... may be amongst our best hopes for lasting, real change."

It is hard to fathom that this is 2020 because we continue to see the lives of black people in America considered insignificant and disposable -- as if this were 1820 or 1920. The only difference today is these cowardly and murderous acts were captured on cell phone video, flashed across social media, and seen around the world. That evidence may be amongst our best hopes for lasting, real change.

We are pleased that the expected and overdue criminal charges have been filed against some, but we won't be satisfied until they are filed against all. We urge prosecutors and the legal system to aggressively pursue a just and swift resolution in these homicides. We demand the video from the body cam and cameras from the police cars be immediately released. We demand a safe space for the community to peacefully express their disdain and condemnation of the actions of officers involved in Floyd's murder. We demand a town hall with community leaders, the chief of police, city council, and the mayor to discuss racial inequities and the violent uprising as a response by the community. We call on the chief of police to work with the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis to revise the police bill of rights and the district attorney to swiftly address the misconduct of the other officers involved and those officers witnessing the misconduct who chose not to intervene. We urge the city to adopt a community policing model that practices de-escalation without the use

of force, both physically or with a firearm, and a model that improves the relationship between law enforcement and the community.

We demand justice for **Ahmaud Arbery**, a 25-year-old black man who was gunned down after being pursued by armed white men in Georgia.

We demand justice for **Breonna Taylor** who was fatally shot by police in her own home in March in Kentucky.

We demand justice for **George Floyd**, a handcuffed and unarmed black man who had an officer choke the life out of him for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. This perverse use of a police officer's knee as a lethal weapon on the neck of Mr. Floyd - as we all watched in horror - initiated over an alleged fake \$20 bill.

Brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., from around the world have expressed their anger. They are beyond sick and tired. We have spoken about this before, written about this before, prayed about this before, marched about this before, rallied about this before, sought justice about this before – and yet, here we find ourselves again. We must continue to speak out against racism, prejudice, and injustice. We must continue to pray because God is with us. He will never leave us, forsake us, forget about us, or turn His back on us.

The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States protects the right of the people to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. You can participate in peaceful, lawful, and civil forms of demonstrations and protests such as rallies, marches, and assemblies, including partnering with other organizations according to the laws and directives within your respective communities, such as curfews. Also, do so in accordance with the guidelines from the Attorney General and the CDC given during this pandemic, including practicing social distancing and wearing face masks. If you wear your fraternal colors and paraphernalia, you are expected to use sound judgment and not bring harm to yourself and/or our fraternity. **Participation in violent, disruptive efforts, rallies, marches and/or other activities is strictly prohibited.** Adhere to our social media policy and remember **the Grand Basileus is the only one who speaks for the fraternity.**

We will partner with the NAACP, the nation's foremost, largest, and most widely recognized civil rights organization. We will use the anger we feel today to fuel us to vote in November. **I am currently working with the presidents of the other fraternities on an initiative that will be launched July 1, 2020 called Black Men Vote.** Per the U.S. Census Bureau, in the 2018 midterm elections, **only 47% of Black men voted.** It is the objective of this initiative, to execute a plan to add one million black male voters to the 2020 election.

Omega men, when duty demanded, stood on the vanguard many times before, arms locked with like-minded souls in the struggle for equality -- or even our very right to live. That is part of our calling to the cardinal principles of Manhood and Uplift. It must be done smartly and strategically but it must be done. We will not sit quietly by and ignore **dog whistle politics.** Omega's sons, as the leaders in our communities, are well prepared to complete all moral responsibilities. As the NAACP put it in a hashtag, **#WeAreDoneDying.**

God bless Omega, God bless the families of the victims of these terrible crimes, and God especially heal our angrily divided and hurting nation.

Faternally,

David E. Marion, Ph.D.
Grand Basileus

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC., HBCU YOUTH LEADERSHIP FINANCIAL WELLNESS INITIATIVE

REGIONS BANK partnered with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in delivering a series of financial wellness presentations to low and moderate income (LMI) students from several inner-city schools in the states of Georgia, Alabama and Florida. The sessions were hosted and held on the campuses of Clark Atlanta (CAU), Alabama A&M (AAMU) and Florida A&M (FAMU), all Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as part of the Fraternity's (HBCU) Youth Leadership Conference Series.

Hundreds of students attending public schools throughout these states along with their parents were bused into these free of charge conferences. The conferences were designed for male students in grades 3-12 and included special sessions for college sophomores and juniors attending the host universities. Attendees

received life skill tools to inspire young men to be productive citizens today and positive future fathers.

Regions participated as lead sponsor for these conferences as part of larger national partnership between **REGIONS BANK AND OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC.** The partnership provides benefits that are consistent with the mission and goals of both organizations and is segmented into three focus areas as follows:

1. Financial Literacy (Education) and Economic Empowerment in low- and moderate-income communities.
2. Talent development and acquisition opportunities in association with various HBCUs.
3. Exploring opportunities to expand banking relationships between **REGIONS BANK** and OPPFI. //

International Notes Brother Thabiti Boone: DAD'S MATTER

1. We Stand Against Racial Injustice

Brother Boone joined the efforts of our Fraternity across the Country participating in protest demonstrations, in the wake of another Black person, George Floyd, killed by the police. We have seen far too many killings of Black people due to police brutality & racism. He participated in a community rally in Plainfield, NJ with the Brothers of Omicron Chi of the 2nd District.



2. Feeding communities during pandemic

For over 4 months, Brother Boone volunteers to help feed the community of Newark, NJ, families & individuals, who are impacted by the pandemic. African Americans, along with Cities like Newark, have been the hardest hit by the pandemic, infections, deaths & shortage of food. Brother Boone, with the support from Chapters Omicron Chi, Eta Pi, Nu Omicron, Upsilon Phi, has helped to provide over 125K meals to people in need.



Former President Obama acknowledged Brother Boone's frontline service by posting his photo on his social media page generating nearly 1 million views.

Thanks Brothers!

Brother Boone

July 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 BEGIN THIS COMMENTARY WITH THE HOPE that all of us are continuing to be wise in maintaining our health and well-being during these days that threaten our health in ways none of us have seen in our lifetimes.

We all have to make decisions about how to safeguard ourselves and those for whom we are responsible. Listen to legitimate experts, pay attention to the science and data that they rely upon in making recommendations to help us through these days of the **COVID-19** pandemic.

The entire world has witnessed, on video, the murder of **George Floyd** in the streets of Minneapolis, Minnesota. We were all witness to the execution of a Black man simply suspected of passing a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill. The decision was made on the streets of Minneapolis, Minnesota that the mere suspicion of a misdemeanor crime should result in the imposition of the death penalty.

Black people have been decrying the continual and sometimes lethal inhumanity that far too many of us face at the hands of those who presumably are expected to protect and to serve our communities. Those entreaties have fallen on skeptical and indifferent ears at best ... lying, manipulative and perversely approving ears at worst.

Just as the world had no choice but to acknowledge and grapple with the circumstances surrounding the death of **Emmitt Till**; just as the **bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in 1963 in Birmingham, AL** forced the world to grieve for the four innocent little Black girls killed that day, and wonder what manner of inhumanity can conceive and carry out such an act; the world is responding to Mr. Floyd's execution and is seeing the truth and ugliness of America's problems with violence, policing, and the systemic, intentional mistreatment of people.

The world is starting to challenge all the malfeasance and mayhem that American institutions have allowed to fester for all of the years that Black people have been on these shores. As fathers, this is a moment we are called upon to guide and direct our children and our families through, with clear purpose and unwavering perseverance.

**... this is a moment
we are called upon
to guide and direct
our children and our
families ...**

As fathers, we must:

1. Reinvigorate our efforts to educate our children about the history of our people in this country. We are their first and best teachers. We cannot be found lacking in illuminating the context and precedent that has existed and that leads us to these days of reckoning.
2. Reinforce the value and worth of that child as an individual, as well as, a part of an incredible collective of people who have excelled and achieved, in spite of systems devoted to subordinating our humanity and our right to participate and to prosper in this country and this world.
3. Reenergize in them the responsibility to be engaged and to be encouraged so that they can and should be part of being heard in their spheres of influence. Help them define what they feel. Help them develop how and when to express that feeling.

4. Reassure our children that we are not people without hope. These are complicated issues that this country is grappling with. This struggle requires so much from so many. Nothing will be accomplished without the simple belief that change can and will transpire. If Black people in America lived without hope, we would have perished from this place long ago.

5. Renew our commitment to co-parent effectively and selflessly. In these uncertain times, our children's mental, emotional, intellectual, and physical well-being is more imperil than ever. Our greatest responsibility, in all of this, remains providing our children a steady, safe home environment. It's hard out in these streets...don't make it hard at home too!

Brothers, this is the most consequential moment that America and Black Americans have come to since the days of the Civil Rights Movement of the 50's and 60's. We have got to show up, big ... and we cannot leave our children behind.

In Friendship,

Brother Gregory C. Pittman, Esq.

Lest We Forget: THE FOUR LITTLE GIRLS, VICTIMS OF BIRMINGHAM'S

16TH STREET BAPTIST - CHURCH BOMBING,
SEPTEMBER 15, 1963:



Denise McNair, 11; Carole Robertson, 14; Addie Mae Collins, 14; and Cynthia Wesley, 14. (Credit: AP Photo)

From Around the Districts:

Why Omega Men Support HBCU's: They Foster Generations of Leadership

By Dr. Quinton T. Ross, Jr.*

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs) have a significant role in higher education, as these institutions were the first entities to provide African American students with the opportunity to obtain higher education when essentially no other colleges would. Today, HBCUs are still an integral part of the higher education experience for African American students in the United States and to the communities in which they serve. Notably, our beloved Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded on the campus of a historically black college, Howard University under the cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

This is reason enough why men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., should always support our HBCU's, not only in word but also by our philanthropic giving. HBCU's have been as Author Dr. Jelani M. Favors' book title depicts, a *Shelter In A Time of Storm: How Black*

Colleges Fostered Generations of Leadership and Activism, for many African American students who would not have otherwise had the opportunity to achieve higher education. through the social inequities and the political frustrations many feel.

Our institutions provide access, nurturing, and supportive environments for the disadvantaged, first-generation, low-income dreamers who are seeking just one opportunity to make it to the land of promise and success to help themselves and their families through educational prosperity.

As the 15th President of my Alma Mater, Alabama State University (ASU), I am an example of the

“HBCU's have been the most essential entities for educating our students and our communities ...”

importance of how an HBCU had a positive impact on my life and my career. The University is located in Montgomery, Alabama, the birthplace of the modern Civil Rights Movement. Alabama State University, like many other HBCUs, has a proud history of providing equitable opportunities and seeking justice for our students.

Our students, faculty, staff and alumni walked arm-in-arm with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In fact, some of the most notable figures of the civil rights era—including the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, attorney Fred Gray, Selma activist F. D. Reese and the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth—are counted among ASU's many distinguished alumni. Our 153-year history is a legacy of perseverance, progress, and promise.

The University's rich history and her contributions to the advancement of civil rights are at the forefront of my mind as I ponder this current national crisis. I am one of thousands of students who have matriculated and emerged from ASU with purpose and a true understanding of social justice and responsibility.

At ASU, we learned the importance and the power of the vote. The call to public service and advocacy was ingrained in our DNA by O' Mother Dear. These lessons have traditionally been an important part of the HBCU experience, and many of our experiences as men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., as we promote the cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

HBCUS PROVIDE MANY BENEFITS to include the economic impact to their respective communities, access to first generation and disadvantage students, workforce, and a legacy to the foundation of HBCUs.

Benefit #1: Economic Impact

HBCUs make an astonishing contribution to the local, state, and national economy. In the recent report produced from the United Negro College Fund, *HBCUs make America strong: The positive economic impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities* it was revealed that HBCUs "are economic engines in their communities, generating substantial economic returns year after year." It was also reported that HBCUs create

\$14.8 billion in economic impact annually, which is in comparison to a ranking in the top 200 on the Fortune 500 list of America's largest corporations. In addition to the economic impact, HBCUs play a major role in the economic success of their graduates by boosting their education skills and providing their skills and talents across the world. It is reported that over 50,000 HBCU graduates in 2014 were expected total earnings of \$130 billion over their lifetimes, which is equivalent to the 56 percent more than they could expect to earn without their college credentials.

Benefit #2: Access for First-Generation African-American Students

HBCUs are a significant part of America's higher education institutions, which make noteworthy contributions to a diverse set of students to include access, attainment, and opportunity. Research has revealed that HBCUs serve a high percentage of students of color, low-income students. Also, many of the students attending HBCUs receive Pell Grants, which indicates that many of these students are low-income, first-generation students and students who were not meeting the college readiness standards.

Benefit #3: Workforce

While the financial contributions to communities are plentiful, there are other benefits that are spawned from HBCUs to include the graduates of these institutions entering the workforce, better prepared as intellectuals whose expertise increase their earnings prospects and contributions to their respective communities. Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO of UNCF, made the argument that "each dollar spent on, or by, an HBCU and its students has significant 'ripple effects' across a much wider area. That means heightened economic activity. More jobs. Stronger growth. Stronger communities."

Benefit #4: Legacy

HBCUs were created with the mission of educating African-Americans while being open to all students. Currently, in the United States, there are 101 HBCUs, which have graduated many distinguished and highly successful Americans.

HBCUS ARE KNOWN FOR HAVING A LEGACY of increased student engagement. HBCUs legacies have

"HBCUs are leaders in the national effort to improve the quality of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) ..."

lent themselves to being community-based institutions that “promote civic engagement and service learning.” The legacies of HBCUs are as drivers of educational attainment for low income and first-generation students. HBCUs are leaders in the national effort to improve the quality of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in education and research. Research indicates that 40 percent of all African-American engineers received their degrees from an HBCU. Therefore, the nation’s HBCUs are significant to ensuring a legacy for its students to contribute to the academic, social, and personal development of many African-American and other minority citizens.

Today as men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., who are committed to our cardinal principles, we have a responsibility to invest in the future generations to come by promoting Manhood and Scholarship. We must make our HBCUs a priority as they Persevere to provide a legacy of leadership. Finally, we must Uplift and renew our commitment to ensure that our HBCU’s continue to be a shelter and training ground for our leaders of tomorrow. **I charge and challenge each member of this great fraternity to support the HBCU of your choice to ensure its viability and sustainability. ///**

****About the author: Dr. Quinton T. Ross, Jr., is in his third year serving as the 15th President of Alabama State University. A Life Member of Omega Psi Phi, Inc. Chairman of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., International HBCU Education Committee. To learn more about Dr. Ross and the history of ASU, visit www.alasu.edu. ///***

REGIONS Bank/Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc./Partnership Agreement



Brothers: This information is intended to provide details of the talent development new partnership agreement established between Regions Bank and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



The agreement establishes Omega Psi Phi as a significant source of talent acquisition for Regions Bank in the three distinct areas:

- 1. UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS** for rising Juniors and Seniors who carry a 3.0 or better GPA
- 2. ENTRY LEVEL POSITIONS** for graduates of 4-year institutions
- 3. MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES** for experienced individuals seeking a career change.

Internship Program Specifics:

Regions Bank will hire approximately 120 internships

The program will run for 10 weeks beginning in the summer of 2021

Offers will be extended in September/October of 2020

The base pay is \$18/hour

Additional compensation for travel and housing is under development

Positions will be housed primarily in Birmingham AL, Atlanta GA, Charlotte NC, and Dallas TX.

No specific field of study requirements

Interns who complete the program are the primary pool for full-time entry-level positions

Base pay for entry level positions range from \$55,000 - \$65,000 annually.

For additional Information, see pages 17 and 25.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

UPLIFT: From CDC – Three Items You Should Have When Leaving the House

For prevention, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has compiled guidelines for protecting yourself. The first step for staying healthy is to always have these three things on hand when leaving the house: a cloth face covering, tissues, and hand sanitizer. Exposing yourself to infected individuals without protection may lead to you getting sick.

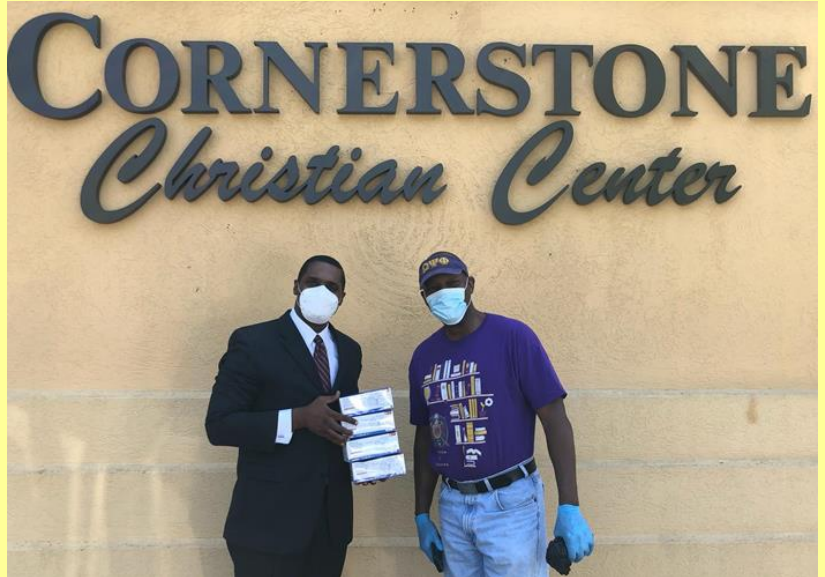
Alpha Nu Gives Back...Continuously!

Stamford/Norwalk, CT –Alpha Nu Chapter recently distributed several thousand masks to six churches, each with congregations of over 300 members, that have participated with the Chapter in its Fatherhood Luncheon, held on the Saturday, before Father’s Day over the last several years. Given that the Chapter was unable to hold the luncheon on this year due to the **Coronavirus Pandemic**, it decided that it would instead contribute something meaningful to these churches that have supported them over the years. The Chapter procured over 3,000 masks and delivered them to our partner churches to assist with keeping everyone safe during the pandemic.

For the past eight years, Alpha Nu Chapter has held a Father’s Day Luncheon in June on the Saturday before Father’s Day. The idea of the luncheon was conceived under the leadership of Past Basileus Greg Burnett, Sr. and has been chaired continuously by Brother Donald Thomas, a former Basileus who currently serves as Chaplain. Alpha Nu Chapter partners with several churches in the area and asks them to identify honorees.

The Chapter observed that several organizations hold events for mothers on Mother’s Day and we felt it was important to do something special for fathers as well. Brother Gary Ford, Alpha Nu Basileus says, “Our Father’s Day Luncheon has been well received since its inception, and the participants; the churches and the honorees, are excited to be included in the recognition of fathers and father figures in what has become an extremely important and significant event”.

Brother Thomas indicates, “at the Luncheon, we honor these fathers by publicly recognizing their contributions as fathers to their families and as father figures in the community. One does not have to be a biological father, but can be included by serving as a mentor or in any relationship that guides and supports our young people”. Alpha Nu has honored close to 40



Pastor Watts accepting mask donation from Brother Ed Artis

father figures in the eight years of sponsoring the luncheon. Honorees are placed in the spotlight and allowed to remark on their journey and relationship to young people, which is a highlight of the event. Additionally, appreciation is conferred upon them by the giving “Outstanding Father Figure” medallions, plaques, and citations from the Connecticut Governor, the Legislature and other high-ranking officers.

An offspring of our Father’s Day Luncheon is a Back to School Haircut Day where the Chapter sponsors haircuts for boys just prior to their return to school for the new school year. In some instances, fathers bring their sons in for haircuts and are encouraged by our Chapter brothers to continue to be a presence in their son’s life and to let brothers of Alpha Nu know if they ever need any assistance or someone to talk with. In other instances, boys are brought in without the constant presence of a father in their lives and Chapter brothers attempt to engage the boys in conversation that is encouraging and motivational concerning goals and aspirations that they might have.

Alpha Nu Chapter has a host of other activities that it is engaged in to support and provide uplift to the community including handing out backpacks to over 300 students in conjunction with the Salvation Army

and Stamford Police Officers and greeting students as they arrived at their school on the first day of school. ///
Article written by Brother Joseph E. Mann

2nd District: Brother Donald Williams, II, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

MENTORING CORNER: KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP – 2nd DISTRICT \$5000 Awarded to Mu Nu Chapter

Second District – On May 16, 2020 the 2nd District held its 72nd District Meeting. The Grand Basileus, Dr. David Marion made a \$5,000 award to Mu Nu Chapter for its outstanding and impactful Fatherhood and Mentoring program. The purpose of this award is to “spark interest” and provide incentives for the 2nd District to **increase** the number of Chapters mentoring our fathers – helping them to become better Dads, and helping our young people, especially our young males, reach their full potential!

Brother Shaun Ratliff, Social Action Chairman for Mu Nu Chapter provided outstanding leadership with a county program called the 24/7 Dads hosted by Housing Opportunity Commission. The **Bridge Builder Mentoring** program and the continued long-standing teaming arrangement with the Dr. George B. Thomas

Learning Academy, known as Saturday School in Montgomery County, Maryland.

The desired outcome of the 2nd District’s leadership is for every Chapter to mentor young males either by starting a mentoring program or seeking a mentoring partnership with reputable like-minded community-based organizations such as the local Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Social Services, other Greeks and other local organizations that’s intentional about mentoring young people and Dads.

Congratulations Mu Nu Chapter! Brother Kelvin Ampofo, 37th District Representative encourages Chapter leadership to rethink mentoring using virtual platforms. Our young people, especially our male students need Omega Uplift and Engagement more than ever before! ///

UPLIFT MESSAGE MY FRIENDS – YOU’VE BEEN ON MY MIND!

Let’s Make A Commitment, See the YouTube Here: https://youtu.be/A1zqz_gOGQk

COMMUNITY QUES GO VIRTUAL WITH MENTORING

New Jersey - On April 18, 2020, Men of Eta Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., conducted the first mentoring session using Zoom Cloud based platform. There is an old saying that *“When the Going Gets Tough, the Ques Get Going!”* This statement applies to the Eta Pi Chapter in its effort to continue conducting mentor services for youth and families during the **COVID - 19** Health Pandemic.

Known as the **Community Ques**, for their steadfast commitment to collaborating with schools, service organizations and government agencies, the Brothers of the Mighty Mighty Eta Pi Chapter adapted current program activities to operate virtually. However, in

March 2020, when the State and local Governments instituted the “*Stay at Home*” policy, the Chapter was mandated to cancel mentoring activities. The March scheduled activity was a college tour of Bloomfield College – *youth would have been introduced to Video Game Design*. The April scheduled activity was a Father and Son Bike Repair workshop – *boys would have been taught how to fix bikes that were donated through the Annual Holiday Bike Give Away Program*.

Eta Pi Chapter would not be detracted. The Committee met in March and designed a series of programs that could address the needs of the community using the meager resources of the Chapter. The 2020

Virtual Mentor Program Sessions included: April – Omega Strong Fitness and Wellness Session; May – Community Ques Cook Pre-Mother’s Day Session; and, June – Pre-Father’s Day Martial Arts Clinic.

OMEGA STRONG FITNESS & WELLNESS SESSION: Chapter Members Tony Hayes (Fitness Trainer), Mike Matos (Physical Education Teacher), Matt Stevens (Youth Development Specialist) and Delta Upsilon’s Ron Williams (Certified Yoga Instructor) facilitated lively sessions that included ten brothers of all ages, eight children ages 10 – 16, and three high school students that applied for the Chapter Scholarship. The session was advertised on Social Media and interested parties were required to register through ZOOM. Brother Ron Williams started the program by teaching the basic elements of meditation and how to control thinking through breathing. His session was followed by brother Hayes and focused on stretching and basic push up exercises.

The exercise session was brought to another level when Brother Santos facilitated a 100 Push Up Challenge that included 10 different styles of pushups in

a 10-minute span of time. Ann Maria Harvey, a mother of two teenage boys from Baltimore Maryland, saw the advertisement on Facebook and requested to participate.

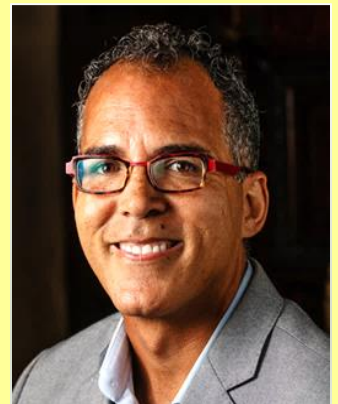
Julian Lee, a 17-year-old high school student who is applying for the Chapter Scholarship was invited to the event to get familiar with the Chapter. He wrote a thank you note hours after the event *“Brothers, I just wanted to say thank you for allowing me to join the group today. It was an honor to be in front of successful men with the same skin color as me!”* The program concluded with a brief conversation hosted by Brother Stevens which encouraged the young men to stay in the house and assist their families during the Stay at home period. Reverend Brother Stackhouse closed in prayer.

The Mother’s Day activities concluded programming for 2020 and included a hands-on cooking breakfast forum, Mother’s Day lesson and practicing martial arts with Fathers. The sessions were FREE and open to the public, however, registration was required and strictly enforced. All program information can be found at www.EtaPiChapter.org. Submitted by Bro Matt Stevens, Chairman, Mentoring Committee. ///

Key Message: Let's **RETHINK Mentoring Engagement** using Virtual Platforms. Mentoring our youth is more important now in this rapidly evolving **COVID-19** pandemic. We encourage Chapters to adjust their thinking about mentoring young people and helping men become better Fathers using virtual platforms such as Zoom. **Mentoring Matters!**

“A black man of my generation born in the late 1960s is more than twice as likely to go to prison in his lifetime than a black man of my father's generation. I was born after the Voting Rights Act, after the Civil Rights Act, after the Fair Housing Act.”

See: Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America, by James Forman, Jr., Esq.



COVID-19 FATHERHOOD AND MENTORING MESSAGE

By Donald Williams II, 2nd District Chairman

Brothers, Fathers, Parents, Mentors, Coaches, stay connected and engaged with your family, sons, daughters, nephews, nieces and students. Parents, help them understand the right thing to do in this pandemic season.



Dads, offer guidance, directions, positive enforcement. In this unprecedented pandemic season, focus on doing your very best parenting as we all sacrifice for the greater good!

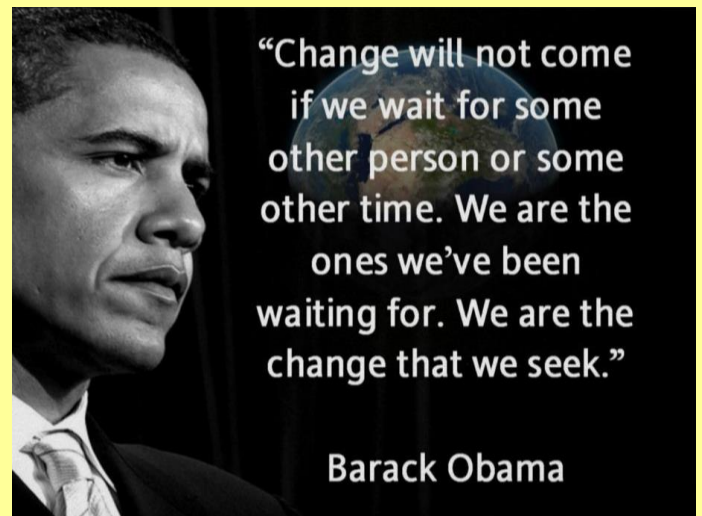
Many young people will miss the “normal” major milestone celebrations such as school graduations. These most important times in their lives will forever be impacted. As we do the outstanding work of Omega during this health crisis, please take time to “talk and hold conversations” with family and your circle of influence.

Our children in this “moment” need words of encouragement, uplift, support, someone to talk with and someone to listen to them and help them process what is occurring as we settle in for the long-term in this new reality of physical distancing! Dads, you might find your spouse upset, disappointed, emotionally moved to tears and you wonder why!

Well, the psychological fact is that she’s been waiting for years to see your child walk across the stage in Gap and Gown and now it didn’t happen. Our high school students this past month would have been communicating about the stress associated with preparing to take “final exams,” planning for the Prom, and taking class trips.

The social, emotional, growth and development are extremely important and parents need to help students process this experience. My Brothers that are fathers and uncle please communicate about “sacrificing” for the greater good of the community and don’t let your guard down, continue to emphasize washing your hands, wearing your masks to show love for protecting others from you when you are out and stay safe until a cure is found! ///

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” Frederick Douglas



**Our St Jude’s Goal Was \$100,000;
We Raised \$104,300!
Thank you, Brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

STAY SAFE, STAY SMART, MENTORING MATTERS

Gamma Mu Nu Chapter Provides Leadership

Middletown, Delaware—Tuesday, June 2nd, the brothers of Gamma Mu Nu Chapter received notification of a protest march scheduled for Thursday, June 4th. The planned route of the march publicized on social media was questionable; brothers of Gamma Mu Nu felt there were too many opportunities for people of ill will to infiltrate the march, create havoc, undermine its intent and become a major detraction.

Brothers Dominic Banks, Rashaun Davis, and Jason Hunt along with other community leaders met with the young men planning the march and offered support. These brothers worked with the group by helping to modify the route, establishing a start and end time of the march, assisting with arranging the speakers, while maintaining the protest's purpose and integrity.

On the day of the event, Brothers Rashaun Davis and Dr. Marc Latta along with others spoke at the march. Other Chapter Brothers marched around the exterior of the marchers to maintain order and decency. The march was a success with help and vigilance of Omega men

working with community leaders including the Chief of Police. The community participants consisted of folks of all races, ages, religions, and stations in life in support of the message of "Black Lives Matter."

Due to the leadership and planning by Gamma Mu Nu, a second march was held on Sunday June 7th. It included Middletown religious, and community leaders, as well as the Lt Governor, US Senators, US Representatives, State Senators and legislators as well as Local Government Officials. The march was inclusive; all races, religions, ages, and sexes were present at the protest march.

This march ended with the first of many conversations between the community, the police Chief, and State and local Governmental Officials – the beginning of many meetings to come. With the cooperation of community activist, the struggle will continue as we strive to make significant, and lasting change. Our Political Actions will endure until the goal of significant positive change for our community is realized. (Submitted by Brother Vince Stutts, Delaware Chairman). ///

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY: THE JOYS OF FATHERHOOD REFLECTIONS

My friends, let me be among the first to wish you a Happy Father's Day. On behalf of our newly elected 37th District Representative, Brother Kelvin Ampofo and the Committee for Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring, this is a special tribute for Father's Day in this new reality of the **COVID-19**. We salute each one of you for being the GPS in your family, home, church and community. If your Dad is still alive it's a blessing. Know that the prayers of Dads that have gone on to glory still covers you and your families.

We celebrate Fatherhood and the legacy you are creating with your children and others you coach, mentor, nurture and/or provide guidance. Enjoy the Fatherhood celebration reflections from the 2nd District starting with Gamma Mu Nu Chapter leading and protecting youth in Wilmington, Delaware as they support the Black Lives Matter movement against injustice, inequity, police brutality and speaking out for fair treatment for all people!



"All we've got to do is to keep marching. Do tomorrow what we did today, and do it the next day, and then the next day we won't have to do it at all." — Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth. (1922-2011).

A Difference A Dad Makes – Immeasurable! Thank you, Fathers!



Process steps:

REGIONS BANK will conduct 2 Webinars in the summer of 2020 to introduce Regions Bank and the banking industry to potential candidates. Our first Webinars is being planned with tentative dates July 8, 9 or 13.

Omega Psi Phi will be expected to create the audience for these webinars in early September 2020; Omega Psi Phi will be expected to provide Regions Bank with the resumes of candidates who are interested in and qualified for the internships

Regions Bank will screen the résumés and schedule interviews (virtual and face-to-face depending on location)

Offers will be extended to qualified candidate upon the completion of interviews – Continued on page 25

3rd District: Brother Cameron Mix, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

Third District Convenes A Virtual Town Hall – June 16, 2020

Top Row L-R: 41st Grand Basileus Dr. David E. Marion, District Representative Conrado Morgan. Bottom L-R: Brothers Judge Herbert B. Dixon, VA State Del Cliff Hayes, U.S. Rep James Clyburn, Robert Fairchild, VA Del Luke Torian, and MD Del Nick Charles.

Click Here to See Town Hall: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=957442178030631&id=154489068083920&_rdr

MARKETED AS “POLITICKING AND POLICING in the DMV” (District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia), the Town Hall did not disappoint! All of the “hot button” issues surrounding policing, community engagement, civic duty, and voting were discussed.

Seated at his Virginia desk, Brother Robert Fairchild moderated a panel of three legislators and the Judge. Brother District Representative Conrado Morgan introduced Brother 41th Grand Basileus Dr. David E. Marion who made brief introductory remarks. Brother Fairchild then acknowledged Brother Chaplain Courtney Miller who opened the Town Hall with a prayer.

Brother U.S. Representative James Clyburn (D-SC) appeared at the beginning of the Town Hall in between meetings and made an impassioned plea for all to get out and become involved in the political process. He sees this time as a “culmination of activities of the 1960’s” when he was a student involved with SNCC (Student Non-Violence Coordinating Committee) that advocated for voting rights, fair housing and social justice issues.

“This country is at a *crossroads*,” he said, implying that important decisions about the future must be made now! He called on men of Omega Psi Phi to “put all the Cardinal principles to work” as this is the “*most*

consequential year for us since 1860.” We must do this he stressed for our children and grandchildren.

Echoing the sentient idealism that propelled the civil rights movement of the 1960s, Judge Dixon followed Brother Clyburn by reminding all that he “*was there too*” – in the sixties and that civic engagement. In a strong and fervent voice, he said, “*voting is important!*”

The panel discussed and deconstructed such topics and sentiments as: “Defund the Police”, the “Doctrine of Qualified Immunity”, “Civic Engagement”, the “Presidential Executive Order on Policy Reform” – which was signed earlier the same day on June 16 and “**Voting**” to an online audience that stretched from coast-to-coast. Its purpose was to inform and to inspire the community to move forward in a concerted and decisive way. The two-hour Town Hall ended with a prayer by Brother Chaplain Miller. ///



~ At 16, He's All Grown Up and Ready for Life after High School ~

Cincinnati, OH – Big Brother Jerry Leftwich and “little” 16-year old Andre Burns who is graduating from Riverview East Academy in Cincinnati, OH. Andre, who lives in the Avondale community, says, “I feel great about it. It’s a jump start in life to do the things I want to do.” Only 16 years of age, Andre lives with his mother and older brothers.

Since the fourth grade, Brother Jerry Leftwich, Andre’s “Big Brother” and — his mentor — paired through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cincinnati (BB/BSGC) has been there to see him through. Brother Leftwich has been helping to shape and guide Andre’s growth and development – since he was in fourth grade. And now since Andre has completed HS, they have pondered the big question – “Now what?” Brother Leftwich assured Andre and his mother that his place in Andre’s life is totally up to Andre and his mom.

When asked why he felt a strong commitment to the precepts of BB/BSGC, he said in an interview in the

Cincinnati Herald Newspaper, “I had coaches and neighbors and other mentors watching after me growing up, and I learned a lot about doing the right thing from them.” Brother Leftwich explained, “I understand the importance of an African American child having an African American role model to look up to, someone who can help them see that an education and hard work can lead to a successful life.”

Andre wants Brother Leftwich to remain a part of his life. They have begun a new chapter in this long and *inexact* process of growing into manhood, taking on the responsibility of making decisions about career choice, watching his own TV programs, playing computer games of his choice and doing other things without having to negotiate his space with siblings; he will be living his life of quality and adjusting to practically all else that comes with independent living though inextricable, it can sometimes appear. ///

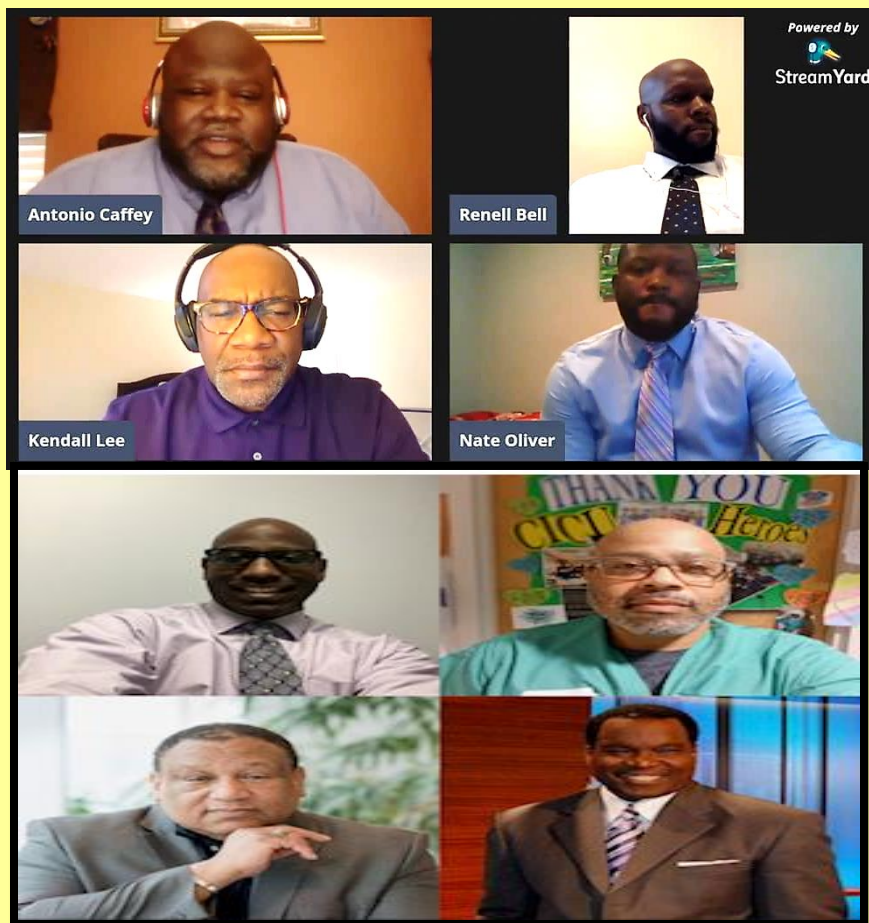
~ What BIG BLUE (IBM) is Saying ~

June 8, 2020

Categorized: Diversity and Inclusion | Responsible Stewardship

IBM CEO Arvind Krishna today sent the following letter to Congress outlining detailed POLICY PROPOSALS TO ADVANCE RACIAL EQUALITY IN OUR NATION. He also shared, in the context of addressing responsible USE OF TECHNOLOGY BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, that IBM has sunset its general-purpose facial recognition and analysis software products. Read the statement at this site:

<https://www.ibm.com/blogs/policy/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Letter-from-IBM.pdf>



Zeta Beta Chapter Virtual Town Hall

“MEN Making a Meaningful Difference”
Cincinnati, OH – On June 18, 2020 the Zeta Beta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc held a virtual conversation on fatherhood. The discussion was facilitated by Brother Antonio Caffey. Brothers Renell Bell, Kendall Lee and Nate Oliver appeared on the panel. Brothers discussed various topics related to fatherhood and the various approaches that they take in raising their kids. ///

The S.T.A.R. Beta Iota Chapter Virtual Town Hall

Bro. Anthony Wood, Basileus - Beta Iota
COVID-19: What Fathers Should Know

Jun 20, 2020 07:00 pm ET- Brothers of Beta Iota Chapter hosted their first in a series of virtual town hall meeting for fathers. "The Coronavirus and what Fathers should know in protecting their families".

This panel included: Guest Host – Brother Mark Hayes (bottom right) former News Anchor of WLWT Channel 5 News, and now CEO of Mark Hayes Consulting;

Dr. Odell Owens (bottom left) president, chief executive officer and board member of InterAct for Health and InterAct for Change; Brother Keith Beasley (top right), a Critical Care Technician on a Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital & the Neuroscience Progressive Care unit at Sinai Hospital; and Brother Douglas C Smith Jr (top left) works at the Mayo Clinic as Clinical Specialty Representative - Neurology Division.

A number of topics were discussed during this meeting which ranged from the Affordable Care Act, why African Americans are affected at a much higher rate for **COVID – 19**, safety precautions everyone should take, as well as available testing and screening. Over 30 participants were on the Zoom call and the panel fielded many questions concerning what to do going forward in terms of protecting themselves. We believe this event was helpful and impactful for those in the community who needed additional information. ///

5th District: Brother Oliver Williams, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

Parenting While In a Pandemic

There were times in the Bible, God the Father, explained His relationship with Jesus. At Jesus' baptism in Mark 1:11, a voice cried out of heaven, *"Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well pleased."* There is evidence of a beautiful relationship here. The Father delighted in His Son. There was a sense of belonging, intimacy and pleasure in their relationship. During this turbulent **COVID-19** time, the Fathers in the 5th District have committed to Positive for the journey ahead. Every affirming word from a Father has the explosive potential to build children for the journey Parenting while in a Pandemic. Every affirming word from a Father has the explosive potential to build children ahead. ahead. ///



Nathaniel Crawford, E Phi
2013 and family



Positive Parenting While in a Pandemic
 Top Row: L-R: Kevin Johnson, Xi Zeta 1995 and son, Devin; Rayon Phillips, Xi Zeta 2015, and son, Braylon Phillips; Danny Cannon, Xi Zeta 2015 and son Kendrick Cannon; Darrell Shack Jr., 2011 Xi Zeta, Dominic and Darrell III.; and Curtis Odom, Epsilon Phi, 2016, with son Cullen.



Memphis Omega Lamplighter's Hop Team Competed World-Wide Part I



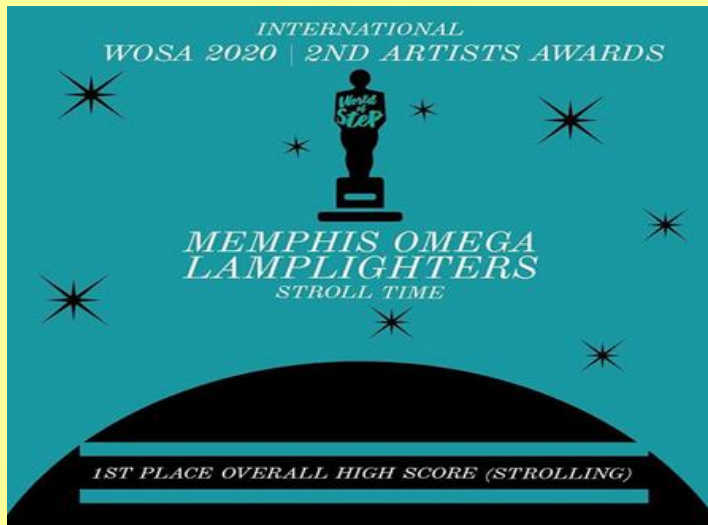
Memphis, TN - During the Month of May, the Memphis Omega Lamplighter's Hop Team competed in the World of Step International Virtual Competition. The World of Step is an organization that created a space within the dance world to celebrate the world of step innovators, and

From May 11-15, 2020, the Memphis Omega Lamplighter's competed in the Small Group Stroll Category with 15 different teams all vying for the opportunity to enter into the Final Battle Round. After the week of online voting, Memphis' Omega Lamplighter's Hop Team received the award for Overall High Score Stroll and were given a golden ticket to compete in the Battle Round which started Monday, May 25 and extended through the week.

Once the Lamplighter's Hop Team entered the Battle Round, they competed against winners & golden ticket recipients from the Solo/Duet/Trio division, Small Group division, and Large Group division. This was an intense battle round. Teams in the Battle round were going head-on against each other to win the title of 2020 World of Step International Grand Champions. After a week-long of voting it was time to reveal the team that would claim the title of the **2020 World of Step International Grand Champion**.

change-makers. It highlights methods of teaching to embrace and celebrate "Step" as an art form. The Competition consisted of 50 Teams from across the United States and as far away as West Africa, Peru, India and Thailand competing in the categories Step, Stroll, Hip-hop.

After all votes were casted, in the end and during the World of Step **Live Streamed Award Show**, the Memphis Omega Lamplighter's Hop Team was awarded 1st Place Overall High Score in the Stroll Category causing the team to be named **2020 World of Step International Champions in the Stroll Category**. This award is a high honor for our team. The Competition was much more than competition; it was a networking convention that allowed members of the Memphis Omega Lamplighter's Hop Team to connect with members of other teams, learn new skills and enhance their Step technique from World-class Professional Step Choreographers.



PART II

Memphis, TN –During the Battle Week, the competition directors of the World of Step International Virtual Competition announced that “they were accepting nominations for the 2020 International Coach of the Year Award”. A Lamplighter Parent sent in a Nomination ballot for Memphis Omega Lamplighter's Hop Team Head Coach Mr. Anthony Patrick. On May 31, 2020, the Directors of the 2020 World of Step International Competition awarded the Lamplighter's Coach, Anthony J. Patrick the Title, 2020 World of Step International Coach of the Year.

As Coach of the Year, Coach Patrick and 2 other coaches will be on the World of Step Coaches Council and work with the World of Step Association to provide teams, build their reputation with a professional profile, host live and virtual discussions on the WOS private forum, online meetups, and engage members in helping each other become better versions themselves. Coach Patrick is applauded as the **2020 World of Step International Coach of the Year**.



The directors of the competition, as well as the governing committee, believed that Coach Patrick was providing the young men an opportunity to be and express themselves. They felt that he was a true advocate and a supportive resource who modeled for his team. He demonstrated what it looked like and felt like to go up against adversities, be productive, accomplish success and engage in self-discovery.

Coach Patrick is not only the proud Coach of the Memphis Omega Lamplighter, he proudly announced, “I am a hardworking, dedicated Brother of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Epsilon Phi Chapter.” As soon as he joined this Brotherhood Organization he jumped on board and started to work with the Memphis Omega Lamplighters Mentoring Program.



The first program he designed was to develop and enhance the leadership skills in the lives of young men grades 6th – 8th. Coach Patrick felt that he was called to do much more to meet the needs of these young men. After two years of working with the program, the membership has doubled and the level of participation has increased. The membership expanded to include students in grades 4th – 12th. Kudos to the Coach!! ///

A Conversation with Larry Griffin, Former Human Resource Director, Carolina Panthers

By Brother Melvin Williams, Jr.

Raleigh, NC – The Mighty 6th District and its community partners have fostered a 7-year partnership with **Larry Griffin former HR Director for the Carolina Panthers**. With the Pandemic outbreak and not much going on other than a few virtual meetings, I thought it would be a great opportunity to sit down with my friend Larry Griffin and talk about fatherhood.

Larry was born in Chesapeake, VA. He attended UNC-CH and was a former teammate. As the top player coming out of Virginia in 1981 and a Quarter Back, all eyes were on him when he arrived at Chapel Hill. He would be the second black QB at UNC and the first full time starter at



Larry Griffin

that position. Virginia's best player was a big hit in Chapel Hill – but at WR (not QB) – which got him on the field as a freshman and not having to wait for Rod Elkins (starting QB) to graduate, and as we say, the rest is history.

Larry and I were roommates and became best friends; a friendship that has lasted 39 years. When Larry left UNC, he ended up playing for the Pittsburgh Steelers then to Duke Energy after retirement, and then to Carolina Panthers as HR Director – a position he held until last summer. I sat down with Larry to discuss why he thought this partnership (with the Mighty 6th District) was needed?

THE CHAT: JUST TWO FRIENDS

Brother Melvin Williams, Jr.: Why is fatherhood important to you? What are your thoughts about other teams or the league partnering with their local Fatherhood Program? *(For the record, Larry is speaking from his heart and not as a representative of the NFL nor Carolina Panthers.)*

Larry Griffin: It was just the right thing to do even if I had to pay for the tickets out of my pocket.

Melvin: You did pay the first 2 years. (We laughed).

Larry: If the partnership ends, I'll make sure the Father of Year winner continues to get the 2 tickets.

Melvin: Thank you and God Bless you.

Larry: Men don't always get the breaks in life and I wanted to be of some service to them and their children. Even though it's only providing an outlet and recreational time for the father and child. I think time with your children is priceless. Being a father of three is the most important job I have ever had. Like most parents, you hope that all your hard work and investments in your children pay off one day and you then can sit back and be proud of the work you did but the work they (children) did.

Melvin: How are the grand children?

Larry: Doing great. Another priceless moment in life, being a grandparent.

Melvin: What are your thoughts of the NFL following the fatherhood program model of the NBA?

Larry: I really didn't know it was as big as it is until we started talking about it. I think it's great but when I went to Pittsburgh and all the years with the Steelers, that [the fatherhood program] never came up in discussions among players and management - being a young father. Maybe today with the social media and the different types of questions being asked during interviews today are different than it was back in the day.

Melvin: With the national trend and focus being placed on young fathers between the ages of 16-25, I think the league should do more based on my conversations with the Panthers. I believe education is a start. Larry, thanks for our friendship of 39 years and as my aunt used to say, the warranty has long since expired which means, I can't give you away nor return you. Love you my friend and "brother from another mother."

Larry: You're welcome my friend. ///

6th District to Host its First Fatherhood Conference – This Fall

ACCORDING TO NORTH CAROLINA Department of Health and Human Services child support office, there are 10,000 young men with court ordered child support cases. Although the data from the state do not track educational levels, the 6th District conducted its own survey from some of the HBCU campuses in North Carolina and found that there are a number of young fathers on our college campuses needing additional support and resources.

The 6th District with the support of Pi Phi Chapter will support Rho Chapter at Johnson C. Smith University this fall to host its first Fatherhood Conference for college age fathers. We will continue to talk with the Carolina Panthers and hope they will support this conference and fatherhood program for years to come. The Brothers of Iota Iota Chapter and, Xi Mu Mu Chapter and some community partners like Proud Fathers, Inc., and Regions Bank will provide support for the conference this fall as well.

The 6th District named its Father of Year at its annual District Meeting. This award is open to any man who is nominated and meets all the criteria outlined by fatherhood committee. The 2020 winner was Brother Isaiah “Reggie” Venning of Kappa Alpha Chapter. The Brothers of the Mighty 6th want to thank Brother

Venning for the work he is doing in community and the work he’s putting in with his family. Brother Venning received a plaque from the district, 2 tickets to a Carolina Panthers home game, and \$100 check and gift basket from our community partner **Proud Fathers, Inc.** Congratulations to Brother Venning!

Raleigh, NC: Iota Iota and Xi Mu Mu Chapters partnered with Pleasant Grove Baptist Church to host a series of virtual meetings to discuss the, “**Challenges Men are facing during the Pandemic**”.

The partners felt that the series should start with the following areas: Health, Finance and **COVID – 19**. Subject matter experts were invited to lead the discussions: Mental Health – Dr. James Smith; Men’s Health & Research Opportunities – Brother Dr. Thaddeus Bell; Finance Understanding During the Pandemic – Sean Newby from Edward Jones Company; Coping with **COVID – 19** and medical updates – Dr. Michael Fitch. This is the first of a four-part series that will be a focus on Celebrating Manhood. The next will be in September. ///



Omega Manhood Institute: OmegaManhood1@gmail.com

Lexington, NC – March 31st the 6th District started the Omega Manhood Institute’s SUPERDAD series “Let’s Talk About It” dealing with the health, financial and mental health issues men would have to be prepared to handle as a result of **COVID – 19**. The weekly meetings were conducted via conference call on Monday Nights at 8pm. Subject matter experts from each field were invited to give a 10-minute presentation on a specific topic for the week and answer questions. The series on **COVID – 19** ended on May 18th. Our goal was to create an ongoing “Men Only” support group which was accomplished. Our slogan for the support group is “Men Uplifting Men to Help Build Stronger Families”. Due to

the Shelter-In-Place order in North Carolina, the 6th District started Tele-Mentoring the 32 mentees in its Omega S.T.A.R.R.S. (Smart, Transformative, Aspiring, Respectful, Responsible and Service) Mentoring Programs the week of March 30 – April 5. Birthday gifts were mailed to our mentees from March 16th through June 1st. In the past week, we have begun making in-person visits to drop-off goodie bags. These times have been challenging but we believe with every challenge comes opportunities. Our faith is in God to help us continue to uplift our community and make the most out of each moment. ///

**“The power of the ballot we need in sheer defense, else what shall save us from a second slavery?”
The Souls of Black Folk, by W. E. B. Du Bois - Project Gutenberg**

“Political activity alone cannot make a man free. Back of the ballot, he must have property, industry, skill, economy, intelligence, and character.” Up From Slavery, by Booker T. Washington

REGIONS BANK –

Developing the candidate pool:

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was selected for this opportunity based on the number and quality of undergraduate candidates with whom it has direct contact.

Our plan is to work directly with the International Undergraduate Advisor who has direct contact with the District Chapter Advisors.

The Career Development Committee will conduct training and information sessions with Chapter Advisors to ensure they have the tools to properly engage the undergraduates in their Chapters.

We count on Chapter Advisors and support from the District Representatives to create the audience for the webinars and provide the Career Development committee with the resumes of the individuals who are interested and qualified for the internships. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brother Robert S. Cunningham, Jr., Chairman, IHQ Career Development Committee,
jcsu80@aol.com, (919) 906-0924 (cell)

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

2019 - 2020 Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentorship District Service Awards

Bro. Jonathan L. Gaines



Father of the Year Service Award

Bro. Marvin Broadwater, Sr. - Georgia
Lambda Iota Chapter - Columbus, Georgia



Youth Mentorship Chapter of the Year Service Award / \$5000.00

Beta Rho Chapter - Itta Bena, Mississippi



Fatherhood Initiative Chapter of the Year Service Award

Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter - East Point, Georgia



IT IS AN HONOR SERVING as the seventh district chairman and working in step with state and local chapter chairmen to implement district initiatives in alignment with the International Committee/IHQ. During this year Seventh District Virtual Business Meeting the following individual and local chapters were honored for their outstanding service, and were the first recipients of the inaugural Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentorship Service Awards.

Also, I would like to extend gratitude to Dr. David Marion - 41st Grand Basileus and the Life Membership Foundation for their continued support, and a \$5,000.00 monetary award to the Seventh District Youth Mentorship Chapter of Year - Beta Rho Chapter. ///

Omega Psi Phi's Men of High Aspirations, Mentoring on a whole "Nother" Level

By: Brothers Shelton Stark and Dr. Victor Montgomery

- Chi Tau Chapter

Orlando, FL - Ahead of the **COVID – 19** outbreak, the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Chi Tau Chapter of Greater Orlando) initiated a bold and innovative approach to mentoring in conjunction with Ivey Lane Elementary School Alpha Learning Academy and its affiliate St. Mark AME entitled "The Men of High Aspirations Mentoring (MOHA) Program."

MOHA was launched on January 9, 2020 and is the brainchild of Chi Tau Chapter – Brother Dr. Victor Montgomery (Chairman). Through his leadership and visionary partnership with brother Danny Vereen (Co-Chairman), the Chapter's mentoring initiative and mission is up and running.

The program is designed to foster the Four Cardinal Principles of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift), and to provide positive influences and examples to young men in the community. In addition, MOHA seeks to build and grow life-long relationships with participating mentees. This is to be accomplished by providing educational support to the mentees which: fosters exploration and development of career goals; helping to provide a positive learning environment that enhances soft skills in the areas of communication, teamwork, flexibility, time management and strengthening self-confidence.

Prior to the Coronavirus outbreak, Brothers Montgomery and Vereen coordinated meetings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and one Saturday of each month with the mentees and Brothers of the Chi Tau Chapter. Since MOHA's inception, more than 400-man hours have been volunteered. As Dr. Montgomery aptly put it, "the Coronavirus may have put a damper on our efforts but not on our spirits. We plan to move forward

Staying Connected with Virtual Mentoring

Bro. Jonathan Gaines - 7th District Chairman

Bro. Marvin Broadwater, Sr. - Georgia State Chairman

Georgia - The **COVID – 19** Pandemic has presented unique challenges and opportunities in our collective efforts to function with sustainability in carrying out educational and youth mentoring program initiatives within our local communities throughout the seventh district, and around the world. I applaud the many local chapters/chairmen that have taken the initiative to



as soon as the environment allows it. Our mentees are counting on us to provide direction and leadership, and failure is not an option." ///

transition their face to face mentoring platform to that of a virtual mentoring platform.

If you are not doing so already, I encourage local chapters/chairmen within the seventh district to employ a virtual mentoring platform in efforts to continue mentoring youths and maintaining support with parents/guardians. As an example, Bro. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., - State Chairman has taken the opportunity to implement a statewide summer virtual mentoring platform to support local chapters within the state of Georgia. The virtual mentoring platform is our new transition step to stay connected and to continue valuable youth mentorship. ///



Greetings Bro. State and Local Chairmen,

Subject: Fatherhood Initiative & Youth Mentorship Committee / Virtual Mentoring Platform

As the standing 7th District Chairman, I would like to thank all State and Local Chairmen for their continued commitment to Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentorship Projects. As result of the Covid - 19 Pandemic, it is our continued commitment to mentor our community youths via virtual mentoring. I commend local chapters and chairmen that have already transitioned to a virtual mentoring platform. The transition to virtual mentoring and activities will allow mentors of local chapters to continue to provide needed guidance to support mentees through social media, and to ensure physical distancing does not become social disconnection with our youth program mentees.

VIRTUAL MENTORING



The call to action throughout the 7th District is for local chapters to structure and kick start a virtual mentoring platform as a continued extension of a in person youth mentorship program via Zoom Video Conference or by use of other video conference technology. Zoom Video Conference Tutorials can be access for free online or via Youtube.com. Again, thank you for your continued commitment to Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentorship Projects.

The Mighty 7th District,

Bro. Jonathan Gaines
Seventh District Chairman
Fatherhood Initiative & Mentorship /
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America Committee
Email: 7dfatherhood@gmail.com
Phone: 954-829-8909

Upcoming FIMC Committee District Initiatives / Projects:
•2020 High School Senior Youth Mentees Graduation Salute.
•2020 - 2021 Virtual College Tour & College Fair (TBA).



Fatherhood Initiative & Mentoring Committee

Summer Virtual Mentoring Sessions



June 20, 2020

Surviving the COVID -19 Pandemic

Discussion led by a panel of Physicians with
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
(CDC) Representative
(Father's Day Weekend)



July 11, 2020

Responsibilities as a MAN

Discussion led by Omega Men who are
iconic and pillars in communities across the
State of Georgia



August 8, 2020

Educational & Scholarship Opportunities

Discussion led by Community Educational
Leaders and College & University
Representatives



- Each Session is 1.5 Hours (10AM-11:30AM)
- Each Session will have a Special Celebrity Guest
- Each Participant will receive a special gift
- Each Chapter Mentoring Chairman will provide ZOOM link to Participants



MANHOOD
SCHOLARSHIP
PERSEVERANCE
UPLIFT

1911

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

Omega Quires, Upsilon Omega

Saint Louis, MO – The Omega Squire's and brothers have held multiple zoom meetings and have had a good turnout for each. The Squires have been very engaged and excited to see one another. They have been conducting business and talking about things to do around the house. Conversations have also been focused on how to protect ourselves against **COVID – 19**. We have also spoken with the Squires about finishing up the school year strong and the importance of listening to their parents. The hardest part of the meeting was the uncertainty of when we would be able to do an in-person meeting. The squires have set up

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Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Newsletter

weekly calls to talk to one another, so their brotherhood is strong.

Omega sQuires, Beta Upsilon

Omaha, Nebraska – Adjusting to the universal impact of **COVID – 19**, the Omega sQuires have continued to show their commitment and ingenuity during these unique times. With the inability to conduct in-person meetings, the high school mentoring organization has begun utilizing Zoom to stay connected and handle business. Such dedication has generated creative ways to stay engaged with their peers.

On May 30th Omega sQuires hosted a well-being check-in via Instagram Live. The young men had a phenomenal level of engagement. While gift cards to

NO. 2

WE VOTE!

WE VOTE!

WE VOTE!

numerous places were used as incentives, the young men utilized their platform to check on their classmates and peers, and to bring attention to the importance of taking care of our mental health during this time as

well. This was done through partnerships and support from several Omaha organizations, including The Empowerment Network and the Black Police Officers Association of Omaha. ///

SEE OUR WEBSITE: omegafandm.org

9th District: Brother Sedric Meyers, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring



Theta Alpha Chapter Mentoring Omega Sparks in the Era of **COVID - 19**

By Brother Darrin Hemphill

Dallas, TX – The Omega *SPARKS* is a mentoring program for young men ages 12-18 years. 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. It is designed to provide guidance, support, and exposure to these young men through direct interaction with role models in the community during these formative years.

The program has three major components: Monthly meetings, Community Events/Outings, and Leadership Training. It continues to mold young men emphasizing the four cardinal principles of Omega as our guide.

The months of April and May were devoted to checking in on the Omega *SPARKS* participants due to the **COVID-19** Pandemic. Each of the *SPARKS* felt that their families were doing well. In June, the *SPARKS* participated in a forum to discuss racism, law enforcement, and their response to the death of **George Floyd** in Minnesota. All agreed that change is needed

and that they were going to be a part of the change through speaking up and out about racial injustice.

On June 28, 2020, the *SPARKS* were honored at the annual Scholarship and Award Program from the Foundation and the Chapter with three community service awards presented to individual *SPARKS* who accumulated the most community service hours. **The program also featured reflections from Senior *SPARKS* Kameron Shelby and Kevin Washington, along with the presentation of a \$500 book scholarship to 13 DFW Metroplex young men and women who graduated in the Spring of 2020.**

The following Seniors received \$500 book scholarships: Alyssa Hunt Jones, Vivian Adesanya, Leja Ward, Anecia Coleman, Zachary Nguyen, Sarah Bailey, David Conner, Kalyn J. Harris, Elise Collins, Essence C. Jefferson, Michael Talley, III, Moses Aina and Warren C. Dunn. ///

Black Mentors are Always Needed, Especially Now!!

by Brother Scott L. Earle, Psi Alpha Chapter

San Antonio, TX – In March, 2020 when **COVID-19** shut down schools throughout the United States, our young men's problems did not shut down; they continued and may have worsened. Some of our youth rely on schools and the services they receive. Brothers of Psi Alpha Chapter continued to assist the Youth and Fathers of San Antonio.

Youth Mentoring – Brother Jeffery August leads our Mentoring and Big Brothers/Big Sisters initiatives. The weekly programs held at 3 different campuses touched over 60 young men each week. Since mid-March, San Antonio area schools have had to contend with the effects of the **COVID-19**. This anomaly caused students to be quarantined in their home and finish their school year taking online classes.

Brother August and his team has maintained telephone contact with the students and their families and developed student-mentoring activities with assistance of the campus liaisons. In mid-April, mentors began meeting their mentees via Zoom technology from; Sam Houston High School, Davis Middle School, and Young Men's Leadership School. The first meeting's agenda included presentations from two former mentees who are freshmen in college. They shared experiences about their first year of college and how they have coped with the stresses of **COVID-19**.

Feedback from the schools and the parents has been positive. It was agreed that Zoom meetings would continue through the summer giving students a social connection to assist them during this tough time. Social distancing has affected the mentee-mentor interactions. Within the last few weeks some restrictions have been lifted; mentors have met with students at their campuses. The mentees were able to receive their participation certificates and spend a few minutes with some of the mentors.

On May 25, 2020, the world was shocked by the killing of Mr. George Floyd in Minnesota. Mentees

reached out to Brother August with questions; his team discussed in detail how interactions with the Police should be handled.

The horrific tragedy of Mr. Floyd hit closer to home when on May 31 Justin Howell, a 20-year-old political science student at Texas State University and a San Antonio resident, the son of Brother Earl Howell a Psi Alpha member, was critically injured after being shot with a bean-bag round by a police officer during a protest in Austin. Justin is currently hospitalized and in critical condition after suffering a fractured skull as well as brain damage. Justin was attending a peaceful protest and was shot while viewing the events.

The young men have questions about the protests and general safety of Black people. The fact that a local college student and son of a member of our Chapter was injured, has brought the tensions and stress felt by Black Americans closer to the members of Psi Alpha and our mentees.

Fatherhood Initiative - On May 24, 2020, the committee showed a 12-minute Fatherhood Initiative Video on the 24/7 Dad Program to the brothers on the project that Waterbury, Connecticut is doing to teach dads how to relate to their child's mom and children while incarcerated. 24/7 is a set of programs designed to equip fathers with the self-awareness, compassion, and sense of responsibility that every good parent needs. The program focuses on building the man first and the father second.

24/7 Dad-A.M., is the basic version and was designed for first-time dads, or for fathers lacking vital skills, knowledge, and attitudes. 24/7 Dad-P.M., includes more in-depth information for more experienced fathers, or for dads who have completed the A.M. program. The goal of the video presentation was to allow brothers to review and think about what they learned and how we might execute this program in our local area. ///

THE PSI ALPHA CHAPTER FATHER OF THE QUARTER FOR THE 2ND QUARTER was Brother Jeffery L. August. Brother August will receive an engraved mug along with a Certificate of Appreciation. Brother August is a single parent who does great things in the community.

Alamo City Omega Lamplighters – Alamo City Omega Lamplighters of Psi Alpha Chapter conducted a virtual mentor event, discussing current world protests on racial inequality and injustice. Committee Chairman Brother Derek Morton led the discussion. Fifteen Lamplighters and twenty-five Omega Men shared their thoughts of the racial climate in America, the death of George Floyd, and the Cardinal Principle – Manhood.

The Lamplighters agreed that the four policemen's actions were wrong, not right, and went overboard, which resulted in the protests. Lamplighters were given a first-hand explanation of good and bad police officers by our guest speaker, Officer Doug Greene of the San Antonio Police Department. Officer Greene stated how the tragic death of Mr. Floyd makes policemen look bad. Then characterized policemen that choose law enforcement for the wrong reason "are dangerous" because they abuse the powers given to them. He then provided a passionate story of his calling to be in law enforcement.

Lamplighters were asked how they would handle being approached in a mall by a policeman that accused

them of stealing when they did not. Lamplighter responses were to de-escalate the situation by stating their innocence and, most importantly, complying with the policeman. Officer Greene then reinforced their responses and provided additional guidance on having your day in court if it comes to an arrest. The discussion then shifted to the principles and responsibilities of Manhood and its definition by Brother Chris Cleveland.

Discussion started on how Manhood relates to the protests and the various stressors placed upon them due to **COVID-19**. The Lamplighters were polled for their definition of Manhood and applied its principles toward protesters standing up for what they believe is right.

The Lamplighters discussed how responsibilities at home have increased due to **COVID-19**. Most have learned how to cook, do laundry, and self-discipline themselves to be fit until sports restart. The use of Zoom by the Lamplighters was a success and the group enjoyed seeing each other after a long absence and really enjoyed Officer Greene and his perspective. ///

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Tulsa

Brother Lavell M. Broughton has been working with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tulsa for the past 5 years, organizing events and raising money through his company to donate to Big Brothers Big Sisters. After joining BBBS in 2018, he was given the privilege of mentoring **Davion Penny** who graduated from **Central High School** here in Tulsa, OK. Davion is currently undecided about where he will continue his education, but he has narrowed it down to Texas Southern, Oklahoma State, & Roger State University. (Lavell M. Broughton Sr., 1-15-Xi Omega, Vice Basileus. ///



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE
of the Newsletter is: September 15, 2020
Send to: geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net in word format. No pdf.**

Thank you for this opportunity to represent the 10th District at the International level as one of the premier project manhood programs in the Fraternity. We greatly appreciate you considering us for this recognition and award. Brother Ben Trotter

A Premier Project Manhood Program in the Fraternity

East St. Louis, IL – The Men of Nu Chi Chapter established Project Manhood as a group mentoring program of young African American males in 1994. Its mission is helping males ages of 8 to 18 years develop into responsible adults, productive citizens, and leaders within their communities.

To accomplish this, Omega men serve as “other fathers” to their mentees and concern themselves with their well-being and growth by helping them develop positive self-identity, reinforcing accountability and responsibility, and by encouraging scholastic achievement.

In 2007, the Chapter created its nonprofit affiliate, Nu Chi Foundation, a 501(c) 3 charitable entity to assist Nu Chi Chapter in supporting the Project Manhood program and other community service initiatives such as the Frederick Birth Talent Hunt Showcase, its Annual Book Bag Give Away, Scholarships to High School Seniors, Christmas Adopt-a-Family, and various Health Initiatives. The Foundation allows the brothers to generate revenue through fund raising activities, accept donations and grants to achieve the Foundation’s mission.

Nu Chi Chapter Brothers have selflessly served as role models for mentees to emulate. For 2019-2020, they are mentoring 37 young mentees. Mentees also have an obligation to practice the program’s core principles: manhood, scholarship, teamwork, and citizenship through community service and leadership. Mentees also must dedicate themselves to the Project Manhood core values: integrity first with honesty always, service before self through dedication, and excellence in all we do through creativity and commitment. They demonstrate a willingness to strive for higher learning, and prepare for college, vocational school, and/or military service to prepare themselves for rewarding professional careers as adults.

This responsibility is not taken lightly as mentors volunteer time and effort to host a series of monthly



educational sessions to address a wide spectrum of topics including neighborhood policing, social justice, career opportunities, financial management, and higher education, to name a few. To build upon these topics, Project Manhood mentors chaperone several field activities throughout the year that include mentees participating in the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute (PSPPI) Youth Leadership Weekend, PSPPI Youth Government Day at the Illinois State Capitol, visits to a Black history museum, military installation, a tour of historically black colleges and universities, as well as teambuilding sports and entertainment outings.

Mentors have earned considerable praise from parents, guardians, and local school and community leaders, for making positive impacts on these African American male youths. Their synergistic mentoring approach combining education sessions, activity outings, and other actions contribute greatly to them building a trusting mentee-mentor relationship. Program records indicate a 100 percent high school graduation rate for mentees who participated for at least two years. In the last five years, 38 of 42 mentees have gone on to college, while two enlisted in the military.

Their work is unprecedented and is making the East St. Louis community a much better place to live, while supporting parents and guardians in successfully guiding their sons towards brighter futures as young men. ///

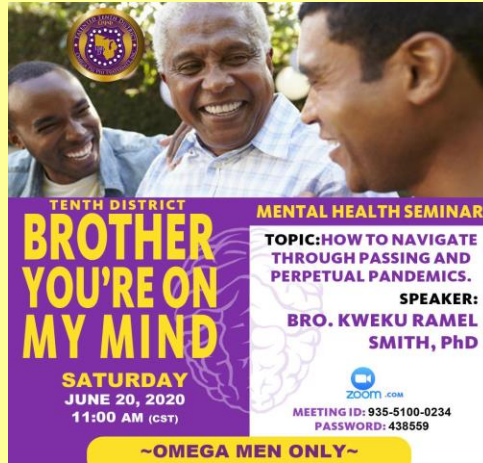
A Brother You're On My Mind Event

RAMEL L. SMITH, PhD (KWEKU AKYIREFT) was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is a proud product of Milwaukee Public Schools. He continued his education at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. He later went to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and graduated with a Master's of Science in Educational Psychology and Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Education with an emphasis in School Psychology.

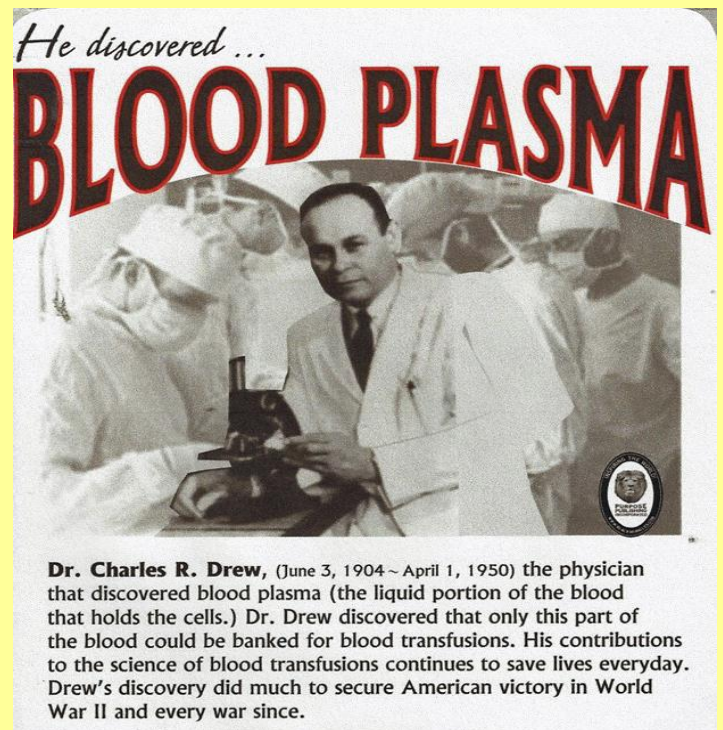
Dr. Smith is a licensed psychologist in Wisconsin. A clinical psychologist by trade, Dr. Smith has had the opportunity to develop his skill set in varying arenas throughout his career. In addition to his work with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Milwaukee Public Schools, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Bucks, LLC, and the National Football League (NFL); Dr. Smith appears regularly as a commentator and psychological consultant for local and nationally syndicated radio and television outlets.

Since 2007, Dr. Smith has been the President of **BLAQUESMITH Psychological Consultative Services, LLC**. In this capacity, he conducts scores of workshops, seminars and presentations with professional sports teams, governmental agencies, corporate entities, community organizations and educational institutions. He has authored several scholarly journal articles and book chapters, edited a book and co-authored a book entitled **"Building A Better Man."**

A fierce advocate for social justice and community empowerment; Dr. Smith is regularly asked, to provide commentary on issues of mental health, foster care, human trafficking, trauma and performance. Currently the host of "Unspeakable Truths," a weekly program airing Saturdays at 7am on channel 24 in Milwaukee; Dr. Smith strives to speak truth in a manner which informs and empowers his community to make positive changes that will ultimately result in better outcomes for all.



Dr. Smith and his wife Stacey reside in Brown Deer, WI and are the proud parents of five children: Joie Michael, Maya Alisia (deceased), Jonah Herman, Noah Robert and Skye Alyxandra Kathryn. He lives by the creed passed on to him by his maternal grandmother, Daisy Mae Cockerham: "The best way to heal yourself is to help others." ///



Brother Dr. Charles R. Drew, Omega Chapter



Top L-R: Brothers Professor Dr. William A. Smith, SF Police Chief Bill Scott, 12th District Rep Kwame Dow, SF 10th District Supervisor Shamann Walton, Bottom L-R: 41st Grand Basileus Dr. David E. Marion, 35th 1st Vice Grand Basileus Ricky L. Lewis, Grand Counsel Benjamin L. Crump, Esq., and Chaplain Michael Brown. The Two Hour Virtual Town Hall can be seen at: <https://youtu.be/M74vQoBcL7w>

12th District Town Hall, BLACK TRAUMA 2020 Police, Politics and a Plan Forward

Saturday, June 6, 2020 – Brothers throughout the 12th District participated in the 12th District’s Virtual Town Hall on Black Trauma. The newly elected District Representative Brother Kwame Dow, was. The Town Hall was opened with a prayer by Brother Michael Brown – District Chaplain.

There were special appearances by the 41th Grand Basileus Brother Dr. David E. Marion and Brother Grand Counsel Benjamin L. Crump, Esq., who was in route to the 2nd funeral of Mr. George Floyd (*killed by a police officer in Minneapolis*) which was held in North Carolina, the state where Mr. Floyd was born.

This Town Hall can be characterized as laying the grown work for how to view and understand the pressure of what Black men are facing daily from a psycho-social, civic, spiritual, political and legislative point of view. Several timely topics were covered including: “the killing of George Floyd by police in Minnesota”, “Racial Battle Fatigue”, “Implicit Bias in

Policing,” “Qualified Immunity: Is it Necessary,” “Police Unions and Challenges they Present,” “the Role the Public must Play in Policing their neighborhoods”, “The Need for National Uniform Standard for Training Police,” and “Reallocation of Resources.”

A common theme discussed was: What ought we (the community) be doing to better “police” our communities? How do we get Black men to become Police Officers?

Brother Walton, indicated that taking the lead from Los Angeles, the city of San Francisco is studying the issue of redirecting police resources to better serve the Black community. They are looking at education, housing and law enforcement opportunities.

Chief Scott indicated we must create ways for our youth to see opportunities in law enforcement. There are “many people out there with a servant heart,” he said. Brother Dr. Smith added “our boys can be educating the police as an extension of our Youth

Leadership programs.” For information contact:
weejlaw@yahoo.com ///

OMEGA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: “Manhood in the Making” via Youth Leadership and Parent Conferences

AT ITS 75TH VIRTUAL DISTRICT MEETING, Grand Basileus Dr. David E. Marion announced his choice for 12th District Fatherhood and Mentoring program of the Year. The \$5000 award went to the Omega Educational Foundation.



Its Beginning:

Los Angeles, CA – Born out of tragic events surrounding the 1992 acquittal of four LAPD officers implicated in the beating of motorist Rodney King, Brother Ricky L. Lewis, convened a small number of Brothers from Tau Tau Chapter to discuss the situation. Soon those meetings grew and other Omega chapters from the SoCal area for a meeting at his home.

Out of that meeting a simple idea was born and set in motion – to reach out into the neighborhood and begin to talk with the young people whom he had observed in the streets wreaking havoc and otherwise creating potential and lasting problems for themselves. Twenty – seven (27) years later, Omega men in SoCal

under the leadership of Brother Lewis and other senior brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., continue to be fully engaged in mentoring inner-city youth.

Having matured into a 501 (c) 3 public charitable foundation, these Omega men are also engaged with parents of these youth with a simple commitment – to help save a young life. The Omega Educational Foundation’s (OEF) mission is to instill the principles of manhood, critical thinking, and personal and social responsibility into young African American males and, to provide them with tools necessary for self-respect, health and wellness, community leadership and conflict resolution.

Remaining steady for almost three decades, the Foundation serves a growing population of Latino, White and Asian young men. No youth is turned away based on race, religion, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, or disability. Through the years, these men have helped at-risk young men succeed. This comprehensive development and mentoring program include strategies for helping youth build protective factors that mitigate challenges that threaten their safety and well-being.

OEF's youth mentoring leadership approach seeks to encourage skills growth, create a sense of belonging, provide opportunities to learn and exercise decision making, connect with caring adults at school or employment, as well as realize other opportunities related to enhancing the social and emotional well-being and positive development of youth.

Youth development research shows that youth who are able to overcome difficult odds typically possess the assets of strong social skills and intellect, pleasing personalities, and a sense of independence and purpose. They have connections to caring adults, like the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, who encourage them to aim high and provide them with opportunities use their talents to contribute to their communities by participating in meaningful activities.

G**ROWTH OF PROGRAM AND PARTICIPANTS:** From 100 youth in 1993 to more than 9,500 youth, 2200 mothers and 1000 fathers. The conference is unique in that a comprehensive program is offered for mothers. For the last seven years, at the encouragement of President Obama and his emphasis on fatherhood and mentoring and the Fraternity's International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring, fathers have been invited to attend the conference; a comprehensive program of information is specially developed for them. With our emphasis on Fathers, our

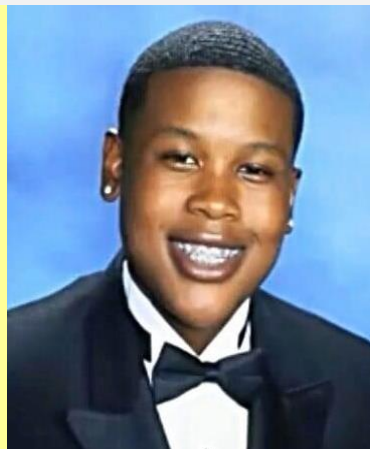
aim is: TO CLOSE THE GAP OF FATHER ABSENCE IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

THE FATHERHOOD CURRICULUM consists of five modules: Session I – Values=Power: Personal, Family, Job – “What’s Really Important to You!” By Brother Larry Hammond, Zeta Tau Chapter. Session II – STEM – “What do I need to know about STEM in order to be able to help my son,” by Brothers James Breedlove and Earl Jones, Zeta Rho Chapter. Session III - Communication: “Am I an Effective Communicator?” “Did I Communicate What I Intended?” “What Do I Need to Do to be Certain that I Have Made Myself Understood?” by Brother Dr. Steven Webb, Omicron Mu. Session IV – “Father’s Rights: The Law and Fatherhood,” by Brother Damon Martin, Esq., Phi Beta Beta. Session V – “The Police and Your Son,” by Retired LAPD Detective Ronnie Walker, Tau Tau.

THE MOTHER’S CONFERENCE was started with the concept of exposing Mother’s to information and knowledge share with their young men as they begin to consider their future. This message is delivered by Brother Stephen Baker, i.e., “Your Future Starts Today.” The next subject matter is, “How to Finance the Future – paying for college, i.e., College Financing - Shannon Thurmond. Next, “Time Management - How to Maximize their Time in High School,” “Maximizing the Internship & Volunteer Experience - Felicia Durrah”. A popular discussion on keeping our young men safe, “Trifling Kids Come from Trifling Parents” is offered by Retired LAPD Detective Ronnie Walker.

The conference ends with a concluding session about the bond between a mother and their child and how that bond can be toxic or prosperous, i.e., “A Mother’s Influence on Manhood - Jolene Swain”. The mother’s conference has had a high number of new mothers to attend each year. They were able to benefit from our years of experience, love and concern for them and their young men. ///

“...MANHOOD: Work Hard, Be on Time, and Be Respectful! ...”



HELLO, MY NAME IS MYLES LOWERY I am a hard-working student that has experienced various trials and tribulations yet refuses to give up on my academic goals and dreams. I am a scholar, musician, servant leader and student athlete. I am a 2020 graduating Senior from Las Vegas, Nevada who attended the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. I am also involved in several clubs and community organizations. I love to give/assist those in need. I am the president of the Kappa Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., mentoring group of the Omega Gents.

My experience with the Omega Gents has been more than virtuous. I've received much wisdom and guidance that I will keep and use during this next chapter of my life. Not only have I received an abundant amount of wisdom and guidance, I have received precious memories which I will cherish for the rest of my life as well. Before Covid-19, the Omega Gents performed at a step competition at Legacy High School, where all of the other fraternity/sorority youth groups competed. Not only did we compete, but we blew the crowd and competition away. After this performance, we were scheduled to perform again at a middle school to mentor kids and tell them about the Omega Gents Program. Unfortunately, Covid-19 struck, which changed our future propositions. Instead of meeting in person every Saturday with the Gents, we adjusted and began to hold online zoom meetings due to Covid-19.

Though we aren't able to meet in person as of yet, the online zoom meetings are still filled with joy, laughter, and sagacity. To add, the Omega Gents mentoring group is more than just a club, it is a family; a family that you will have for the rest of your life, no matter where you are. Growing up in a drug infested/high crime rate community, house filled with women, being raised by my Mother and Grandmother, and my Father not being consistently present, **I didn't know too much about manhood. All I knew was the simple principles that my Mother and Grandmother installed in me;** work hard, be on time, and be respectful. Wanting to truly learn about manhood, my mother registered me for the Omega Gents, and the rest was history. The mentorship that I've received from the Omegas has changed my life for the better. Without that mentorship, I may not be on the same path to success that I am on today.

Equally important, I aspire to be a nurse anesthetist. I've been accepted to Tuskegee University, Johnston C Smith University, Philander Smith college, Alabama State University, Hampton University, Arkansas Baptist College leadership Academy, Wiley college, Alcorn University, Langston University, Benedict college, Alabama A&M University, CSN, and Tennessee State University. I have also earned several scholarships: including the CFE scholarship, RMHC (Ronald McDonald) Scholarship, Langston University Academic and band Scholarship, The PEF Scholarship, Tennessee University Scholarship, Johnston C Smith University Academic Scholarship and the Benedict College academic scholarship. In total, I have received over eighty-four thousand dollars in scholarships*. Including the scholarships, I have received from private institutions, I have earned a full-ride scholarship to attend Langston University.

Lastly, without the help from all of my mentors. I would not be in the same position that I am in today. I would like to specifically thank; God, my mother Stephanie Lowery, my cousin Rashanda Potter, my scholarship counselor Dr. Rhea Watson, my mentors Bruce Harris, Stephone Revels, Sean Henderson, Anthony Merrit, Khary Black, Jerry Holliday, Jeffery Sims, Eric Curtis, and the all the **Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**, my jazz instructor Patrick Bowen, my school counselor Rashida Jeffery, my health teacher Cory Garr, and the entire Upward Bound staff for assisting me with my college journey. But not just for helping me with my college journey, but for giving me wisdom and helping me with this rough journey we call life. Thank you for taking the time to read my story, I truly appreciate it. You can reach me by email at: mylowery.2020@gmail.com. ///

***MENTOR'S NOTE:** While Myles has been awarded Scholarships from various schools (much is tied to specific schools) he is still in need of funds for room and board, books and his living expenses. His family is not in a position to help. We are requesting Brothers to assist this young man with any size donation. You can Cash App him at **\$Mizzle19**. Feel free to email Myles to introduce yourself and offer this fine young man your support!
Brother Jerry Holiday, Kappa Xi.

Fathers: Leadership is Showing up When You are Needed the Most

By Brother Larry Hammond, Zeta Tau Chapter

One lesson that I teach in my leadership development classes is that we are all built to lead in some form or fashion. We have all been gifted with talents and strengths that allow us to take on leadership roles in varying capacities. One of the most important leadership roles that many of us have been charged with is that of parenthood. Being a parent requires moms and dads to reach deep into their respective tool kits of leadership talents to provide guidance and leadership to their children.

Fathers take on a unique role in providing their children the values and life experiences that will help their children to grow and excel in life. We are seeing the challenges that Black parents face when educating their children on the ways that the world treats people of color. Fathers who teach their sons and daughters through their experiences with prejudices, inequities and police encounters are demonstrating leadership by espousing it through teaching, coaching and mentoring their children.

Leadership can be defined by *how* one shows up when needed most. Remember, as a father, we are built to make decisions to resolve problems. When things go amiss, we are built to take decisive actions. When making plans, we think strategically and when executing those plans, we use our powers of persuasion

to influence others to help us accomplish our goals. There is no weakness in asking for a second opinion whether it's your spouse or your child.

When leading our children or others, we get better results when trust is established. We are built to instill trust in others, or to discourage trust when necessary. And, you must demonstrate courage when taking risk while helping them to manage the challenges that they face today and that they will face in the future. These are some of the leadership skills that you bring to the table when you show up.

SHOWING UP DURING THIS PARTICULAR CRISIS and when you are needed the most (*whether **COVID – 19**, police encounters, or protests on the streets*) is an important first step – but it's only the beginning. **How you show up is the next step.** Showing up and doing what is right is leadership; demonstrating great values is leadership; guiding your children through the crisis is leadership. Showing up when our children need us most is one of the greatest acts of love that can be demonstrated by a parent. Fathers, we are built to lead and now more than ever - Show up and Lead! ///

"There is no greater name for a leader than mother or father. There is no leadership more important than parenthood". - Sheri L Dew

University of Utah Professor Brother Dr. William A. Smith Recognized for Exemplary Mentorship



Professor William A. Smith

Salt Lake City, UT – The University of Utah and the Spencer Foundation have both honored William Smith, chair of the Education, Culture & Society department in the College of Education and professor of Ethnic Studies in the School of Cultural and Social Transformation,

with awards recognizing exemplary mentorship.

He is one of three recipients of the U's Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Distinguished Mentor Award and one of six recipients of the Spencer Foundation's Spencer Mentor Award.

"I believe the key goals in being a successful mentor are to understand that there is unfinished business that needs to be done," Smith wrote in connection with his U award, "unlimited (and maybe untapped) potential in people to accomplish this work, be receptive to the best information available (even if it conflicts with your previous beliefs), and believing that being a service to humanity is bigger than one person's job to complete."

“He provided me the tools and direction along the way (informal and formal) to make my academic career flourish,” said Jeremy D. Franklin, a student of Smith’s, in the citation for Smith’s Spencer Mentor Award. “He opened up doors for me professionally and helped me better understand what a career in research means.”

The **GRADUATE STUDENT AND POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD** has been awarded by the Graduate School since 2006 “to honor and encourage the considerable efforts and accomplishments of faculty who have demonstrated

exceptional commitment to the mentorship of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.” Learn more [here](#).

The **SPENCER FOUNDATION** “has been a leading funder of education research since 1971 and is the only national foundation focused exclusively on supporting education research,” according to the foundation’s website. The Spencer Mentor Award includes a \$10,000 grant to support the ongoing mentorship of winners. Learn more [here](#).

(Paul Gabrielsen, science writer, University of Utah, Marketing & Communications. Reprint from: This Week @theU)/

13th District: Brother Michael Robinson, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

Upsilon Lambda Lambda Congratulates Brother Andre Sterling’s Daughter Chloe High School Basketball Superstar

By Brother Michael Robinson

Zama, Japan - The Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter congratulates Brother Andre Sterling’s Daughter Chloe for her outstanding accomplishments on and off the Basketball court. Listed below are her accolades: Sophomore – Zama Middle High School Lady Trojans Basketball Team; Scholar Athlete – 4.0 grade point average; Zama Middle High School Lady Trojans Basketball Team undefeated season 22 – 0; Kanto Plains Tournament Champions; Kanto Plains Tournament Most Valuable Player; Selected to the Kanto Plains All-Tournament Team; Pacific East Tournament Champions; Pacific East Tournament Most Valuable Player; Pacific East All-Tournament Team; Stars and Stripes Girls Basketball Athlete of the Year – 2nd Year in the row.

Last year as a freshman Chloe Sterling was the youngest girl ever to make the All Asia Top Ten Girl Basketball List. She is currently ranked #2 of 10. Chloe’s ability to dribble, shoot, pass under pressure and compete on defense has placed her skill set at the next level.

The Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter are proud of Chloe and her team’s accomplishments. On Monday, February 17, 2020 Brother Michael Robinson



L-R: Chloe with her dad Brother Andre Sterling, mom Elizabeth and brother Jeremiah at movie premiere of Harriet on Camp Zama Army Base, Mainland, Japan



Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter presents \$300 donation to Coach Daisey Hayes and Zama Middle High School Lady Trojans Basketball Team

and Brother Eric Blue presented the Lady Trojans and their coach Mrs. Daisey Hayes with a check of \$300 to support administrative fees, equipment, and materials for the current school year.

Chloe’s father Brother Andre Sterling was initiated in the Spring of 1989 at Theta Rho. Her mother, Elizabeth is a member of the Tokyo Alumna Chapter of **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** They are the proud parents of three children: Zhandra Graham (daughter), Jeremiah (son) and Chloe (daughter). ///

St. Croix Chapter Provides 30 Internet Hot Spot Devices to Seniors at High Schools on St. Croix

Published On April 29, 2020



Fr: L-R – Brothers Clement Hyleger, Carlos McGregor, Rick Mullgrav, Joe Pierce, and Jimmy Warren donating 30 internet hot spot devices to seniors at high schools on St. Croix, Virgin Islands

Brothers of Eta Iota Iota Chapter were featured in the Virgin Islands Consortium Newspaper published on April 29, 2020. The article highlighted a donation of 30 Wi-Fi hotspot devices at two high schools on St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

13th International District Promotes Mental Health Awareness Month 2020/Brother You’re On My Mind

By Brother Don Gardener and Brother Michael Robinson

DURING MAY, the 13th District’s Medical/Health Initiative Chairman Brother Don Gardner and the Social Action Committee Chairman Brother Michael Robinson joined together in promoting Mental Health Awareness Month 2020 and Brother You’re On My Mind!”.

According to Wikipedia, “Mental Health Awareness Month” was started in the United States in 1949 by the Mental Health America (then known as the National Association for Mental Health). This year marks 71 years of promoting “Mental Health Awareness Month”. The theme “highlighting #Tools2Thrive” - what individuals can do daily to prioritize their mental health, build resiliency in the face of trauma and obstacles, support those who are struggling, and work towards a path of recovery.

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Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa partnering with the American Red Cross for a Virtual COVID 19 Resiliency Workshop (Basileus - Cortez Pree, Vice Basileus - Don Gardner, KRS - Bro Robert Townes, Bro Kelvin Simmons and Bro. Robert Taylor)

Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Newsletter

NO. 2

Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan partnered with the American Red Cross to participate in a virtual COVID 19 Resiliency Workshop led by two licensed mental healthcare providers on May 20, 2020. The workshop was developed to bring support military and veteran communities during the **COVID-19** pandemic offering stress-management and relaxation techniques. Five brothers attended sharing their personal stress and concerns brought on by the Pandemic.

In Mainland, Japan Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter shared mental health information from the #Tools2Thrive tool kit with other members of the Devine Nine, family, friends and co-workers. The Brothers also provided handouts highlighting a snapshot of mental health concerns among African American Men.

Brothers Quentin Jordan, Marcus Griffin and Damien Seals of Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter in

Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter Deliver Easter Eggs

By Brother Marcus Griffin

Kaiserslautern, Germany – Annually, the 86th Force Support Squadron (FSS) located at Ramstein Air Base in Germany hoist an Easter Egg Hunt. This year the event was cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Brother Marcus Griffin of Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter along with his colleagues from the Child Youth Program took on the task of delivering **35k Easter Eggs** and candy to members living in Vogelweh/Ramstein Military Family Housing located in Kaiserslautern Germany.

The United States Air Force Ramstein Air Base in Germany is the home of the 86th FSS. The 86th FSS mission is to provide the Kaiserslautern Military Community with the highest level of dedicated and

Kaiserslautern, Germany participated in a Mental Health Awareness, “Brother You’re On My Mind” Challenge by taking advantage of our physical abilities. Exercise has been proven to increase eustress, which helps us physiologically deal with daily stressors, while balancing our mental health. The challenge was for Brothers of Phi Gamma Gamma to walk, run, bike to a brother’s job or residence, meet on a track, open area, fellowship, and record the distance while still practicing social distancing. Brother Seals, Griffin and Jordan combined mastered 12 miles either by walking, running, or biking.

The Brothers of the 13th International District have placed Mental Health Awareness and **Brother You’re On My Mind** among their top priorities for promoting information and service to the community in alignment with the goals of the International Headquarters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.///



Brother Marcus Griffin with colleagues from Child Youth Program volunteering their time to give back to the community during Month of the Military Child

focused customer-driven community support that provides essential services through numerous activities, facilities, and programs such as “the Month of the Military Child.” ///

13th International District Awards 1st and 2nd Place International Essay Contest Winners

By Brother Brian Jones

Zama, Japan – In April 2020, the 13th International District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. announced the 2018-2019 winners of the International High School Essay Contest. Participants were required to write a 500-word essay based upon the topic: “*The U.S. Census projects that the United States will become a majority-minority country by the year 2045. How can we combat, prevent, and/or reduce prejudice, discrimination, and violence in a new, more diverse America?*”



Brothers Damien Seals and Essay Contest Chairman Neville Jordan presenting \$500 scholarship to Mr. Michael Plueger III, high school senior at Kaiserslautern American High School in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Mr. Michael Plueger III representing Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter was selected as the 1st Place Winner. He is a senior at **Kaiserslautern American High School in Kaiserslautern, Germany**. The 13th International District presented him a \$500 scholarship. Mr. Plueger will attend the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas and major in 3D Animation and Game Design.

Ms. Brooke Nelson representing Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter in Mainland, Japan was selected as the 2nd Place Winner. She is a senior at **Zama Middle High School in Zama, Japan**. The 13th International District presented her a \$250 scholarship. Ms. Nelson plans to attend Liberty University this fall majoring in communications or business. ///



Brother Andre Sterling of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter presenting \$250 scholarship check from the 13th International District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. to Ms. Brooke Nelson, high school senior at Zama Middle High School in Zama, Japan.

Zeta Xi Chapter in St Thomas, Virgin Islands Host Summer Music Programs for Youth

By Brother Dion G. Parson



2016 Participants of the VI Youth Ensemble held at the University of the Virgin Islands. The VI Youth Ensemble is a performance-based after school initiative, for Junior High and High School Students, which is focused on students exhibiting a high level of musical talent.

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands – Zeta Xi Chapter in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands has partnered with the United Jazz Foundation to present a Caribbean Music Institute virtual summer camp. The mission is to teach music (specifically Jazz and our Caribbean Cultural Heritage Music) to our talented young Virgin Islands musicians. We have been able to successfully arrange funds for class materials, equipment, scholarships and recording studio time for all of our students to attend this summer program. The Caribbean Music Institute is **free** to all students that successfully passed the audition.

There are two music programs setup for this summer:

1. **Intermediate Programs** has 16 high school students presently enrolled. The program requires all student to audition for a spot in the program. We present the students with music theory classes, jazz improvisation classes, music technology classes, jazz performance ensemble classes and private lessons. Also, each student will receive a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation), MIDI Keyboard - for audio programing and MAC Computers.

2. **Advance program** has 18 students enrolled. These students are all attending college on scholarship and they have been in our music mentoring program for at least 2 to 6 years. Their specific classes will include the basic presentation mentioned above, as well as an intensive recording project that will be featured on our Caribbean Music Institute's You tube Channel at the end of July.



Brother Dion Parson helping student with reading music



The Brothers of Zeta Xi Chapter sends a special thank you to the 13th International District and the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for their constant support and interest in our Caribbean Music Institute. ///

Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Awards Scholarships to College-Bound High School Seniors

By Brother Michael Robinson

Mainland, Japan – The Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter in Mainland, Japan held its annual high school essay contest from March 18, 2020 – April 30, 2020 in order to select six winners for the 2nd Annual Dr. Kedric Webster College-Bound Scholarship for high school seniors in the Kanto Plains. This year, 14 students submitted applications from Yokota, Zama and

Yokosuka High Schools along with a 750-word essay based on the topic: "Often, we hear the slogan children and youth are our future. Describe three challenges you faced while in high school. How will you use the lessons learned from these challenges to help improve yourself, family, and community?"

The following students were awarded \$500 scholarships: Ms. Kayla Chambers – Nile C. Kinnick High School Yokosuka, Japan; Ms. Madeleine Delacruz – Nile C. Kinnick High School Yokosuka, Japan; Ms. Chloe Dozier – Yokota High School Yokota, Japan; Mr. David Carlson – Yokota High School Yokota, Japan; Ms. Kayesha Mceil – Zama Middle High School Zama, Japan; Ms. Leah Sakamoto-Flack – Zama Middle High School Zama, Japan.

One of our scholarship recipients Ms. Kayla Chambers was named Salutatorian for her graduating class at Nile C. Kinnick High School in Yokosuka, Japan. She plans to attend Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia this fall with a major in International Business. The Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter and the 13th International District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. congratulates the Class of 2020 and send best wishes as they strive to reach their goals in life. ///

Samurai Fatherhood & Mentoring Program Recognizes School Teachers In Mainland, Japan

By Brother Michael Robinson

A GOAL OF THE SAMURAI Fatherhood & Mentoring Program is to provide uplift and support to our single mothers and fathers. Due to the added stresses of COVID-19, all Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter agreed to present a certificate and small fee of \$50 to one single parent/teacher at three different military installations in the Kanto Plains community.

The recipients were: Ms. **Deborah Connolly**, 4th grade teacher at the Sullivans Elementary School in Yokosuka, Japan; Ms. **Mariette Epps**, Middle School teacher at Yokota Middle School in Yokota, Japan; and, Ms. **Michelle E. Simmer**, Social Studies Chairman and World History teacher at Zama Middle High School in Zama, Japan.

As teachers prepare to close out the current school year, the Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda were glad to provide a small token of appreciation to the three outstanding educators and single parents who spend a lot of their time, passion and skills in teaching our youth.///



L-R: Principal Ms. Kira Hurst, 4th grade teacher Ms. Deborah Connolly receives certificate and \$50 check from Brother Michael Robinson, Assist Principal Ms. Shenna Anderson



Brother Paul Jordan presents certificate of appreciation and \$50 check to Ms. Marietta Epps



Brother Andre Sterling presents certificate of appreciation and \$50 check Ms. Michelle E. Simmer

**Sigma Gamma Gamma Supports Kadena High School JROTC
during Women's Day Luncheon**
By Brother Cortez Pree



BASILEUS BROTHER CORTEZ PREE AND BROTHER ROBERT TOWNES attended the Pre-COVID-19 Women's Day Luncheon hosted by the 78th Signal Battalion of the United States Army on March 13, 2020 at the Kadena Officers Club in Okinawa, Japan. Sigma Gamma Gamma supported the Kadena High School Junior Reserve Officer Training (JROTC) during the opening and closing of the color's presentation. The Kadena JROTC is composed of an all-female team that performs at various military functions throughout the island.

The Women's Day program highlighted the significance of the roles that women play in society and the military. Several noteworthy females were discussed to include the **first African-American Female General Officer in the Marine Corps, Lorna Mahlock**. General Mahlock was a previous Commander at Marine Air Group 12 in Okinawa, Japan. The Kadena High School JROTC thanked the Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter for their continued support. ///

Friendship is Essential to the Soul!