



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring (FIM) Newsletter



Fatherhood Initiative

Youth Leadership Conferences

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Project Manhood

Brother, You're on My Mind! ©

My Brother's Keeper

Vol. 8

April, May, June, 2021

NO. 2

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

CALENDAR OF DISTRICT

Youth Leadership/Parent
Conferences:

1 st District	TBD
2 nd District	TBD
3 rd District	Fall 2021
4 th District	Fall 2021
5 th District	TBD
6 th District	Sum 2021
7 th District	TBD
8 th District	Fall 2021
9 th District	TBD
10 th District	TBD
12 th District	Oct 9, 2021
13 th District	TBD

HAPPY JUNETEENTH Y'ALL! - 2021

A FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL: IN CELEBRATION OF FATHERS A Father's Prayer

BUILD ME A SON, O LORD, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a son whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a son who will know THEE and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a son whose heart will be clean, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength.

Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, "I HAVE NOT LIVED IN VAIN."

By 5 Star General Douglas MacArthur, circa 1942

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Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Newsletter

NO. 2



International Committee Members on Fatherhood and Mentoring



International Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN: “FIMC Next Level Training Days: Train, Educate, Demonstrate Success”

“Next Level” is the call to action for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee’s (FIMC) two-day virtual training sessions **July 17th and July 24th 12:00 noon to 2:30 pm EST**. The training follows the fraternity momentous celebration of Father’s Day with brothers, Chapters and Districts developing personal video tributes to their fathers.

Virtual *Father-to-Father* Forums, Dad Conversations, Real Men and Father Symposia highlighting Life After the Pandemic, a Father’s Day Revival and Father Health Care Screenings conducted in Atlanta, Georgia, East St. Louis, Missouri, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Miami, Florida, Raleigh, North Carolina, Boston, Massachusetts, Memphis, Tennessee and California.

FIMC success stories will be presented during the training with the committee focusing on the four mentoring components; Fatherhood Initiative, Project Manhood, Youth Leadership Conference and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Enhancing chapter FIMC performances, introducing creative programs and advancing mentors’ knowledge of available resources will be deliberated during the training.



**S. Earl Wilson, Chairman
Fatherhood Initiative and
Mentoring Committee**

- Brother **Jonathan Gaines**, 7th District FIMC Chairman will facilitate the Building a Successful FIMC session illustrating how FIMCs are formed, establishing collaborations with community - based organizations to reveal committee activity, content and partners.
- FIMC Media Success led by Brother **Dr. George D. Taylor**, Editor, FIMC Newsletter accompanied by media professionals will promote and demonstrate how chapters can expand their public media reach through publication in the FIMC Newsletter, creating webinars, posting stories on the FIMC Face Book, conducting television and radio interviews and publishing articles in National Newspaper Publishers Association outlets nationwide.
- Chapters will learn the protocols of developing Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC) as Brother **Keith G. Pemberton**, Chairman, International YLC engage directors and mentors in best practice conversations on developing chapter and district YLCs, hosting boys’ camps, and sponsoring Historically Black College and University Series YLCs.
- Training participants will dialogue with chapter Project Manhood chairmen hosted by Brother **John Cooper**, Co-Chairman, IYLC who will present youth mentoring processes, mentee selection criteria, formulating event schedules and choosing subject matter experts.
- Brother **Robert W. Fairchild**, Advisor, Fatherhood Initiative will gather district and chapter fatherhood experts to discuss Future Dads and Fatherhood Mentoring actions that reinforce family values and leadership principles.
- FIMC partnership affiliates will be incorporated in the Value of Partnerships session hosted by Brother **Robert Holmes**, Chairman, Corporate Relations. Regions Bank, My Brother’s Keeper, and the National Black Law Enforcement Executives representatives will emphasize the returns on the fraternity’s investment when collaborations are executed with business entities.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BB/BS) representatives led by Brother **Ray Bell**, Vice-Chairman, BB/BS will highlight the power of individual mentorship.

TO PARTICIPATE in training on 7/17, Registrants should log on to:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RucwKTYQVGfmXMczzkREQ. For training on **7/24: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fBYFEH0zTPqnz8N5CWPFwQ**.
FIMC chapter monetary participation awards will be presented to large and small chapters with the most members who are trained.



NEXT LEVEL VIRTUAL TRAINING DAYS

July 17 & 24, 2021 / 12pm - 2:30pm EST

July 17, 2021 - 12:00 EST

"Build a Successful FIMC"

7th District FIMC, Jonathan Gaines
Nu Chi Chapter, Ben Trotter
2nd District FIMC, Jeffrey Diggs
GA FIMC, Marvin Broadwater

"FIMC Media Success"

FIMC Social Media/Website, Sedric Myers
FIMC Newsletter, Dr. George Taylor
Ques on the Move, Donald Williams
National Black Press and
Publication Association, Bobby Henry

July 17, 2021 - 1:25 EST

"Execute Youth Leadership Conferences"

IYLC Chairman, Keith G. Pemberton
12th District IYLC, John Ervin III
HBCU YLC Series, James Lovejoy
6th District Boys Camp, William Mitchell

"Fatherhood Success - Future Dads"

FIMC, Fatherhood Initiative, Bob Fairchild
FIMC, 6th District, Melvin Williams
FIMC, Undergraduate Representative, Elliott Kelly
Mu Alpha Chapter, Reginald Terry

July 24, 2021 - 12:00 EST

"Effective Mentorship"

Project Manhood -
IYLC Co-Chairman, John Cooper
Manhood 101 - Bleu Colquitt
Omega SPARKS, Royale King
Manhood Youth Develop, Charlie Jackson
Big Brother Big Sister
FIMC/BBBS, Chairman, Ray Bell
BIG Mentor, TBD

July 24, 2021 - 1:25 EST

"Value of Partnerships"

Corporate Relations, Robert Holmes
Regions Bank, Cecelia Bailey
NOBLE, Earlene Reynolds
My Brothers Keeper, TBD

Brother Robert W. Fairchild, Fatherhood Initiative Advisor

About our Fatherhood Work:

Greetings Brothers: Having celebrated Father's Day-2021, let us take the opportunity to focus our efforts on one of our tenets under our Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative - **Celebration of Fathers.**

The tenet states: *Hosting and/or creating partnership efforts to celebrate, honor, recognize, and salute fathers and the joys of fatherhood and mentoring, i.e., having fatherhood breakfasts, lunches, dinners, programs honoring Father's efforts in their families, community service, school involvement and more.*

Many times, fathers aren't recognized for their efforts. The celebration and recognition of fathers can go a long way toward encouraging them in their role as a key member of the family who can have a significant impact on the lives of his children. Recognition and appreciation help the father's mental state; it lets him know that in his role as father he is a valuable and integral part of the family and society. It also lets him know that his efforts are not unnoticed and are critical in the future development of his children.

"Older fathers helping younger fathers is a real cause for celebration ..."

We want to celebrate and thank those brothers/fathers who have taken the time to work with the young fathers who are in the

16 - to 24-year-old age group who may be in our mentoring programs or are college students, college grads or any young father in this age group who is struggling and having a difficult time. Older fathers helping younger fathers is a real cause for celebration and recognition.

Brothers, each year I have seen more brothers step up and get involved in working with young fathers. For that I applaud and celebrate your participation and efforts. Your efforts can help a father in his efforts to work with his children in steering them in a safe lifesaving path to adulthood. ///

Happy Father's Day, Let's Celebrate!

Brother Bob Fairchild



Brother Thabiti Boone received an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humanities, from the International Anointed By God Ministries Alliance and Seminary. The degree was granted for his years of service and work promoting Fatherhood through Church Ministry and as a national leader.

Boone created and taught the first ever Course on Fatherhood and At-Risk Males at the prestigious New York Theological Seminary. The Curriculum taught the Connection between the Biblical role of



L to R: Carlos Parolta, attendee; New Jersey State Senator Joe Cryan; Omega Brother Michael Warrington, VP Valley Bank Conference Sponsor; Keynote Speaker Devon Bandison; and Brother Boone.



L to R: Cathedral International Bishop Donald Hilliard, Brother Boone and Omega Fraternity member Randell Benjamin

Fathers, their role in the Church, in their Families and in the Community.

The Ninth Annual State of New Jersey Union County Fatherhood Initiative Coalition Fatherhood Conference was held Saturday, June 12th. The Conference was titled: **Retooling Fatherhood, Helping Men and Fathers to Be Their Best.** Brother Boone was the special guest speaker for the conference. His remarks focused on the current landscape of Fatherhood in our Country.

In addition to an inspiring keynote message, the Conference provided the following workshops: Responsible Black Fathers, Wealth Building, Emotional Wellness during the COVID Pandemic. Conference attendees included elected officials, Clergy, Community organizations, School representatives and Reentry programs that work with Fathers.

The New York City Fatherhood Forum hosted by TCIONY, an organization that provides services and programs for Fathers and young people in NYC, was held



L to R: Omega Brother Matthew Knowles (Beyonce's dad); Dr. Jeff Gardere; David Banks; NYPD Deputy Police Chief Rodney Harrison; Bishop Eric Figuroa; and Brother Boone.

Wednesday, June 16th at the Harlem Salvation Armory. The Forum was titled: **Fathering and Parenting Through the Pandemic.** Brother Boone was special guest speaker. The capacity audience enjoyed a highly energetic conversation about the role and importance of Fatherhood from some of the top Fatherhood leaders in New York City.

America's noted Black Psychologist Dr. Jeff Gardere, NYC Chief of Police Rodney Harrison, Derek Phillips, Founder of *RealDadsNetwork*, Presiding Bishop Eric Figuroa, Top Educator David Banks and our very own Omega Brother Matthew Knowles (father of singer Beyonce). In the photo to the right with Brothers Knowles and Boone is Brother Harry Watson, Basileus Xi Phi Chapter and NY Co-Chairman, Omega Psi Phi (FIM) Fatherhood Initiative Mentoring. Omega Men continues to lead the way. ///



L to R: Brother Boone; Brothers Knowles and Harry Watson, Basileus Xi Phi Chapter



July 1, 2021

A Belated Happy Father's Day!

As you read this space today, another Father's Day has come and gone. It is our sincere wish and belief that each of you were celebrated and/or celebrated the father figure in your life.

The timing of this column's presentation coincides with my humble opportunity to serve as one of the keynote speakers during the State of Michigan, "2021 Foundations of Fatherhood Summit," that took place, virtually, June 15-17, 2021. Please allow me to share, in a three-part series some of the comments that I shared with the plenary session that was convened on the first day of the Summit.

A PRACTICAL VIEW OF FATHERHOOD FROM THE BENCH

As we gather here today to share the opportunity to become, better men and more importantly, effective and engaged fathers, it is important to understand how "Fatherhood" is, in some manner, viewed by the Judiciary.

My first caution to you would be that for each different judge who presides over Family Court matters, there are that many different "philosophies" of what Fatherhood is. As judges, we are expected to apply the law that currently exists in a fair, unbiased manner. We are also expected to fashion decisions and rulings that "serve the best interest of the child". It is within those basic, yet profound guidelines that each man who appears in a Family Court proceeding must find his way towards the legal aspect of Fatherhood.

Having established that, we begin our conversation with this first foundational precept:

"IS THE MAN APPEARING BEFORE THE COURT THE LEGAL FATHER OF THE CHILD WHO IS AT THE CENTER OF THESE PROCEEDINGS?"

I have, unfortunately, heard the very derisive and disrespectful term, "sperm-donor" utilized far too frequently. It is obviously meant to diminish the importance and stature of the biological father of the child. And it usually speaks to issues of conflict and strife that have absolutely nothing to do with how and what serves the best interest of the child involved.

It does, however crudely, speak to the importance of Fatherhood. As a practical matter, full Fatherhood the fact that men who are biologically responsible for cannot exist, until the accountability and responsibility giving life to a child, have further to go to reach

"... full Fatherhood cannot exist, until the accountability and responsibility that comes with court recognized legal father status is established."

**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**



that comes with court recognized legal father status is established. That status is established by:

1. **The birth of a child within the bounds of matrimony.**
2. **The voluntary acknowledgement of paternity by signature of Birth Certificate, usually at the hospital shortly after birth or an Affidavit of Parentage.**
3. **Legal proceeding, filed in Family Court, by either mother or father, that results in the Court's finding of paternity.**
4. **Adoption by a non-biologically associated male.**

So here is the counter point that we Judges hear: *"That's my child, and no piece of paper decides whether I'm the father of that child!"* That's a noble sentiment and we judges get it. It also will get that man absolutely no closer to being able to make decisions and assert his authority in that child's life.

As a practical matter, I, and most judges, would absolutely agree that the "piece of paper" doesn't make you an engaged, responsible father. But it does make one fully eligible for every important decision that involves that child. And no matter how regular the interaction with the child; no matter the quality of those

interactions, it doesn't even matter that the mother is accepting and approving of the "arrangement" that enables the interaction; an engaged, responsible father **MUST** seek and obtain that "piece of paper."

For our purposes here today, the practical view from the bench on this issue must include the fact that full, engaged, responsible fatherhood cannot exist outside the context of accountability created by the law. From the perspective of the bench, fatherhood and accountability go *hand-in-hand*.

The "best interest of the child" standard allows for a subjective interpretation by the individual judge involved in the case, without question. I am confident; however, every judge hopes for the best for the children and parents who come before them. Biological fathers, must accept the fact that accepting AND EMBRACING the responsibility of being adjudged the legal father of a child is the starting point toward "Fatherhood".

To be continued...

Brother Gregory C. Pittman, Esq.

Regions Bank: Looking for Interns, NOW!

In August 2021, The Career Development Committee of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., will partner again with Regions Bank to offer internships to undergraduate Brothers. These Internships offer full time, paid, real-work experience across several functional areas of the banking industry. Prior to the application process an education and training session will be conducted exclusively for the Brotherhood. The session will be held in early August (exact date TBD). For additional Information, contact:



Brother Robert S. Cunningham, Jr.
Chairman - Career Development Committee

jcsu80@aol.com

919.906.0924

or

Brother Steven L. Boyd

slbque@gmail.com

404.697.8000



Friendship: The Key and Barrier to Reclamation & Retention

By Brother Dennis Davis, KRS, Beta Beta Chapter

I had the privilege of being initiated into our great Fraternity as an enthused 19-year-old, 1st semester Sophomore in the Fall of '84 at ETA Chapter (Alcorn State University).

I absolutely fell in love with Omega long before I attended Alcorn; I observed the interactions between the brothers of ETA Chapter and the genuine love that they displayed for each other. That love is the basis of the friendship that is required for us to be true Brothers of Omega.

We often question why the number of active Brothers is grossly lower than the numbers of Brothers that have been initiated into our beloved Fraternity. The answer is quite simple ... the lack of true friendship.

We only need to internalize the qualifications/requirements of true friendship, and then model those lofty tenants to bring Brothers back and keep them in the folds of Omega. The standards of friendship call us to a higher level of love and service than that to which we are accustomed.

If we truly love our brothers, then we would show ourselves friendly while simultaneously holding ourselves and our brothers accountable to fulfilling our obligation to Omega Dear!

"There is a place for mediocrity in our society, but not in Omega."
~ Edgar Amos Love ~

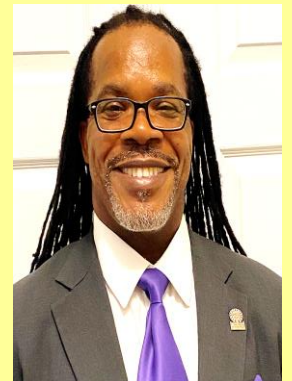
It is very easy to encourage a brother to come home and serve ... if ... that Brother is a true friend. It has been often said that *"people don't care what you know, until they know that you care."*

Once we have established friendship, and Brothers know that we care about them and their families ... engaging them in a meaningful conversation about getting active *in the field of service*, is as natural as breathing. Friendship first, accountability second.

We must cease the disrespectful behavior of asking a brother if he is active, if we haven't taken the time to get to know that Brother and establish friendship, first. If you are a brother who inquiries about the active/financial status of another brother, without first establishing friendship ... then you are an impediment to friendship ... which makes you an impediment to reclamation and retention.

"Do thy duty that is best..."

In Friendship,
Bro. Dennis Davis, (Skelly 7-F'84-ETA)



Brother Dennis Davis, KRS,
Beta Beta Chapter
Bradenton/Sarasota, FL



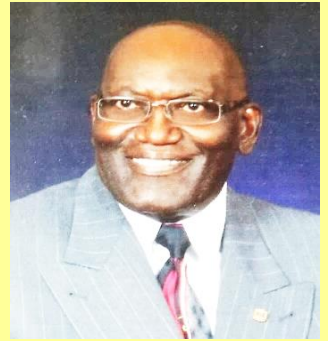
"Herein lies the tragedy of the age: not that men are poor—all men know something of poverty; not that men are wicked—who is good? Not that men are ignorant—what is truth? Nay, but that men know so little of men." W.E.B Dubois, Historian, Activist and Author.



Just Thinking About Fatherhood: For God's Sake

Brother Elton Bacon, Beta Mu Mu Chapter

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom



Brother Elton Bacon,
Beta Mu Mu Chapter

THE BASIS FOR HATE IS ROOTED IN FEAR. Fear comes from the unknown, that leads to racism, a learned trait passed down for many generations in our society. The justice system is a tool used to foster that hate. Since fathers are seen as the strongest link of the family structure, they are likely to be the first to be attacked in a hateful manner.

In America, data shows roughly one-third of black men are incarcerated. That many men were not born with problems that warranted incarceration. In some cases, there are three generations of black men from the same family incarcerated at once. The justice system has not been a fair system for black men.

Data also shows that approximately 8% of America's prisoners are housed in privately owned facilities. That means some private individuals are profiting from keeping black people incarcerated using state and federal laws to do so. This should raise many moral questions.

Long before President Barack Obama and some of the leading Brothers of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., met at the White House Fatherhood Town Hall Summit on June 9, 2009, young minority boys and girls have needed guidance and nurturing. It is the perfect match to have the Fatherhood Initiatives form a partnership with the Black Church. We can return to the roots from which we came. Our human experiences have taught us tomorrow will most likely be more promising than today because today's work is for tomorrow's living.

According to a 2020 survey, 29% of Americans do not have any affiliation with a church organization. Only 21% of the US population attended church regularly. The church is the moral conscious of society. One could say we are trending towards becoming an *ungodly* nation - a nation without a spiritual or moral compass. There was a time in our history when the black church was the mortar that held families together stronger and longer.

Then times changed due to technology. The world became smaller and less dependent upon personal relationships. The church is that place we need to reconnect our youth to the family that could decrease involvement with law enforcement.

If we can reestablish God's presence in our lives like our forefathers, we can bring about positive change for a low price. The church has been here during these turbulent times of governmental distress and pandemic. The church has been there all the time, like our shadow, we just have not noticed it. The church is not the buildings. The church is the people allowing God to work His divine purpose through us.

We must turn to God for answers and place Him at the center of our thoughts, hopes, dreams, planning and work. We must build a solid foundation of spiritual morals strong enough to fend off fear and hate. *We must work tirelessly to dispense with hate and fear because they are too heavy to keep carrying around with us; they cost too much to keep housing them.* They choke off good – and progress – and are too expensive to keep around. It is time for all people who are strong enough spiritually, with deep moral conviction to stand up and speak out against hate, lies and all such evil that weakens our moral fabric. God demands that we never give up because good never fails or ends, neither does love.

As men of Omega, let us continue with the Fatherhood Initiative/Mentoring Program with increased intensity while broadening our scope with measurable results. We must prepare our youth for a future that includes other minority groups, bringing about change by changing morals and ethics in America. ///

*"We must work
tirelessly to dispense
with hate and fear ..."*



~~~~~ **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** ~~~~~

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021, September 15<sup>th</sup>** Information for July, Aug, Sept 2021

**Our Goal: Publish Information from each District, each Quarter; Fatherhood and Mentoring Programs, Youth Leadership Conferences, Project Manhood, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Brother You're on My Mind.**

**Please submit to: [geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net)**

**1<sup>st</sup> District: Brother Anthony Lilley, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring**

**Building the Lives of Men in Our Community**

**By Brother Anthony Lilley**

**B**rothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., have been living by the principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance & Uplift for well over 109 years. As Omega men, we abide by these four cardinal principles, while also imparting the lessons of these principles to the community.

Out of these four, the notion of manhood can immediately be shaped by society and most importantly by the men who are fixtures in our daily lives. Manhood can also be the precursor to another stage in the lives of men, known as Fatherhood.

Brothers of the 1<sup>st</sup> District led a roundtable discussion on June 10, 2021 titled "What Fatherhood Means to Us." The panel was hosted by the 1<sup>st</sup> District Chaplain Bro. Anthony Lilley with 4 participating panelists: Brothers Sim Williams, Kendall Street, Tequan Shorter, Derrick Perry & Josh Benjamin. In addition to the host and panelists, other contributors included 1<sup>st</sup> District DR Bro. Lennitt Bligen, 1<sup>st</sup> District 1VDR Bro. Raymond Bailey, 1<sup>st</sup> District 2VDR Bro. Solomon Egbe & Bro. Jamal Chambers.

Brothers engaged in thought provoking question and answer sessions. Bro. Lilley challenged each panelist to

give their best take on several questions regarding fatherhood. Examples of these questions ranged from "Knowing how your life turned out, what advice would you give your father?" to "What was the most impactful moment when you realized you wanted to be/not be like your father." The panel offered a broad perspective on the questions since some panelists had active fathers in their lives, others never had a relationship with their fathers, or some are currently working towards establishing and repairing relationships. The vulnerability of the panel really added to the intense and sincere nature of this event.

Brothers from other districts also participated in the discussion, including Bro. 1VGB Ricky Lewis. As Omega continues to set the standard for community service and duty, we must also lend ourselves to one another, and this discussion is a great starting point in continuing to build the lives of men in our community and most importantly, amongst ourselves. ///



**QUESTION FOR THE DAY: To what extent will media and political talk about Critical Race Theory impact your family, job, or station in life?**





## QUES ON THE MOVE PODCAST: Telling Our Collective Story - Mentoring Impact

New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland - Tuesday, April 6, 2021, the 2<sup>nd</sup> District's, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee (FIMC) featured two outstanding leaders of our Fraternity as guests on the WBGR Internet Talk Show **"QUES ON THE MOVE"**.

Our guests, Brothers S. Earl Wilson, Chairman of the International Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee and Robert W. Fairchild, Inaugural Chairman of the International Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee and current Advisor for Fatherhood Initiative, have a heart for mentoring men and young people and have guided the Fraternity for more than a decade.

They have provided strategic direction for a global impact in sixteen countries around the world. The scope has expanded with focus that impacts families across the Nation with meaningful policies, collaborative partnerships and mentoring programs.

**Brother S. Earl Wilson**, International Chairman was asked about a strategic initiative that made a significant impact. He first stated that

the mission from the Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion is to brand the Fraternity as a global mentoring organization that help Dads and Youth to reach their full potential. He didn't hesitate to share about Project Manhood and the National election season.

Shortly after his appointment as International Committee Chairman the National election was on the horizon Brother Wilson and his team developed a "Call to Action" to support the 100,000 Fathers and Grandfathers and other interested men of Omega to join in the Fathers Voters' Pledge Campaign.

Fathers and other men were asked to take their sons/grandsons and/or mentees to the polls November 6, 2020; capture the moment with a photo and send it to the fraternity web site at [www.oppf.org](http://www.oppf.org) to validate their participation. **Key Message – Black Men Vote in Every Election!**

Project Manhood's mission continued: to encourage every Chapter across the globe to establish a mentoring program to enhance the personal and professional development of male youth, thus, developing productive citizens today and leaders for the future.

In his concluding remarks, Brother Wilson graciously thanked Brother Fairchild for laying the organization's foundation from the very beginning more than a decade ago.

**Brother Robert W. Fairchild** who is affectionately called Brother "Godfather" was asked who was his first mentor that influenced him to work tirelessly shaping the strategic plan of the committee. *"It was my uncle that impacted my life as a teenager because of being raised without a father in the home,"* he said.

His uncle taught him to help others to become a responsible man. Brother Fairchild stated, *"we came up short coming out of the 1960's with passing on manhood attributes, wisdom and knowledge and of modeling Fatherhood from one generation to the next generation. Our generation should have passed on what manhood is truly about regarding making sound decisions to strengthen the family unit."*

Brother Fairchild is credited with providing the foundational structure that brought all 12 Districts together with laser focus on mentoring. Brother Fairchild's strategic focus centered on raising awareness of the



importance of Mentoring for a greater impact that uplifted our communities through service to others.

His significant accomplishments centered on establishing partnerships, i.e., My Brother Keeper, the Future Dads program (16-24 years-old) that connected mentoring message about fatherhood to undergraduates.

The Future Dads program focused specifically on college students that fathered a child while pursuing their college degree. Many of them lack a father's model and need guidance from Omega men to navigate the fatherhood experience as a new dad. The establishment of the FIMC Newsletter that includes information from each District each quarter about Fatherhood Initiatives and Mentoring activities, (Shoutout to Dr. George D. Taylor, EdD, Editor and Publisher, International Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Newsletter).

Brother Donald Williams, FIMC Chairman for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District offered his appreciation and thanks to the 2<sup>nd</sup>

District Leadership for their support. He said, "I want to personally thank the following Omega Men: the 35th District Representative, Sherman Charles established FIMC as a separate committee from Social Action Committee. I am grateful to serve the last three District Representatives to launch a comprehensive strategic direction."

He continued, "I am appreciative to S. Earl Wilson, Robert Fairchild and Thabiti Boone, International Fatherhood Representative. Again, thank you for modeling excellence and I am eternally grateful for your Leaderships, Compassion, Mentorship and especially your Friendship."

**QUES ON THE MOVE** Podcast celebrates four-years spotlighting the incredible work that Omega Men are doing across the 2<sup>nd</sup> District mentoring our young people, especially our young males and helping them to become effective

Dads who are engaged in their children's lives!

Its mission is clear, intentional, and strategically driven to have approximately 80 Chapters actively engage their communities across New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland by mentoring Dads and young males. For the past year, we have spent time using the virtual platforms – Zoom, Team, other media, showing up at meetings and conferences.

The Podcast averages 800 to 1,200 views per week under the **WBGR** banner. Over the last four years, its reach has increased to approximately 3,000 to 5,000 viewers per month. Chapters are represented from New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, and now Internationally with "telling our story" Collectively and connecting the mentoring message to a new generation of listeners.

<https://youtube.com/channel/UC8NhHyTWVywssxPgo68tphw>.



**Alabama State University President, Brother Dr. Quinton Ross, greets a mentoring group of young men on the Alabama State University campus. The Omega Flames of Kappa Beta Beta (Dothan Chapter) and Omega Sparks (Sigma Phi) are up and out in the spirit of Community Service and Giving. President Ross spoke to the young men and gave them sound advice on life experiences and higher education. Also received a donation and a \$10,000 commitment from the "UPLIFT FOUNDATION" of KAPPA BETA BETA CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC. #Manhood #Scholarship #Perseverance #Uplift #MyASU #bamastate. (Courtesy of Brother James Lovejoy)**



## Inspiring Youth to Believe They Can Fly: Eta Pi Chapter Partners with The Black Pilots of America

**East Orange, New Jersey** - Saturday April 10, 2021, as part of its Virtual Career Conversations Series, Eta Pi Chapter partnered with the Black Pilots of America (BPA) Alfred E. Forsythe Chapter, to conduct a session for youth titled **“Career Conversations in the Aviation Industry”**.

Walter Young, III, a 17-year-old pilot and member of the BPA was the keynote speaker. Young started flying at the age of 12 and was inspired by his love of video games. “My dad introduced me to a pilot orientation program at the Robbinsville Airport in Trenton, New Jersey. After my first flight I fell in love with aviation,” said Young. During the conversation with over forty youth in attendance, he played a video highlighting him flying over the skies of New Jersey with his sister in a Glider plane.

Toviel Duff, a 16-year-old youth participant of the Family Support Organization of Essex County’s Mentor Program, asked the first of many questions: “Are you afraid or excited when you fly?” Young replied “it’s similar to a roller coaster at first but after a while you get used to it. I really enjoy the freedom and views provided when flying.”

Benaiah - Akusoda Eni, a 10-year-old student from the Orange Township Public Schools, asked for information about the location of schools he can attend if he wanted to follow in Young’s footsteps. His question was answered by Mr. Snead, another guest from the Orange Township Public Schools. Mr. Snead, a media arts specialist and a pilot, offered his support in helping

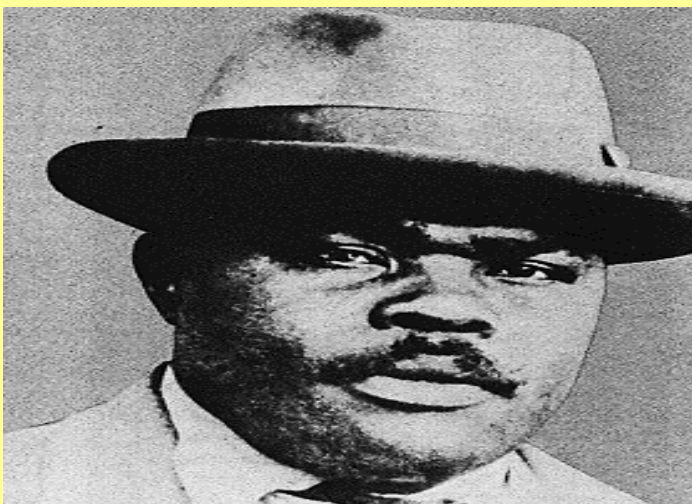
all the youngsters on the Zoom with equipment and supplies needed to get started.

The program was opened by special guest Brother Kelvin Ampofo, 37<sup>th</sup> District Representative of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., 2<sup>nd</sup> District. Brother Ampofo is an established pilot and Manager of Operations at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. He provided greetings to the audience and encouraged the youth to “*set your mind to a goal, stick to that goal and go do it!*”

Brother Barry Devone, Basileus of the Eta Pi Chapter, who has experience flying planes, informed the youth and parents that a link to future BPA and scholarship for aviation programs would be shared on the Eta Pi Chapter website in the Community Partners section. Carol Randolph, parent of a mentee in the Eta Pi Chapter Mentoring Program, thanked the program organizers during the program. “*This event has been insightful, and I am really proud of Walter for everything he has accomplished in his lifetime,*” she offered.

The event ended with a few words from Walter Young II, father of the young pilot. “I encourage all of the parents to support their children’s love for learning! I know very little about flying but I am a member of the BPA and attend every activity that my son participates in.”


The Dr. Ernest Everett Just Mentoring Program is supported in part by the CLEO CLICKS App, which is funded by the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice Prevention Program. More information can be found at [www.EtaPiChapter.org](http://www.EtaPiChapter.org).



*"There is no force like success, and that is why the individual makes all effort to surround himself throughout life with the evidence of it; as of the individual, so should it be of the nation."*

*Marcus Garvey*





**CAREER CONVERSATIONS**  
A YOUTH TOWN HALL PANEL DISCUSSION  
About Exploring Careers In Law Enforcement

**WHEN:**  
Saturday - 4/24/21 - 11am - 12pm

**WHERE:**  
Zoom Code: 885-2710-6882

**WHAT WILL BE COVERED:**  
An Extensive Q & A Session Focused on  
How to Become a Law Enforcement Professional

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**  
Young men and women ages 15-18

**MENTORING WORKS:**  
The Eta Pi Chapter will pay for 10 youth  
to take the Police Entrance Exam

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC - CONTACT BRO MATT STEVENS  
973.820.8999 - REGISTRATION REQUIRED - VISIT US AT  
WWW.ETAPICHAPTER.ORG (EVENTS)**

**Panelists:**  
 Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Orange Township Public Schools  
 Bro. Jiles Ship, President, NOBLE NJ  
 Bro. Ted Green, Mayor City of East Orange  
 Bro. Larry Martin, Captain East Orange Police Dept.  
 Lt Marilyn Berrouet, East Orange Police Department  
 David C. Miller, Moderator  
 Leon Smith, Corridor IV Representative, Opening Remarks

## Become Part of The Solution: “Talking Law Enforcement” Career Opportunities

By Matt Stevens, New Jersey State Co Chairman,  
Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee (FIMC), 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**East Orange, NJ – Saturday, April 24, 2021** – Eta Pi Chapter hosted Career Conversations which focused on career opportunities in Law Enforcement. A distinguished panel of community leaders was assembled including: Brother Jiles Ship, President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement professionals (NOBLE), Brother Mayor Ted Green (City of East Orange), Brother Captain Larry Martin (East Orange Police Department), Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, Superintendent, Orange Township Public Schools, LT. Marilyn Berrouet (East Orange Police Department) and David C. Miller, Author and creator of 10 Rules of Survival When Stopped By The Police.

Brother Leon Smith, Corridor IV Representative, opened the forum saying, “Today is an example of how the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., is addressing systemic racism.” He continued by assuring all that the fraternity was, “not sitting back and analyzing the problem, but by coming up with solutions.” Those sentiments were repeated by each member of the panel.

Kyri Bean Brown, a 16-year-old student attending Bloomfield High School in New Jersey and a member of the Dr. Ernest Everett Just Mentoring Program, asked the panel “Why did you decide to become a police officer?” Brother Captain Larry Martin responded “When I was in college, I reviewed my options and a career in law enforcement provided a number of great benefits including service to the community where I grew up.”

A number of youths provided questions in the chat box such as, “How do you feel when police misconduct kills or injures people in the Black Community?” Brother

Jiles Ship answered “As the President of NOBLE (NJ), it is my job to train and support police administration to effectively address police misconduct. In my 30 years as an officer, I have been involved in things that range from helping to deliver babies to arresting people for homicide. It sickens me when individuals in my profession engage in an unlawful manner!”

Brother Mayor Ted Green spoke about his commitment to ensuring police truly serve and protect the community. “In East Orange, we work hard to ensure our officers understand the community.” He pointed out the many youths and community relation efforts such as the Explorer’s Program, School Resource Officers in each School and the Police Athletic League. Dr. Fitzhugh closed out the panel by sharing his philosophy of preparing youth for life after high school. “In the Orange Public Schools, I visit classes daily to ensure our students are receiving a well-rounded education and to develop relationships with them.”

Brother Matt Stevens, Chairman of the Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee (FIMC) for Corridor 4 and Eta Pi Chapter, closed the session by notifying all of Next Steps. “During the summer we will establish a Corridor-wide Youth Advisory Committee to improve youth/community/police relationships.” During September 2021, as a Back-To-School initiative, the youth will make community presentations.

The Dr. Ernest Everett Just Mentoring Program is supported in part by the CLEO CLICKS App, which is funded by the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice Prevention Program. ///



## ELIJAH'S STORY: MSPU/an1

**Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift -- all in one ...**

*“This is probably one of the best and most impactful stories the Omega U Program has had in recent years; it is one of the best stories of the year for the PLL Brand. For Brothers that attended just one Omega U event in the past 7 years – you have surely met Elijah. He served as the MC for the annual Black History Program from 2016 – 2019. Even though I have not fully depicted his trials and tribulation in this email (purposely) – he was determined to reach his goal – to be successful – to continue to uplift his community and fellow students in the Omega U program, Brothers of the OPPF, and peers. I am pleased to welcome him as a future alumnus for my alma mater and future cyber security peer in IT.”* By Brother Michael Frazier



**ELIJAH GARTRELL STARTED THE OMEGA U PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER OF 2014.** He was raised in a single parent home with his mother and little sister across the street from Potomac Middle School. Elijah became a rising star in the Omega U Program by simply interacting with the brothers of PLL and participating in all Omega U events. Upon leaving middle school, Elijah assisted me in building out the Omega U Program at the high school level upon his freshman year by giving me a baseline and ideas for targeting needs/wants for high school Omega U students.

Elijah was named the President of Omega U in 2017 as a freshman at Potomac Senior. He lettered in Freshman and JV & Varsity track & basketball respectively. In the first semester of his sophomore year, Elijah started experiencing health issues. He experienced frequent headaches and exhaustion. Upon initial investigation, he had what was believed to be a small cyst on his head. Upon his father's recommendation, they sought more medical attention. The finding was determined to be a rare growth that had grown so large that it required immediate medical attention/surgery/removal. It was the cause of his headaches and unexplained fatigue.

Elijah missed over 6 weeks of school. His grade point average went from a 3.3 to a 2.7 by the end of his sophomore year. He was unable to play JV basketball or **participate in track**. Elijah suffered from depression due to his basketball career ending prematurely, a large bald patch/scar on his head, and all things that came as a result of this early trial in his adolescent life. *(It should be noted – he never missed one Omega U Saturday, pre-college initiative field trip, STEM workshop.)* He attended every Omega U college field trip (Annapolis, Howard, Virginia State, Virginia Tech).

His junior year (The Infamous Year of 2020), Elijah started working to help save money for college. He moved to Stafford to live with his father during the week and commuted to

Potomac Senior every day. He was accepted into the Cyber Security Program at Potomac Senior where he immediately became very well-known with his teachers through his commitment to scholarship and learning.

Upon entering his senior year, Elijah's gpa was a 2.84. His goal was to graduate from high school with a 3.0. This was a goal that he wrote to himself in an exercise/workshop I personally administered to him his freshman year (2016). Elijah was accepted into Hampton, Tuskegee, Old Dominion, and Norfolk State in 2021. His gpa had narrowly moved up by a hundredth of a point by January 2021.

Elijah graduated this past weekend with a 3.0 gpa from high school. He qualified for state in track and field for the 400M today. His level of commitment to scholarship and perseverance is undeniable. On his cap that he wore for graduation, he placed Omega U, basketball, and the monarch sign for his selection of attending Old Dominion (Cyber Security). He could have let this goal go – for no other reason he was accepted into a 4-year university. He did not.

Elijah is the first student to graduate from the Omega U program with active participation from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to his senior year. He has been on the cover of the Omega U Yearbook since 2018. He has completed over 200+ hours of community service in his commitment

to the Omega U program. Lastly, he has stayed and continues to stay the course towards manly and scholarly deeds. ///



This is a Picture of Elijah's Graduation Cap that he sent to his mentor, Brother Frazier. Congratulations Elijah!





The Third District FIMC spotlighted Bro. Johnnie Underwood of Zeta Mu Mu Chapter of Williamsburg Virginia. Bro. Underwood discussed his father's role in his life from being adopted and given the love of a father which he has passed on to his two daughters. His remarkable story was featured on the June 20th IHQ Father's Day Program & Celebration.

totaling \$500 to the participating fathers to provide support for some basic necessities such as food, gas, infant care, or anything else they may need in support of their families. The Dad's Parenting program serves to enhance fathers' overall parenting and fathering skills as well as promote and celebrate the importance of fathers in Fairfax County. The Chapter's involvement has helped increase Fairfax County DFS' capacity to meet the needs of fathers in Fairfax County, as well as educate fathers about the critical roles they play in the lives of their children.

**Williamsburg Virginia – Zeta Mu Mu** – The Third District hosted their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Father's Day Celebration Event on June 15, 2021 as part of the week-long initiative by the IHQ FIM Committee. The event included over 40 short videos from Brother's in the Third District speaking on the importance of fatherhood, the meaning of fatherhood, and the necessity of supporting, promoting, and growing strong fathers.

**Newport News, VA – Kappa Iota Iota** – The Young Men of Distinction (YMOD) mentoring program mentors to students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Newport News. YMOD has 53 young men in the program and meet every two weeks with Brothers in KII. YMOD focuses on Academics, Integrity, Discipline, and Uplift. Attention is given to these principles through social activities, youth conferences, and community services projects. ///



Young Men of Distinctions, Kappa Iota Iota, Newport News, VA

"There is no greater tyranny than that which is perpetrated under the shield of the law and in the name of justice."

"We receive three educations, one from our parents, one from our school masters, and one from the world. The third contradicts all that the first two teach us."

— Charles Louis de Secondat Baron de Montesquieu



**Brother James B. Wingo, M. Ed.,**

Author and Co-Chair of Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentoring Committee,  
Zeta Omega Chapter, Cleveland, OH

The Launch of Brother Wingo's book: *The Manners Playbook: Essential Lessons for Young African American Boys on Self-Awareness, Confidence and Etiquette.*

July 2021, Pre-sales available now

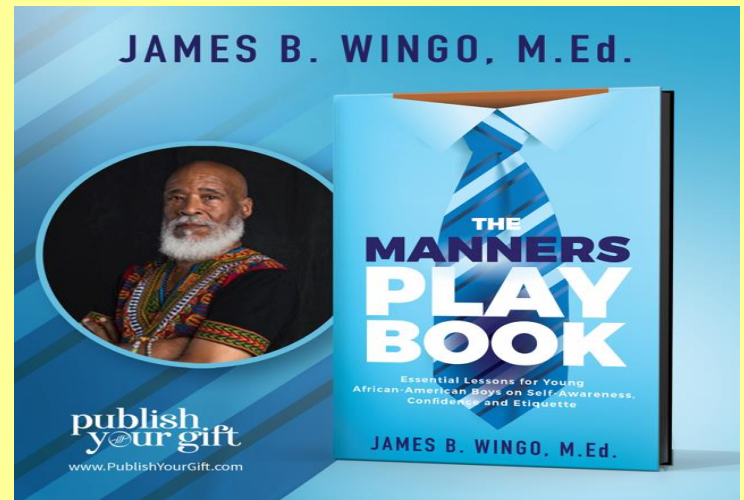
Location of Event: Pre-order at <https://publishyourgift.lpages.co/james/>

By Bro. Jermel Carr, 6/14/2021

**The Manners Playbook: Essential Lessons for Young African American Boys on Self-Awareness, Confidence and Etiquette** is a new book by Bro. James B. Wingo, M. Ed. (1970 Phi Sigma), that is full of guidance for young black males on approaching new situations, caring for the body, and being confident in oneself while practicing good etiquette in new situations and relationships. While there are many negative stereotypes that are pervasive in today's society, showing black boys as dangerous and lacking discipline and etiquette, *The Manners Playbook* emphasizes the fact that they are descendants of Kings and Queens and should take pride in where they come from and where they are going.

Bro. Wingo, a longtime educator, counselor, and youth advocate, was partially inspired to write this book by a quote from the great American novelist and fellow Ohioan, Toni Morrison, who said *"if there is a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, you must be the one to write it"*. Brother Wingo recalled a student that was having difficulties relating to an etiquette book that he was referencing in a class. "I wanted to write something on the topic of etiquette that my students that I work with on a daily basis could relate to, while at the same time providing tips on what to do in new, everyday life situations they face", Bro. Wingo said.

Navigating from one world to another – like boyhood to manhood – can be disorienting and uncomfortable but



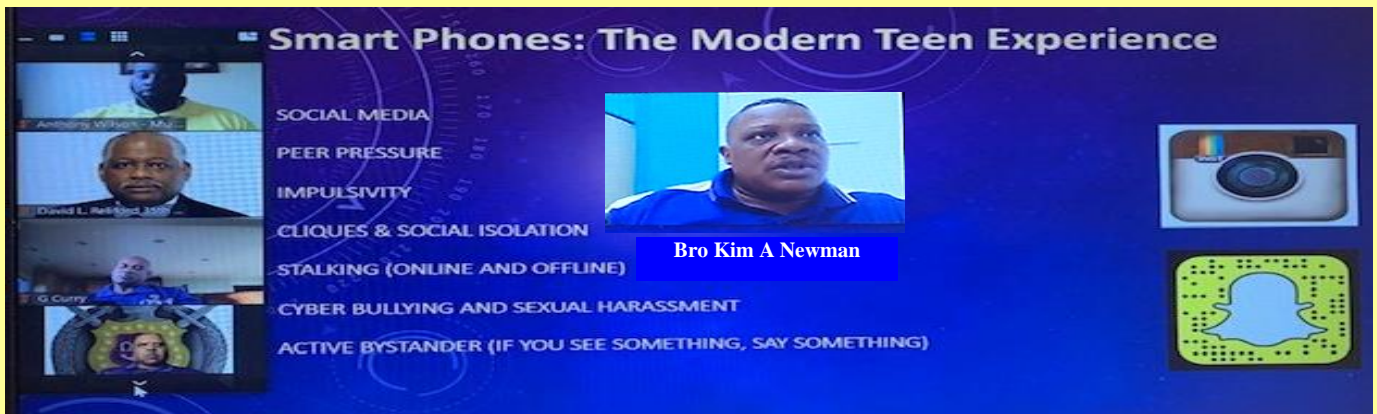
it does not have to be so uncomfortable. In *The Manners Playbook*, Bro. Wingo has tips for all in this guide to living up to the person you are meant to be. This book covers topics such as dinner etiquette, how to be neighborly, sportsmanship, social media etiquette, bullying and more. So, if a parent or a young male is worried about a first date, wondering how to handle a fight with friends, how to make a good first impression, which silverware to use and when, then this book is a must read. It is meant to be a resource that can be used by students, parents, educators, and mentors alike. The book also comes with thoughtful and relevant discussion questions at the end to help bring the content to life. ///

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

James B. Wingo, M. Ed. is a 50+ Year brother from Phi Sigma chapter and the Founder and President of Global Educational Consulting Services (Global ECS). Brother Wingo, who is the co-chair of Zeta Omega Chapter's Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentoring Committee, has been working in the field of education for over 25 years in the cities of Cleveland, Atlanta, and New York. He once served as the licensed school counselor, tutor, and summer camp coordinator for the Boys' Choir of Harlem. You can learn more about Brother Wingo and place a pre-order for *The Manners Play Book* at <https://publishyourgift.lpages.co/james/> or [www.globalecs.net](http://www.globalecs.net).



## Beta Iota Chapter (Cincinnati OH)



**Cincinnati, OH - Wednesday 6/16/2021** - The Beta Iota Chapter hosted its Father's Day zoom call. The topic of the call was **"Communicating and Connecting with your Teen in The Age of Social media and Smart Phones."** The zoom call was led by, Brother Kim A. Newman 1 Fall 11 Beta Iota, the Fatherhood Initiative Committee Chairman.

During the call brothers had a very engaging conversations surrounding the impact that social media and smart phones can have on teenagers and what some of the statistics and risk factors are surrounding social media and smart phones usage are. Brothers discussed various experiences that their teenagers have practiced as it relates to social media and cell phone usage. Brothers also shared social media platforms to watch out for, as well as gaming cites pedophiles tend to gravitate toward. The end state was that brothers were made fully aware of the risks that social media can bring about. The discussion ended with brothers being provided several social media monitoring and location monitoring platforms that may be of use in keeping our teenagers safe. ///



## These Hands

**Cincinnati, OH – Brother Eric Austin**, Beta Iota Chapter, by way of Mighty Rho Psi, is a Senior Marketing Executive at the Procter and Gamble Company responsible for Global Media Innovation and DE&I Advocacy. He's leveraging his power and influence to help address racial bias, remove systemic barriers and widen the perspective of the Black Experience. He has led development of award winning DE&I programs such as [THE LOOK](#), [Widen The Screen](#), [Queen Collective](#), [#TalkAboutBias](#) and many others that address the

accurate portrayal, representation and advancement of the Black Community. More recently, he partnered with UNINTERRUPTED (founded by LeBron James and Maverick Carter) to create [‘These Hands’](#) and the associated community impact programs missioned to open the mind and future opportunities for our Black youth while removing systemic barriers along the path. This particular video rings the bell for Fatherhood, perspectives, and dreams: <http://www.pg.com/TheseHands>

## Xi Alpha Fatherhood Celebration

**Charleston, WV – Xi Alpha Chapter** hosted a virtual Fatherhood Celebration on Thursday, June 17, 2021. We were blessed to have fathers from young to old share the

ups and downs, and the joys and sorrows which go along with being a father.

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Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Newsletter

NO. 1

18

Ω Keep it on!



Ω Just a little ... Ω



bit longer!!!

The wisdom shared was impactful, and the testimonies spoken demonstrated the tenacity of an Omega Man. Besides the brothers of Xi Alpha, other dignitaries who joined this worthwhile event included: the First Vice Grand Basileus Brother Ricky Lewis, the Fourth District Representative Brother Elder David Reliford, the First Vice Fourth District Representative Brother Mike West, the Fourth District Director of Public Relations Brother Marcus Bethay, the Southwest Ohio

Area Representative Brother Chris Shropshire, and the Fourth District Investment Committee Chairman Brother Eric Thompson.

A special part of the program was when we honored Brother LTC (Ret) Quewanncoii C. Stephens, Sr. as the 2021 Xi Alpha Father of the Year. The Fatherhood Celebration was enjoyable, inspiring, emotional and insightful. ///

## Xi Alpha Awarded Scholarship at Future Bosses Mentoring Event

**Charleston, WV** – Xi Alpha Chapter was proud to partner with the Game Changers Future Bosses mentoring event on May 1, 2021. This event was an outdoor walk-through mentoring event with a host of men from various professions giving insights regarding their respective line of work. Also, every station had educational materials and miscellaneous gifts for the young men.

Xi Alpha Chapter was proud to announce **Christian Gist** as the Brother Quewanncoii C. Stephens, II Annual Scholarship recipient. This scholarship is for a deserving high school senior. We received great joy in offering this scholarship to assist Christian Gist's continued commitment for educational opportunities as he has been accepted to Columbia University.

There were a host of applicants, and each provided an essay, two letters of recommendation, high school transcript, and social media accounts. After reviewing the talented youth of the Charleston area, Christian Gist emerged as the winner of our \$1,000.00 Annual

Quewanncoii C. Stephens, II, Scholarship from Xi Alpha Chapter.

Christian Gist is a Senior at Capital High School where he earned a 4.4 GPA, National Honor Society, Senior Class President, Football Team, Lacrosse Team, and Theater are a few of his school highlights. In the community Christian Gist donates his time at the Ronald McDonald House, Reads Bible Verses to local middle school student-athletes through Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Intern for West Virginia Sports News, Blood Drives with American Red Cross, and much more. ///



## Xi Alpha Dress to Impress

**Dunbar, WV** – Xi Alpha Chapter received word that Dunbar Middle School basketball team did not have dress clothes and/or did not understand the importance of dressing up for game day. Though dressing in shirt and tie for away basketball games had been a tradition throughout the region for many years; times have changed. While many of the schools continued with the tradition, Dunbar Middle School players advised their coach they did not have dress clothes. As the team began seeing the other teams dressed in a more business style, some of the players explained their inability to afford additional clothes.

When brothers of Omega were apprised of the situation, they requested the pant and shirt sizes of every player on the team. **Xi Alpha Chapter purchased khaki pants, white button up shirts, and ties for every player.** On March 23, 2021, the Chapter went to the school, spoke of **the importance of image**, and taught the young men how to tie their ties which the Chapter had given them. The players and coaches were very appreciative, and we had a great time sharing with the youth. ///



## The Legendary 5<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood Initiative & Mentoring Program

**T**he Legendary 5<sup>th</sup> District under the leadership of District Representative Brother Sam McKenzie and First Vice District Representative Brother Quincy Snider has taken the District-wide Black Fatherhood Celebration Weekend programming “Next Level.”



Keynote Speaker Brother Mike Dorsey and Family

Fatherhood, and having written the book entitled **The Dynamic Black Father**. Brother Dorsey left participants with one clear takeaway.... *“The next generation of Black Fathers begins right now.”* There were too many highlights to name including District Representative Brother Sam McKenzie displaying his father’s original Certificate of Initiation into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Excludes Participants Playing On The Course

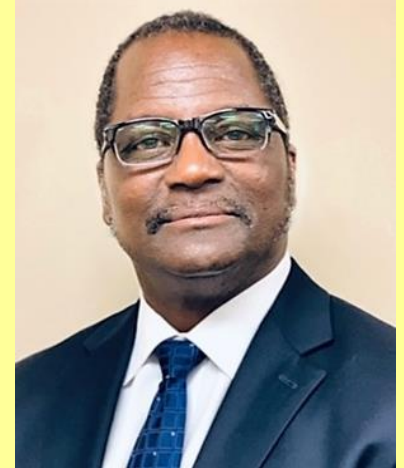
the first time since the onset of the global pandemic. The children of our community received a professional introduction to the game of golf. Another highlight of the event was presentation of the 6th Annual Black Father/Father Figure of the Year Award to Mr. James Threalkill for his ongoing dedication, love, and commitment to the children and youth of the community. A great time was had by all! ///

On Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> District held its Father’s Day Program which was attended by more than 55 Omega Men and other members of the community. This hour-long program featured pre-submitted videos on the topic - **“Black Fatherhood: The Next Generation.”** Videos were submitted by Brothers throughout the District including Brothers Michael Milliner, Irwin Todd, Mark Lee, Antonio Avant, Sr., Terrance Cooper, Chris Morant, and Delfon McSpadden, Sr.

Keynote Speaker Mike Dorsey provided qualified insight on the topic: “Black Fatherhood: The Next Generation”- having founded the organization Black Fathers Now; hosted more than 200 podcast episodes on the subject of Black

On Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> the brothers of Gamma Phi Chapter held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Fatherhood Prayer Service. The program was held virtually for the second year in a row. It was by all accounts well attended and featured a dynamic and clarion call by Keynote Clergy, 5<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain Brother Rodney Bennett. Participants were reminded of their opportunities for joy, and their obligation to leadership, through fatherhood and family.

The Black Fatherhood Golf Tournament was held at Vinny Links in Nashville, TN Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. More than 70 fathers, wives, sons, and daughter participated at the 18 hole, PGA “First Tee” facility. Organized by Brother Bernard Ray, the event was a resounding success that brought Brothers together with family and friends for



## 6<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Melvin Williams, Jr., Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

### Omega Champs, Iota Iota Chapter

**Raleigh, NC** – The Brothers of Iota Iota Chapter is still finding ways to keep their mentees engaged through the pandemic. This quarter the mentees and mentors continued to participate in their guest lecture series. In April, the mentees participated in a financial workshop to learn about finances and all the mentees opened their personal banking accounts. This was a big success and some of the parents mentioned that this tool will last them for the rest of their lives.

Congratulations to Dominic James and Jordan Rowe for receiving their high school diploma. The sky is the limit for these two young men. ///



### 6<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood Forum

**6<sup>th</sup> District** - As part of IHQ Father's Day Celebration, each district was asked to host a fatherhood forum. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> District hosted its forum and discussion led by Brother Bryant Smith. Brother Smith is a man with a vision and is an expert in identifying, cultivating, and maximizing human potential.

Brother Melvin Williams, 6<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Chairman, has worked with Brother Bryant Smith for several years and "has seen his work make good people great and great people memorable. "Brother Smith has been a diamond for the brothers in the sixth district by sharing his talents and making us all think and be the best man and father each time he comes before us," he said.

Brother Smith is author of a social commentary on race relations in the United States entitled, "**Black Not Blind**", a book about the power of human potential. He has written four books on male development including his newest release, "**Manhood**".

The sixth district forum took a different approach; to talk about Manhood from the standpoint of: **Who are**



L-R: Brothers Melvin Williams and Bryant Smith

**we now as black men and who were our forefathers as black men in world today and yesterday?** These discussions led us down roads of some brothers being angry at their fathers and society and some traveling down roads that praised their fathers for who they are as men in this mixed-up world today. Brother Smith showed up some video clips of black men who were: Angry, Absent, Afraid and Average. We discussed each one and had to identify which one we were and how that person would affect us as a man or father.

The district decided to further this discussion and host a forum every quarter going forward. The next one will be during the third quarter in the fall. ///



## **Omega Lamplighters “Bike Ride Fundraiser” Raise \$10,000 for Their New Building**

**TALLAHASSEE, FL (WTVX)** - Tallahassee men bonding through two wheels. That's what inspired the Omega Lamplighters to host its Father's Day Bike Ride. That bike ride totaled 10 miles. This is the second year the Lamplighters have celebrated the men in this community while uplifting the next generation.

The Lamplighters provide a safe place for young African American men to receive positive mentorship after school. Kids like James Tinmer said they're

excited to have opportunities like Father's Day bike rides through the Lamplighters organization.

"I think it's very important because having a good support system allows kids to have good examples from other people, and enjoy themselves as well with other kids and mentors," said Tinmer. During the bike ride fundraiser, Omega Lamplighters were able to raise \$10,000 for their new building. ///

By: Micah Cho



**See our websites: [www.omegafandm.org](http://www.omegafandm.org)  
LC Website: [www.i-ylc.org](http://www.i-ylc.org)**



## Helping Boys to Become Men

By Voleer Thomas, for The Guardian

**Pictured: Miles Sullivan, (Center) He is flanked from left by his grandmother Betty Wilborn, Sister Tyra Peterson, mother Tova Peterson and stepfather Curtis Peterson. (Photo Courtesy of Don Hayes)**

**Tallahassee, FL** – Miles Sullivan, 21, a former member of the Manhood Youth Development Foundation's Project Manhood 2015 program, graduated from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee in April with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business.

Sullivan, a Buchholz High School graduate who was in the finance program while a dual enrollment student at Santa Fe College, said his stepfather, Curtis Peterson, encouraged him to join Project Manhood. The other objectives taught in the foundation include conflict resolution through nonviolent measures, basic employment and life skills, financial planning and budgeting, goal setting, career planning, mental health and first aid training, leadership and team building. "It taught me how to carry myself," Sullivan said. "It taught me how to be a good role model, etiquette, leadership skills, life skills, integrity, confidence and character."

Sullivan said he enjoyed going on trips with the foundation that helped expand his mind. "Trips like traveling to NASA inspired me to be in a STEM field," Sullivan said. "Traveling to FAMU created the desire for me to go to college." Jackson said the program now also serves elementary school boys. Jackson said two former members of the program who were part of the inaugural year of the program are in college. They are Chad Jones, who is majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Central Florida in Orlando and Antione Turner, who attends Jacksonville University in Jacksonville. There are approximately 35 young men currently in the program and five are on schedule to graduate from high school this year.

The Manhood Youth Development Foundation was created in the spring of 2010 and during the Florida State Organization (FSO) of Omega Phi Psi Fraternity Inc, key stakeholders and several concerned



citizens who participated in the state workshop. During the workshop, members of the FSO, students, community leaders, educators, appointed and elected officials and parents held a session to brainstorm about ways of reducing the high school dropout rate of African American young men and breaking the pipeline to prison a lot of high school dropouts find themselves facing.

It was soon after the workshop that Project Manhood was launched in Alachua County as a mentoring program for boys in middle and high school. "The foundation was created as a pillar in the community as an organization to introduce and transform young men and their families to a brighter future," said Charlie Jackson, president of the foundation. "Most importantly, the program's primary goal is to teach the young to become productive citizens." ///

### Michael Jordan on advice from his father:

**"My father used to say that it's never too late to do anything you wanted to do. You never know what you can accomplish until you try."**

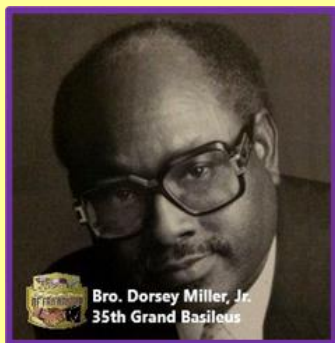


## 7th District Collaborates with International Committee to Support Father's Day Virtual Program & Celebration.

**S**eventh District, in collaboration with the International Father's Day Committee, is proud to have the opportunity to share the moment to celebrate Omega Father's across the great states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. The moment was blessed with received greetings from Bro. Reginald Harris - 24th Seventh District Representative and other members of the council.



Bro. Dorsey Miller, Jr. – 35<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus serves as the keynote speaker where he was introduced by his two sons, Bro. Eric Dorsey and Bro. Dorsey Miller III. Bro. Grand elated an attentive audience with his personal story of a young boy growing into Manhood and Fatherhood.



The Father's Day Virtual Celebration included a Heavenly Father's Day Salute to Bro. J.A. Chico Arenas and remembrance of our beloved brothers that have entered into Omega Chapter. In addition, Omega Brothers from around the district presented their personal virtual Father's Day wishes and greetings.

The 7<sup>th</sup> District stands front and center with our International Brotherhood in supporting Fatherhood initiatives and Youth Mentoring within the many local communities worldwide. Each of the (12) Districts were presented with the opportunity to celebrate their Omega Fathers leading up to the International Father's Day Celebration. Special thank you is extended to Bro. Robert Scott – 7<sup>th</sup> District IT Committee. The 7<sup>th</sup> District - Father's Day Virtual Program can be viewed again at leisure on the 7<sup>th</sup> District YouTube TV: <https://bit.ly/3wndeLh>.

# FATHER'S DAY

*Program & Celebration*

**ALABAMA . FLORIDA . GEORGIA . MISSISSIPPI**

**The Mighty 7th District - Father's Day**

**Virtual Celebration Open Public Program**

**Thursday - June 17th, 2021 / 8PM - 9PM**

**Opening:**  
 Opening Welcome Remarks: Bro. Jonathan Gaines - 7th District FIMC Chairman  
 Opening Prayer: Bro. Michael James - Chaplain, MS

**Greetings:**  
 Bro. Reginald Harris - 24th Seventh District Representative  
 Bro. Christopher Brooks - First Vice District Representative  
 Bro. Jimmie D. Starks - 2nd Vice District Representative  
 State FIMC Chairmen: AL, FL, GA & MS

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker:**  
 Introduction of Father Knows Best Speaker: Bro. Eric Miller & Bro. Dorsey Miller III  
 Father Knows Best Speaker: Bro. Dorsey Miller- 35th Grand Basileus  
 Recognition of Service Award Recipients & Father's Day Salutes - Bro. J. Gaines  
 Fatherhood Initiatives and Youth Mentoring: Bro. S. Earl Wilson - IFIMC Chairman  
 Heavenly Father's Day Salute: Soror Ascellia M. Arenas  
 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.  
 Zeta Rho Omega Chapter

**Closing Remarks:**  
 Bro. Jonathan Gaines - 7th District FIMC Chairman  
 Bro. Ricky Lewis - First Vice Grand Basileus  
 Closing Prayer: Bro. Lovejoy - Military Affairs, AL

<https://bit.ly/3wndeLh>  
<https://www.facebook.com/7thdques>

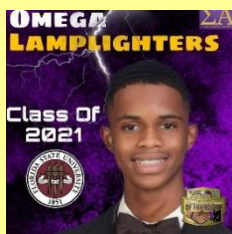


## 7<sup>th</sup> District - 2021 Youth Mentee High School Senior Graduates Salute

**Submitted in part by the following Chapters: Sigma Phi, Chi Omega, Upsilon Psi, Omicron Tau, Omicron Beta Beta, Sigma Alpha, Alpha Tau, Lambda Iota, Rho Alpha, Lambda Phi, Zeta Beta Beta and Upsilon Gamma Gamma.**

**The 7<sup>th</sup> District** - Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentoring Committee is honored to salute the Class of 2021- Youth Mentee Senior High School Graduates from across the great states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. On behalf of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council, we wish our graduates continued success of their selected university/college, military and profession of choice. In addition, we salute the 7<sup>th</sup>

District Family Village consisting of State/Local Chapter Youth Mentoring Chairmen, Omega Brothers, Parents and our many Community Partners for their committed service in mentoring our Youths to succeed in life. The 7<sup>th</sup> District continues to pray and provide guidance for their continued development as young men, and academic scholars entering into their freshman year of college in the Fall of 2021.



**Danny Felton**  
Sigma Alpha Chapter - FL  
Cambridge Student at AHSS  
College Selection:  
Florida State University



**Joshua Hightower**  
Sigma Alpha Chapter - FL  
William H. Turner  
Technical Arts HS  
College Selection: USF



**Kelvin Washington**  
Sigma Alpha Chapter - FL  
Miami Carol City Sr. High  
College Selection North  
Carolina A&T University



**Trenton Young**  
Sigma Alpha Chapter - FL  
Barbara Goleman Senior High  
College Selection: Florida A&M  
University



**Omari Bent**  
Sigma Alpha Chapter - FL  
Miami Northwestern Senior High  
College Selection: Florida State  
University



**Andrew L. Brown**  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
Park Crossing High School  
College Selection:  
Howard University



**Alfred Hill**  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
Carver High School  
College Selection:  
Trenholm Tech College



**Vincent Beckles**  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
Robert E. Lee High School  
College Selection:  
Alabama A&M University



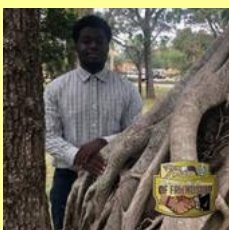
**Dontarious Cleveland**  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
Jeff Davis High School  
College Selection:  
Faulkner University



**Damien Taylor**  
Alpha Tau Chapter - AL  
Tuscaloosa County HS  
College Selection:  
Troy University



**Christian Thomas**  
Alpha Tau Chapter - AL  
Tuscaloosa County HS  
College Selection:  
Shelton State CC



**Emmery Green**  
Omicron Beta Beta  
Chapter - FL  
Dunbar High School  
Military Service: U.S.



**Moses Cooper III**  
Omicron Beta Beta Chapter - FL  
Dunbar High School  
College Selection:  
Rockford University



**Ashton Streeter**  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
LeFlore Magnet High School  
College Selection:  
Alabama A&M University



**Ricardo Jones**  
Lambda Iota Chapter- GA  
Shaw High School  
Military Service: U.S. Army





**Shawn Price**  
**Lambda Iota Chapter- GA**  
**Columbus High School**  
**College Selection:**  
**University of Georgia**



**Dillion Jack**  
**Lambda Iota Chapter- GA**  
**Columbus High School**  
**College Selection:**  
**Columbus State University**



**Marquis Sanabria**  
**Lambda Iota Chapter- GA**  
**Shaw High School**  
**College Selection:**  
**Missouri Valley College**



**Matthew Banks**  
**Lambda Iota Chapter- GA**  
**Columbus High School**  
**College Selection:**  
**Vanderbilt University**



**Amir Harper**  
**Lambda Iota Chapter- GA**  
**Shaw High School**  
**College Selection:**  
**University of Pikeville**



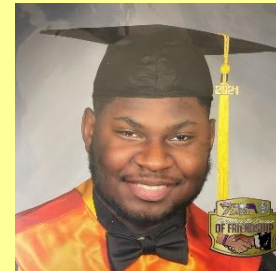
**Sa'Vioun Brown**  
**Lambda Phi Chapter - GA**  
**Central High School**  
**College Selection:**  
**Georgia Military College**



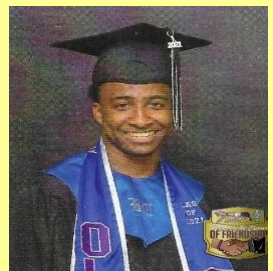
**Keionta Russell**  
**Lambda Phi Chapter - GA**  
**Jones County High School**  
**College Selection:**  
**Georgia Tech College**



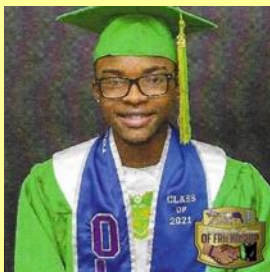
**Jaylon Maurice Clark**  
**Lambda Phi Chapter - GA**  
**Jones County High School**  
**Military Service:**  
**U.S. Army**



**Logan Marvin Daniels**  
**Omicron Tau Chapter - FL**  
**Lincoln Park Academy**  
**Military Service:**  
**U.S. Air Force**



**Daveion Tyrane Henry**  
**Upsilon Gamma Gamma Chapter - GA**  
**Burke County Com HS**  
**College Selection:**  
**Albany State University**



**LaFredrick Ahmad Gilchrist -**  
**Valedictorian**  
**Upsilon Gamma Gamma Chap - GA**  
**Thomas Walter Josey Com HS**  
**College Selection:**  
**Georgia Military College /**  
**Kennesaw State University**



**Cameron Cantrell**  
**Zeta Beta Beta Chapter - GA**  
**Gainesville High School**  
**College Selection:**  
**Kennesaw State University**



**Kameron Miller**  
**Lincoln High School**  
**Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi Chapter - FL**  
**College Selection:**  
**Florida A&M University**



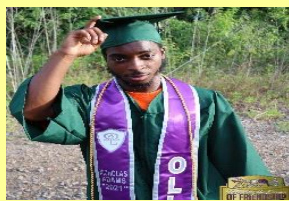
**Micaiah Lindsey**  
**Lincoln High School**  
**Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi Chapter - FL**  
**College Selection:**  
**Florida A&M University**



**James Tinner**  
**Rickards High School**  
**Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi Chapter - FL**  
**College Selection:**  
**Florida A&M University**



**Jaden Wilkins**  
**Lincoln High School**  
**Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi Chapter - FL**  
**College Selection:**  
**Florida A&M University**



**Nicholas Adams**  
**Lincoln High School**  
**Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi Chapter - FL**  
**College Selection:**  
**Florida A&M University**



**Trevon Fudge**  
**Florida State University School**  
**Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi Chapter - FL**  
**College Selection:**  
**Bethune Cookman University**



**Devin Williams**  
**Lincoln High School**  
**Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi Chapter - FL**  
**College Selection:**  
**Ave Maria University**



**Jordan White**  
**Gadsden High School**  
**Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi Chapter - FL**  
**College Selection:**  
**Florida A&M University**





**Daivon Colston**  
Rickards High School  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
College Selection:  
Lively College



**Jakehl Hayes**  
Sail High School  
Chi Omega / Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
College Selection:  
Tallahassee CC



**Terrance Bernard McPherson Jr**  
Rickards High School  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
College Selection:  
Livingstone College



**Jabien Dwayne Gordon**  
Sails High School  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
College Selection:  
Tallahassee CC



**Thomas Pendleton-Jett**  
Rickards High School  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
College Selection:  
Tallahassee CC



**Kai Farlin**  
Florida State University School  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
College Selection:  
Fort Valley State University



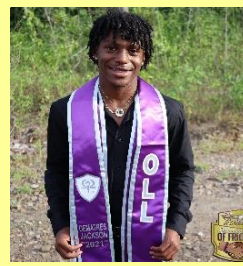
**Taylor Carter**  
FAMU DRS  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
Career Selection:  
Department of Corrections



**Dylan Cobbs**  
Rickards High School  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
Military Service:  
U.S. Air Force



**William Jackson Jr.**  
Leon High School  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
Military Service:  
U.S. Navy



**Dematres Jackson**  
Crossroads High School  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
College Selection:  
Tallahassee CC



**Jordan Guice**  
Rickards High School  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
College Selection:  
Virginia State University



**Brandon Lewis**  
Rickards High School  
Chi Omega/Upsilon Psi  
Chapter - FL  
College Selection:  
Tallahassee CC

## 8<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Joseph Collier, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

**Columbia, MO** – We as Omega Men know that community service is not achieved by simple good deeds, it takes individuals who are deeply vested and able to identify what our citizens need most. Joseph Collier has taken that initiative to a new high by leveraging high community ties and his dedication to executing Omega's mandated programs—the highlight being Assault On Illiteracy.

Free pizza and a book anyone? Beginning 2018 Bro. Joseph Collier tied the idea of community engagement with an educative platform to assist vulnerable communities in the Columbia, MO area in which he resides. The big idea?

Having members of the Fraternity read books to children to encourage literacy and mentorship, with free pizza! It became a great way to connect with the children in after school programs and underserved communities. Joe began working tirelessly to pull it off soon after the idea came to mind. One week later there were organizations donating children's books, programs more than willing to bring their students or for a night of oven-brick cooked pizza and a good book and **YourPie Pizzeria** opened their doors so 'Reading Nights' could have a home.



The idea of utilizing Assault On Illiteracy to house 'Reading Nights' was warmly received by Columbia. The first official night was of exponential turn out and support. Brothers of Eta Alpha, Eta Sigma and Epsilon Delta came out in full as did local organizations and **YourPie** staff. Over seventy-five children were given a personal pizza of their choice (free of charge) and read at least three books before the evening ended.

The 'Reading Nights' Spearheaded by Bro. Joseph Collier continued on twice monthly throughout 2019 in conjunction with the school year and always drew in a diverse crowd with continued support. Brother Collier hopes to begin again when the social scene returns to normal. To this day brothers of the local chapters are approached with glee and hi-fives from the children that participated in the programs. ///



## **Fatherhood Initiative and Alamo City Lamplighters Submission**

Written by: Bro. Archie “Ice” Peay Jr. and Derek Morton



**San Antonio, TX – Psi Alpha** – June 14, 2021 - The Psi Alpha Chapter Fatherhood Initiative Committee participated in 7 events during the months of April, May, and June 2021. These events included: the FI Committee disseminating its April “Fatherhood Facts #7” to Psi Alpha Chapter brothers and to the San Antonio community; attending **Cleft of the Rock Church Men’s Ministry** fellowship where Bro. Dr.

“Creating a Strong Legacy”. There were 14 fathers in attendance, to include 8 Omega men. Bro. Paul L. Booker gave an outstanding session on the “10 Ways to Be a Better Dad” and Mr. Greg Marshall (Program Manager, San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign) facilitated the session on “Beyond Support”.

Both sessions were an absolute success, as there was much discussion on the topics. The conference’s goal was to keep our dads in the game and bridge the gap of father absenteeism this world faces. Prayerfully this conference contributed to the enhancement of our dad’s knowledge base and **Creating Strong Legacies!**



Derrick Varner provided Fatherhood Initiative training to the fathers on Prostate Health – a humongous, critical, and worldwide topic for men today! Thirty (30) fathers attended including 5 Omega men. Dr. Varner covered many areas, i.e., prostate cancer statistics, early screening, Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) and Digital Rectal exams, family history, and regular medical checkups. The discussion was only scheduled for 25 minutes, but due to the participation and questions, the discussion extended to almost an hour!

On May 1, 2021, the Fatherhood Initiative (FI) Team held its’ Annual Alamo City Ques Fatherhood Initiative Conference, with the 2021 theme being

**Also in May, a young husband/father was in desperate need of an Air Conditioning (AC) Unit for his young family; the only AC unit in his household broke and the family did not have another option, nor funds to purchase another one. A call-to-action went out to the brothers. A Fatherhood Initiative (FI) Team member (Bro. Paul Booker) stepped up; he generously met the families need by purchasing not only an AC unit from his own funds-but also a house fan. Bro. Booker ensured the supplies were expeditiously delivered to the family and put the father at ease knowing his family was taken care of. Amen, Amen, Amen!**

On May 17, 2021, Brothers Archie “Ice” Peay Jr., and Anthony G. Peay (Chairman and Vice Chairman, Psi Alpha Chapter FI Committee) conducted a Zoom meeting to announce the Father of the Quarter winners for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of Omega Year 2021. On June 2, 2021, the FI Committee - led by Bro. Archie “Ice” Peay Jr., facilitated a discussion on the topic of “My



Brother's Keeper: Helping a Brother When They're Going Through It".

A total of 13 fathers attended and there was some healthy discussion on the topic, ranging from scripture references; things that brothers go through - such as relationship issues, parenting issues, financial issues; dealing with death in the family and other topics. The discussion concluded with a panel question and answer session.

On June 14, 2021, the FI Committee disseminated the June 2021 "Fatherhood Facts" (Fact #8) to the Psi Alpha Chapter brothers and to the San Antonio community. This month discussed the negative affect when fathers are not involved in a child's life -- **"Children living without their father in the home are 47% more likely to live in poverty". ///**

## Alamo City Lamplighters

**ALAMO CITY OMEGA LAMPLIGHTERS** and a host of Omega Men of Psi Alpha Chapter conducted its virtual Quarterly Spiritual UPLIFT mentor event on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The special guest was, Minister Vince Hardeman, also of Psi Alpha Chapter, who discussed the theme **"Do You Pray?"** from Luke 18:1.

The Minister communicated a message on Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication (ACTS) of prayer. Lamplighters were told that there are no rules to what position you must be in to pray. Instead, they should allow their Holy Spirit to guide their words when they pray. Most importantly, continue to read the Bible to understand their purpose.

On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Alamo City Omega Lamp Lighters and Omega Men from Psi Alpha Chapter participated in a virtual college fair specifically for them. The schools represented were the University of Texas-San Antonio (UTSA), Texas A&M San Antonio, Grambling University, San Antonio College, and Texas Southern University.

Ms. Monica Garcia, Executive Director for Counseling Services for Judson ISD facilitated the college's discussions with the students. She

discussed the benefits of selecting a college that best suits the needs and amenities that each Lamplighter desires.

The Lamplighters asked several questions such as admission requirements, campus life, and when to declare a major and co-curricular program. Lastly, they understood the consideration process, narrowing their college choice, and applying to college.

Psi Alpha and Alpha Delta Lambda (ADL) Chapters hosted a successful virtual Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Leadership Conference May 1, 2021, that included a Mother's Forum. Brother Derek Morton, Youth Conference Chairman, Bro. Reginald Smith Vice Chairman and Bro. Archie "Ice" Peay Jr. – Father Initiative Chairman, moderated the event.

Two Hundred and fifty participates registered for the conference from cities across Maryland to California! Distinguished speakers included the Immediate Past 9<sup>th</sup> District Representative Patrick Smith, **Bro. Jalen Hurts**, Alpha Tau Chapter and Quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Both speakers reinforced the importance of the Four Cardinal Principles and the themes of the

conference, "Quest for the Best" and "Creating a Strong Legacy."

The Mother's Forum, moderated by Brother Charlie Boyd, focused on questions mothers have about raising young men. Thirty-seven mothers registered for the event from nine cities across the nation. Conference participants took away



Alpha Tau Chapter,  
Quarterback, Philadelphia  
Eagles

valuable tools and perspectives to help enhance and improve their lives.

On May 15, 2021, Alamo City Omega Lamplighters were given a virtual education presentation on Financial Empowerment by Brother James "JG" Wideman. The presentation was designed to provide information that would be lasting and impactful on their individual development and lifetime financial well-being. ///



**~ BACC Scholarship Awarded to Alamo City Omega Lamplighter ~**



**Alamo City Omega Lamplighter Kylen Morton** was one of seven recipients to be awarded the Inaugural Blessed Angels Community Center (BACC) “Angel Scholarship Award”; \$500; making history as an elite member of San Antonio Area High Schools Graduates ~ Class of 2021.

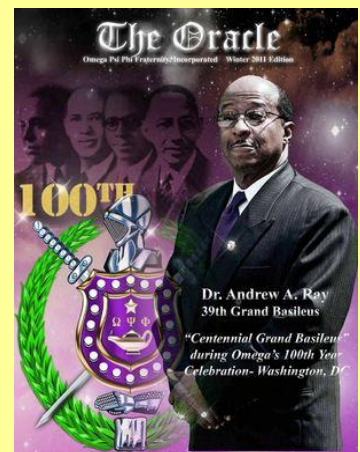
Kylen will be attending University of Houston in the fall and plans to major in Architecture Design. Mrs. Marion Thomas, CEO/Executive Director, BACC made the presentation during a Psi Alpha Chapter (PAC) Social Actions Community Service Project on Saturday, June 26, 2021, 9:30am at BACC, 14078 Nacogdoches Rd, San Antonio Texas 78247. Kylen; his father, Brother Derek Morton, Lt. Col., USA, Chairman, PAC/Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring; plus, PAC Vice Basileus John Lester and 15 Alamo City Ques participated in this community outreach project and witnessed this historical occasion. POC: Brother John Cooper, 210-602-7901 ///



**Our Salute to Brother Dr. Andrew Ray, 39<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus,  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.:**

During his tenure as Grand Basileus, he seeded the Fraternity's commitment to "Closing the Gap of Father Absence in the Lives of their Families" with a \$60,000 Grant from IHQ divided by the 12 Districts, i.e., \$5000 per District.

~ Thank you, Sir! ~



Vol. 8

Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Newsletter

NO. 1

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Ω Keep it on!



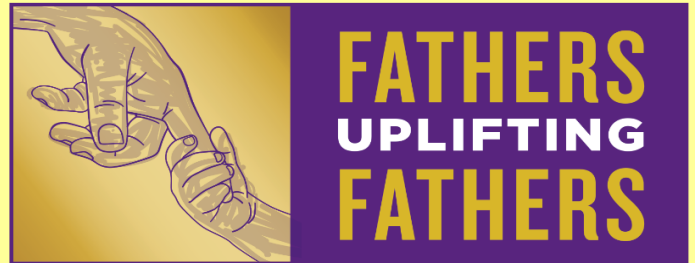
Ω Just a little ... Ω



bit longer!!!

## Celebration of Fathers

The Nu Chi Foundation hosted a Father's Day Webinar panel discussion with the men of Nu Chi Chapter celebrating fathers and the impacts of fathers in our lives. We used the venue to have an open and frank discussion amongst the brothers about the importance of fatherhood and the severe impacts of "Father Absenteeism". This discussion took place via Zoom on June 13th, at 7:30 PM.



President Barak Obama announced 2010 as the "Year of Action" to combat father absenteeism. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. formally implemented a "Call to Action" at its 2011 Grand Conclave to address this initiative. Through its twelve Districts consisting of thousands of college-educated professional men, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., aims to enhance-educate-engage particularly African American fathers as well as the general populous in closing the gap of father absenteeism in the lives of their children.

The Tenth District Representative Bro Derek "Deek" Ivory kicked off the evening by charging the men of Nu Chi to "step up and step forward, for our youth and become the fathers that our youth deserve." We were then given a powerful insight into the reality of the consequence of father absenteeism from Bro. Hon. Gregory Pittman, Presiding Judge of the 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, Family Division. The perspective from his courtroom underscored the challenges that are before us going forward.

**Brother Ameed Micko** served as the moderator for the panel discussion and was responsible for navigating uncomfortable, thought-provoking questions. The featured panel members are men of Nu Chi Chapter out of East St Louis, IL. The panel members consisted of **Bro. Thomas Hood**, who represented fathers from a spiritual perspective; **Bro. Ben Trotter** who represented the perspective of having his biological father involved in his life; **Bro Anthony Gater**, who represented the perspective of a new expecting father; **Bro Mark Wright** represented the perspective of a person who had a father figure in his life (not his biological father); and **Bro. Will Robinson** represented the perspective of not having a father involved in his life.

The discussion has been archived for use in future planning efforts and events. This was the inaugural event for the Nu Chi Foundation's Fatherhood Initiative. Our humble efforts were selected to represent the Tenth District to be highlighted and shared during the Father's

Day celebration by the International Father's Day Committee of Omega Psi Phi, Inc. Bro. Ameed Micko, Nu Chi Fatherhood Initiative Chairman, "Long Live Omega"!



## **A Reflection on Fatherhood**

**By Andrew “Herc” Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative**

**FATHERHOOD IS THE FOUNDATION on which families are built; it requires much sacrifice. While I believe motherhood requires the most sacrifice, fatherhood is essential to the order and sustainability in the model family.**

As the son of a Baptist Minister, I was fortunate to see a great example of fatherhood up close in my Father, Rev. Andrew Davis Sr. I can remember many times watching my father sacrifice his time and energy to ensure that our family was safe and secure.



Growing up in the small southwestern Michigan town of Benton Harbor, our family didn't have a lot of money but my father always made sure we had food and shelter. He instilled in us that Sunday was a day of rest, even though he typically preached a sermon that day that left him drained.

Nevertheless, there were times when things around the house would break, leak, or back up and my father would grab his tools without and fix the issue with no complaints. And, as a good father does, he would use this as a teaching moment with me and my Brothers so that as we became men, we would be able to do the same for our families. I am grateful for those moments, even though I didn't like it at the time.

Today, as the father of three girls, I can truly appreciate the sacrifices my father made for me and my siblings. I'm sure his examples fueled my desire to be a mentor to young men above and beyond my duties at home. I believe Fatherhood *gives me purpose*; it gives me a vehicle in which to share the values and principles my Father gave to me. My Father passed away 7 years ago but he continues to live and be a lasting influence in the lives of many through the lessons he taught me while he was alive. ///

**“We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice.” – Brother Dr. Carter G. Woodson**



## THE PRIVILEGE OF PARENTHOOD

by Ethan L. Robinson, Sr., JD, Esq.



**PRIVILEGE** IS DEFINED AS A SPECIAL RIGHT, ADVANTAGE, OR IMMUNITY GRANTED OR AVAILABLE ONLY TO A PARTICULAR PERSON OR GROUP. It is derived from the Latin *privilegium*, meaning a law for just one person, a benefit enjoyed by an individual or group beyond what is available to others.

**I**n my humble opinion, I view parenthood as a privilege because I recognize, accept and embrace the benefits enjoyed being in the August Body known as PARENT. I received an excellent undergraduate education at University of California, Berkeley where I joined an amazing organization Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and played college basketball in the Pac-10. I have a Juris Doctor and I am a member in good standing in the California Bar.

I have been called Son, Brother, Friend, Teammate, Basileus, Chairperson, President,

Coach, Professor, Chaplain, even Doctor...But my most Honored Title is simply “DAD.”

Résumés are merely paper, but the lives you shape and the lives they influence are eternal. I was very deliberate in having all of my children in wedlock and not becoming someone’s “Baby-Daddy”. No judgment... but that was because I never could or would take the privilege of parenthood so cavalierly as to allow it to be an afterthought or a part-time thing.

I am a Proud 24-7, 365 day a year Dad! I wanted to ensure my children and wife had that type of “Peace of Mind” growing-up. I was never one you had to wonder, “Will Dad be home tonight?” Instead, I was the one that my children knew, “Dad will be here to help with our homework, cook some dinner and play with us as soon as he hits the doorway... No matter how tired or stressed he is when he gets home.”

PARENTHOOD is a privilege because like “Friendship” parenthood comes with a price, obligations, and a duty from one person to another. Our degrees, our property, our titles, our published works, our career successes are something that we leave behind ... But nothing you leave behind will have greater impact, import or leave a larger impression than your children.

Whether you have a perfect relationship with your children as they mature into adults or an estranged one, if you valued that season as an opportunity, a sacred privilege and not a right, you left an imprint on humanity that will touch more lives than anything else you accomplish. Our children are our true LEGACY to mankind. Amen ///



## 12<sup>th</sup> District Achievement Week Award Winners:

### Results of Effective Parenting

*“Research is replete with validations of the advantage a child has when there is a parent figure in the home providing guidance, direction, consistency; helping them to feel safe, secure and confident - providing a moral compass for them to measure their steps in life. And when the child's environment is conducive to learning and appreciating the arts and sciences in the broadest sense by which they choose to make their livelihood, the child will flourish; their achievement is predictable and wonderful; and, displayable to the world. Such is the case with this year's Talent Hunt, Scholarship and Achievement Week Award Winners in the 12<sup>th</sup> District. Perhaps, this is what the late Brother Grand Basileus Jasper A. “Jack” Atkins, knew and understood, when his embrace and influence on the growth and impact of the fraternity in communities was enormous, as evidenced by the popularity and growth of the Talent Hunt Initiative. Who knew!” gdt*

THE 2019-2020 12TH DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT WEEK AWARDS were announced in May during our 76th 12th District Meeting hosted virtually by Phi Iota Chapter in Phoenix AZ. This year's winners were all very deserving of their awards.

### Talent Hunt Winners:

- 12<sup>th</sup> District 1<sup>st</sup> Place Talent Hunt Winner, Miss Jordyn Diew, Oakland, California.

Miss Diew is a student at Oakland School of Arts and competed in the Semi-Classical Vocal Solo category, performing “When I Was Your Man” by composer Bruno Mars. Miss Diew has performed in various venues, including Oakland's Fox Theatre, the Apollo Theater in New York City, and performed the National Anthem at the San Francisco Giants Stadium. Miss Diew's host chapter is Epsilon Xi of Sacramento, CA. Miss Diew was awarded \$300.00 from the Epsilon Xi Chapter, \$1000.00 from the 12<sup>th</sup> District, and received \$1500.00 from the International Talent Hunt Committee.



Brother JD McDowell, II  
12<sup>th</sup> District Talent Hunt Chairman  
<https://youtu.be/xMQjEgO79XY>

Runners up were,

(L) Miss Jordan Daniels representing Phi Omicron Chapter, and (R) Miss Sanaa Gray representing Tau Tau Chapter.



### ~ Scholarship ~

- 12<sup>th</sup> District International High School Essay Contest winner Miss Naja Ji Jaga, representing Lambda Omicron Chapter. Miss Ji Jaga will be receiving a \$1500 scholarship from the district as she pursues her education.
- 12<sup>th</sup> District 2021 Scholarship Award winners: Undergraduate Isaiah Crosby, Undergraduate Eugene Pettiford, III, and Undergraduate Elston Lewis. Congratulations to Graduate Kweisi Samuel, Graduate Errol Francis, II, and Graduate Keir Abrams, Jr.

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Ω Keep it on!



Ω Just a little ... Ω



bit longer!!!

## Achievement Week Awardees

- **12<sup>th</sup> District Citizen of the Year Award winner** was Ms. Rhoshawndra Carnes representing Phi Iota Chapter. Ms. Carnes is an outstanding pillar of the community in Phoenix, and also happens to be the Far West Region Delta of the Year for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- **12<sup>th</sup> District Colonel Charles Young Military Leadership Award** winner Brother Antwan Bowman of Delta Alpha Alpha Chapter in Tucson, AZ. This is Brother Bowman's 2nd consecutive year winning the award.
- **12th District and the International E.E. Just Undergraduate Advisor of the Year** repeat winner was Brother Louis Cortez Jr from Lambda Omicron Chapter. After winning the awards last year, Brother Cortez followed it up by winning this year's 12th District Superior Service Award.
- **12<sup>th</sup> District Founders' Lifetime Achievement Award** winner Brother Dr. William Smith from Iota Iota Chapter in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- **12<sup>th</sup> District Undergraduate Omega Man of the Year** was Brother Jervaughn Hunter from Phi Omicron Chapter.
- **12<sup>th</sup> District Graduate Omega Man of the Year** was Brother Ed Young from Tau Tau Chapter. Brother Young is another repeat winner as he also won this same award a few years back.
- **12<sup>th</sup> District Chapters of the Year Award Winners:**
  - ❖ Undergraduate Chapter of the Year Award winner was Phi Lambda Chapter. Phi Lambda's Undergraduate Chapter encompasses 5 campuses including Cal State Fullerton, University of La Verne, Chapman University, University of California Irvine and Cal Poly Pomona.
  - ❖ Small Graduate Chapter of the Year Award went to Gamma Alpha Alpha from Anchorage, Alaska.
  - ❖ Large Chapter of the Year Award went to Zeta Rho Chapter out of Los Angeles, CA. Each of the aforementioned winners have now been entered into the international competition.

## The Jeremy Jupiter Story: Mentoring Matters!



L to R: Brother Ronnie Walker, Retired Detective 3, LAPD, **Jeremy Jupiter, Police Officer 1**, Brother Rodney Jones, Retired Detective 2, LAPD with Deputy Chief Hamilton, LAPD

**Compton, CA** - Jeremy Jupiter and his brother were raised by a single mother, who at the time was living with a relative in a trailer park in Carson CA. Jeremy's mom heard about the Omega mentoring program from another parent and called Brother Ronnie Walker, the Chairman of the Omega Educational Mentoring Program out of Tau Tau Chapter.



Jeremy's mother brought him to one of the Omega Educational Mentorship programs in 2006. Brother Ronnie Walker became his mentor. Jeremy attended the majority of the mentoring sessions on Saturdays. He graduated from high school and attended a junior college, and later was accepted at an HBCU, Miles College, in Fairfield, AL. Jeremy later graduated and received his B.S.

After graduation Jeremy informed Brother Walker that he intended to join the Los Angeles Police Department. Brother Walker is himself a 35 - year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department who retired in 2017. Brother Walker prides himself in helping young Black males apply and get through the testing process of the police department. When asked about his ability to interest young black men in police work, Brother Walker said, "I don't know of anyone

who has recruited as many police officers as I." With the help of his partner, Brother Rodney Jones, also LAPD retired and a few other retired Omega's and an Alpha who currently works recruitment for LAPD, these Black men help Black males get into law enforcement.

Jeremy never lost contact with Brother Walker; he continues to seek advice on his career path. Jeremy graduated from the number 1 police department in the country, *The Los Angeles Police Department*, on Friday June 11, 2021. Bro Walker's other mentee, Jermain Coleman, is an Omega man who is a graduate of Morehouse College, and currently a police officer with Atlanta PD. Bro. Paul Scott is currently in the police academy with Miami Police Department. Bro Walker has another Black man who will be starting the July academy for LAPD. The work never Stops! ///

## Zeta Tau Chapter Awards Five Scholarships @ \$1000 Each: Pasadena Public High School Students by Brother Ken Hitts

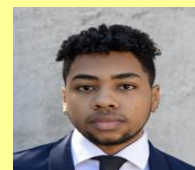


**PASADENA, CA.**--Pasadena's Zeta Tau Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. awarded scholarships to five graduating seniors from Pasadena public high schools. This is the sixth year the fraternity selected students to receive the Eugene L. Quishenberry

Scholarship. Applicants were chosen for their scholarship, service to their high schools, and the greater Pasadena community. The recipients named below, were honored Saturday, May 22, from 9 to 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.



**Tae Brooks–John Muir High School**, 3.29 GPA, Class rank 55<sup>th</sup>, Principal and Counselor honor roll winner, four-year soccer player and MVP winner, math tutor, Rose Program volunteer, currently employed at Glendale Pediatrics, club and recreational soccer MVP, planned college major – mechanical engineering; career aspiration – mechanical engineer.



**Tae Brooks  
John Muir HS**



**Cole Brown  
Marshall Fundamental**

**Cole Brown–Marshall Fundamental Secondary School**, 3.0 GPA, Class rank 129<sup>th</sup>, four-year musician with Marshall Fundamental's Advanced Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble, LA Phil Nancy & Barry Sanders Composer Fellowship Program, UCLA's Vice Provost's Initiative for Pre-College Scholars Program Founder of VIP Woke Club, member of Black Student Union and Film Club, 2019 Bright Futures Scholar, Pasadena Unified School District's (PUSD) All-City Orchestra, planned college major -music composition and/or music production, career aspiration -music composer and producer for music artists and films.

**Noah Griffin–John Muir High School**, 4.0 GPA, Class Rank 5<sup>th</sup>, Three-year varsity football player, three-year winner of Academic/Athlete and Leadership Award, currently being recruited by several D-1 universities, currently interning with the City of Pasadena and City of Hope, planned college major –finance, career aspiration -investment banking or hedge fund manager with a goal toward entrepreneurship.



**Noah Griffin  
John Muir HS**



**Mason Len Usher  
John Muir HS**

**Mason Len Usher–John Muir High School**, 4.0 GPA, Class Rank 1<sup>st</sup>, active member of the Engineering & Environmental Science Academy, Completed 8 advanced placement courses along with 8 courses at Pasadena City College, leader of the Solar Engineering Club, former intern participant with D. Reed Medical Management, Chevron Design Challenge, and Architecture and Construction Engineering Companies, Captain and four-year swim and water polo team member, planned college major –biochemistry, career aspiration –medical doctor.

**Dylan Wilson–John Muir High School**, 3.3 GPA, Class rank 41<sup>st</sup>, four-year graduate of Muir Business Academy, four-year participant in Puente college prep program, four-year participant in Mentoring and Partnership for Youth Development, Vice President and Current President of Altadena United Methodist Church Youth Group, Principals and Counselors Honor Roll winner, interned at Pasadena Credit Union, planned college major –business administration/entrepreneurship, career aspiration – owner of exotic car dealership.



**Dylan Wilson  
John Muir HS**

To be eligible for the scholarships students must be Black male high school seniors enrolled in Pasadena with at least a 3.0 gpa. They must plan to attend an accredited university, submit a 300-word essay, high school transcripts, and three letters of recommendation. The Zeta Tau Chapter was chartered in 1957. Other yearly programs of the fraternity and include the **Harold G. Reese Father's Day Walk**, the San Gabriel Valley/Inland Empire Youth Leadership Conference held at the University of LaVerne, holiday clothing drive for Union Station Homeless services, and the 'Friends In Deed' food bank drive.

A parent, reacted with profound exultation to her son's achievement and to his embrace by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Zeta Tau Chapter: *"I am so grateful that my son was provided with the opportunity to connect with other high performing African American young men in Pasadena through the Omega Psi Phi Scholarship Award. I think it is great that all five of the awardees can remind themselves throughout the upcoming years that they have a brotherhood of African*

*American men to which they are accountable. The presence of their Omega Psi Phi mentors may inspire them to continue to win in all areas of their lives."* Victoria Brown, parent.

The awards program was moderated by Brother Larry Quishenberry, Zeta Tau Basileus, who gave a history of the sixth-year the Chapter has awarded this scholarship named in honor of his father the late Brother Eugene L. Quishenberry, a towering figure in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity as well as a pillar of the Pasadena community.

Other program participants were Brothers Ed. B. Massey and Ken Hitts, who introduced the recipients. Brother Malik K. Murry, opened the celebration with a prayer and gave the young men a special charge plus a copy of his recently released book entitled **"Unlocking Your Gifts & Finding Purpose In Life."** View his interview and book review at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDpmaAbUMBg>. Bro. Dr. George D. Taylor, Chapter KRS and Editor, ended the program referencing, *A Father's Prayer*, written by General Douglas MacArthur. ///



**13<sup>th</sup> International District Host Virtual Fatherhood Panel:  
“Fatherhood: A Necessary Imperative”**

By Bro. Michael Robinson

**T**he 13<sup>th</sup> International District held a Virtual Fatherhood Panel on Saturday, June 5, 2021. Theme: “Fatherhood: A Necessary Imperative”. Over thirty Brothers, guest and dads from various communities around the globe joined the event via Zoom.

Brother Trevor Hodge, 13<sup>th</sup> District Representative provided opening remarks and later our 41<sup>st</sup> Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus Ricky Lewis provided comments about the importance of fatherhood and the positive impact we are making internationally.

Moderators, Bros. Michael Robinson and Darryle Albert introduced the following Brothers and special guest that provided 10-min presentations: Dr. Delton Fernander – Religious/Moral Perspective; Cortez Pree – Social/Family Perspective; Justice Philip Sutherland – Judicial/Legal Perspective; Carl Bmpoe – Academic/Educational Perspective. A highlight of the Virtual Fatherhood Panel was hearing a young first-time dad of a baby girl saying thank you to the brothers for hosting this event.

Our guest, Dr. Adrienne Leca, offered her assistance to help educate, inspire, and motivate our youth and dads. Dr. Leca is a licensed clinical psychologist, health and wellness coach, consultant, world traveler. She is the co-founder and CEO of The Leca Group, LLC a private practice in Washington, DC, providing psychological services and consultation. She has over 20 years of experience working with school systems, faith-based organizations, corporations, and military installation in the US and internationally.



Brother Trevor Hodge, 13th District Representative

Dr. Leca is author of the upcoming book, Not By Chance, By God: God’s Divine Connections, and former co-host of the inspiring radio show Not By Chance, By God on the WBGR Radio Network. She currently co-hosts the WDRB and iHeart radio show, A Mental Health Mixtape: Fresh Rhymes, Sound Bites and Movie Clips, and its similarly titled podcast currently on iTunes. This entertaining show provides new insights and explores mental health through the mediums of movies and music.



Dr. Adrienne Leca  
CEO, The Leca Group

Following the formal program and a question-and-answer session, Brothers and fathers shared positive and memorable experiences related to fatherhood. ///



# Meal Preparation and Distribution for the Less Fortunate

By Bro. Christopher Butler



Photo 1- Brothers Douglass Wilson, Josiah Graham, and Randy Brown; Photo 2- Brothers Randy Brown and Josiah Graham  
Photo 3- Brothers Josiah Graham, and Randy Brown

**Honolulu, Hawaii** - Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta (LBB) Chapter, continue to capitalize on a thriving relationship with the local community. Brothers assisted Honolulu's Institute for Human Services (IHS), with preparation and serving 250+ warm meals to Honolulu's homeless and at-risk individuals.

The IHS kitchen is the hub for IHS services. Located near the heart of downtown Waikiki, the shelter serves the largest concentration of Hawaii's 15,000 homeless. The kitchen receives routine volunteers; however, the breakfast service has the least amount of persistent volunteer support. The kitchen's director attributes the absence to early morning routines. Nevertheless, the brothers volunteer with enthusiasm while supporting the breakfast service.

The IHS kitchen serves three sustenance meals daily. Unfortunately, the limited staff is routinely taxed by the labor-intensive meal preparation, coupled with large service requirements, often fall-behind on general human service functions. However, the brothers on-time assistance and meal distribution created pivot options for IHS staff to complete their human service functions.

**COVID-19** continues to limit participation in large-scale events. Notwithstanding pandemic restrictions, Brothers leveraged **COVID-19** mitigating practices along with an appeal to provide service to drive their efforts. The Brothers of LBB remain committed to uplift those in need through acts of noble service. ///

## 13<sup>th</sup> Internal District Promotes Month of the Military Child

By Bro. Michael Robinson

**Mainland, Japan** - April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome. This year's theme is "Military Children and Youth: A Resilient Force in a Changing World."

The Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger

who established the Defense Department commemoration in 1986. Military children make up a very special part of our nation's population. Although young, these brave sons and daughters stand in steadfast support of their military parents through moves and deployments. To honor their unique contributions and sacrifices on behalf of our country, each April is designated the Month of the Military Child.

<https://www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/Military-Child-Month.cfm> ///



# Lambda Beta Beta 16th Annual Talent Hunt

By Brother Britton T. London, Sr.



**Honolulu, Hawaii** - COVID-19 cannot stop young performers' passion. Despite the unfortunate circumstances of the world dealing with an epidemic, the brothers of Lambda Beta Beta continue to encourage Hawaii's youth to make strides in the performing arts.

There is no replacing the feeling of a live show. Unfortunately, health and safety dictate another year of virtual performances. The annual talent contest occurs at the Honolulu Mayor's Mission Memorial Auditorium, dedicated to promoting the performing arts. Partnering with the Hawaii Food Bank, the Chapter simultaneously hosts a food drive in which contestants have the opportunity to win a prize for enlisting friends and family to bring food donations to drop off at the show. The need for safety prevented this popular event.

It is said in the showbiz world that the show must go on - and go on it did! This year students were encouraged to make videos of their performance and use their imagination for their submissions. The popularity of social media platforms like Instagram and

Tik Tok are noticeable influences on video submissions. Videos are another way for the contestants to express their talents and personal touch.

The top two contestants are Jordan Abreu and Maya Zoey. Maya graced the airways with her rendition of Adele's "Million Years Ago." Jordan is the first to win the contest with a dance routine. He is a 15-year-old ninth grader from Waipahu High School and has been dancing since the age of five. He envisions to dance and choreograph routines for performers like Chris Brown, Justin Timberlake, and Bruno Mars, Hawaii's hometown hero who he modeled his performance after.

The Chapter is proud of Jordan, Maya, and all of the contestants. Everyone is looking forward to 2022 in hopes of a return to live performances. Maya is graduating this year and perform again. She plans to apply for the LBB scholarship and tell all of her friends in school about the contest for next year. Jordan plans to tear the stage up next year in front of a live audience.

///

## Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter Promotes Purple Up Day at Local Schools

By Bro. Michael Robinson

**Mainland, Japan** - The Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter visited Nile C. Kinnick High School, Yokosuka Middle School, and Yokota High School to promote Purple Up Day 2021 for Military Kids. This annual event held during the month of April is recognized by various members and organizations around the world by wearing purple to show support

and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices.

The color of purple represents the combined colors of all branches of the military-Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Navy blue. One of the primary objectives of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter is to support our youth and inspire them to reach their scholastic goals and aspirations. ///

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# Lambda Beta Beta Chapter Host Project Aspiration Mentorship Video Conference “My First Car”

By Bro. Christopher Butler



**Honolulu, Hawaii** - Lambda Beta Beta Chapter hosted its monthly virtual mentorship sessions with ten mentees via Zoom. The forum focused on opportunities for young men to show their parents how responsible they can be when it comes to vehicle upkeep and maintenance.

The forum focused around the fact that almost every household has access to at least one vehicle, but the chances are the parents take care of the maintenance. The Brothers provided options and showed the mentees they should begin maintaining their parent's car now. By doing so they demonstrate their ability to be trusted with increased responsibility and the ability to conduct their own car maintenance in the future. Brothers covered items such as keeping their parents' windows clean; as a dirty windshield is a safety hazard and obscures the view of the road. Brothers showed and discussed the importance of checking the tire pressure and showed them where to find the applicable tire pressure matrix inside the driver's side door panel.

Brothers explained that accurate vehicle tire pressure produces longer tread life with increased fuel efficiency. Lastly, Brothers showed mentee's the importance of checking oil levels and topping off fluids as needed which is essential to a car's performance. Mentee's quickly realized vehicle fluids maintain vital

importance - lubricate all functional engine parts against viscosity and thermal breakdown. The session was very interactive with feedback from the mentees, and it was apparent that our young men look forward to assisting their parents around the garage, carport, or driveway. Lastly, Brother's made it abundantly clear that the mentees should never conduct vehicle maintenance without permission and guidance from their parents.

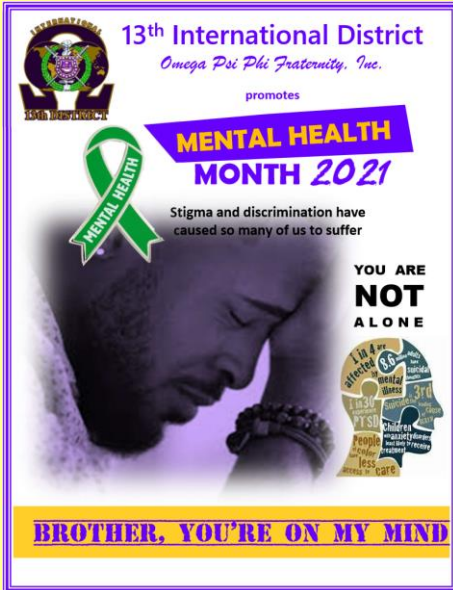
Brothers moved the forum from the garage to a PowerPoint presentation contrasting the advantages and disadvantages of new and used car purchases. Brothers discussed that ownership has increased responsibility both personally and financially and advised never sign a contract for a vehicle without parental guidance. Brothers clarified many pros and cons of vehicle possession and emphasized that buying your first car (new or used) will be an exciting life experience, but it's a major decision, very important, and should be taken seriously.

The mentees were extremely grateful for the real-time car care tutorial from the brothers, with knowledge that parents play a vital role in making major life decisions. ///



## 13<sup>TH</sup> D Promotes Mental Health Awareness Month/Brother You're On My Mind

By Bro. Michael Robinson



During the month of May, Brothers of the 13th International District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. promoted Mental Health Awareness. 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 72 years of promoting “Mental Health Awareness Month”. The theme “highlighting You Are Not Alone” - Now more than every, we need to find ways to stay connected with our community. No one should feel alone or without the information, support and help they need.

The Brothers of the 13th International District have placed Mental Health Awareness as one of 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.

Among other Mental Health Initiatives promoted by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the National Institute on Minority Disparities is “Brother You Are On My Mind”. The main objective is to help start conversations about mental health in African American men. ///

## Local School Teachers Receives Awards During Teacher Appreciation Week Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter

By Bro. Michael Robinson



Photo 1 – Principal of Shirley Lanham Elementary School – Mr. Jesus Calderon with Teacher Appreciation Week Recipient – Mr. Nathaniel Rogers, and Commander Mike Smith, Dental Officer at U.S. Naval Medical Readiness Training Unit, Atsugi, Japan. Photo 2 – Yokosuka Middle School Teacher Appreciation Week Recipient – Ms. Daneshia Payne with Bro. Michael Robinson, Bro. Randy Pringle, and Bro. George Garrison. Photo 3 – Mendel Elementary School Teacher Appreciation Week Recipient – Ms. Kitara Jordan with Bro. Scottie Jarrett, Mendel Elementary School Principal Dr. Justin Treisch, Bro. Paul Jordan, and Bro. Lymas Johnson. Photo 4 – John O. Arnn Elementary School Teacher Appreciation Week Recipient – Ms. Athea Carter and Staff Sergeant Eric Blue, Noncommissioned Officer in charge of Pathology at Camp Zama Army Base.



**Mainland, Japan** - In 1985, the National Parent Teacher Association established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May. In support of that declaration, brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter, in Mainland, Japan presented a certificate of appreciation and \$50 check to the following teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. This is Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter's second year, in carrying out the mission of its Samurai Fatherhood & Mentoring

Program – “provide uplift and support to educators and youth in the local community”. As teachers prepare to close out the current school year, the brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter were glad to provide a small token of appreciation to the four outstanding educators who go over and beyond in meeting the educational needs of our youth each day. ///

## Sigma Gamma Gamma Mentors International Students

Submitted by Brother Cortez Pree

**Okinawa, Japan** - Sigma Gamma Gamma conducts various mentoring sessions with the local youth in Okinawa. On April 30, 2021, Basileus Brother Cortez Pree conducted a tie tying class to local Japanese and America students at Zion Christian Academy International School. Each student was provided detailed instruction on how to tie full and half Windsor Knots. The High School Males are required to wear a tie with their daily uniform and it is optional for middle school students. Brother Pree was assisted by the male faculty at ZION. Sigma Gamma Gamma will provide quarterly mentoring session to the students at ZION in order to promote good stewardship of being a good ambassador for the United States.



*“Brother Cortez Pree assist Zach Bingham with instructions on how to tie a tie.”*

## Sigma Gamma Gamma donates food, toys and clothes

Submitted by Brother Toneo Gulley

**Okinawa, Japan** - Sigma Gamma Gamma conducted several internal clothing, food, and toy drives within the Chapter to support a local thrift store. Help Hands is a local thrift store that the brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma helped established as they continue to support the needs of the community. The Chapter provided over 200 toys, 500 items of clothing, and 5 boxes of food to assist Help Hands in Okinawa, Japan on April 17, 2021. Brother Daniel Celiant served as the chairman and coordinator for the event. Brother Celiant state that the owner (Miki Shanahiro) was pleased with the support from the Chapter. Basileus Brother Cortez Pree stated that Sigma Gamma Gamma will continue to provide uplift to the local and international community.



*Basileus Cortez Pree and Bro Daniel Celiant provide donations to Help Hands In Okinawa, Japan*



## Sigma Gamma Gamma provides assistance to International High School Seniors

Submitted by Brother Reoderic Singleton

**Okinawa, Japan** - Sigma Gamma Gamma partnered with a local Food Bank, Help Oki, to assist local High School Seniors in need on March 24, 2021 in Okinawa. Help Oki is a non-profit organization that assist local Japanese residents in the time of need. Sigma Gamma Gamma continuously provides assistance to Help Oki to uplift the local Okinawa Community.

Brother Dan Celiant served as the chairman and coordinator for the event. The Chapter assisted two local seniors from the Airen Group Home that is located in the city of Naha. Once a student reaches the age of 18, they must be released from the group home as these students will be attending college in Tokyo in the fall. Brother Celiant stated these students were receptive of receiving the 32-inch TV's respectively. Sigma Gamma Gamma will continue to support the local community of Okinawa. ///



*Basileus Cortez Pree and Bro Daniel Celiant provide TVs to two Japanese seniors*

## Sigma Gamma Gamma, Cutting Edge Conditioning Program Observes Purple-Up Day

Submitted by Brother Toneo Gulley



**Brother Basileus Cortez Pree with CEC mentees prior to training**

**Okinawa, Japan** - Sigma Gamma Gamma observed the Month of the Military Child by participating in Purple Up Day on April 14, 2021. SGG Basileus Brother Cortez Pree serves as the creator and lead facilitator for the Cutting-Edge Conditioning (CEC) and Mentoring Program.

The Chapter has adopted the program that provides free conditioning and mentoring to male and female youth of all ages. All students are dependents of Active-Duty Military, retirees, and military contractors. Upon completion of the SGG

training program on April 14, the instructors conducted a guided discussion on the life of being a military child. Each athlete was able to share their experiences on the challenges of being a military dependent. The athletes provided some thought provoking comments that range from Permanent Change of Station moves, new friends, parent absence, and missing family members stateside. CEC is conducted every Tuesday and Thursday as tutoring is provided the last Thursday of the month. The students have increased their grade point with the assistance of the mentoring process. ///



Submitted by Brother Toneo Gulley

Sigma Gamma Gamma provided informational pamphlets on Sexual Assault and Prevention, Alcoholism, Mental Health, Healthy Living and Purple up Month for youth and adults. Brother Bryant stated all topics are relevant in today's society of educating our youth and adults on how to incorporate a healthy living into our lifestyle and how to obtain the resources for implementation. Kadena Airbase and Foster Behavioral Health section assisted the Chapter with providing the public with informational materials. ///

## Submitted by Brother Roderic Singleton

A photograph of four individuals standing in a hallway lined with stacks of cardboard boxes. From left to right: a man in a purple t-shirt with a skull and crossbones graphic, black shorts, and colorful sneakers; a woman in a white t-shirt, blue jeans, and a pink headband; a woman in a red t-shirt with Greek letters, blue jeans, and a pink face mask; and a man in a camouflage t-shirt, camouflage shorts, and a camouflage hat. All four are wearing face masks. The hallway has a grey carpet and white walls.

**bit longer!!!**

## Sigma Gamma Gamma acknowledge International Teachers

Submitted by Brother Cortez Pree

**Okinawa, Japan** - Sigma Gamma Gamma acknowledge teachers at New Life Academy International on May 28, 2021 in Okinawa, Japan. In honor of Teacher Appreciation Month, Sigma Gamma Gamma provided a heartwarming breakfast to the staff in honor of Teacher Appreciation Month. Basileus Brother Cortez Pree served as the Chairman and

coordinator for the event. The Chapter provided breakfast sandwiches, pancakes, peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, pop tarts, cereal, donuts, orange juice, and coffee. New Life has over 80 students from four different continents and 36 international teachers. Basileus Pree stated that the Chapter will continue to provide uplift to the international community. ///



*L: Basileus Cortez Pree presents certificate to New Life Principal Charles Epston and Secretary Megumi Epston; R: New Life Teachers*

# Friendship is Essential to the Soul!

