State Of The Fraternity

Remembering Brother Benjamin L. Hooks
1925-2010

2010 Undergraduate Summit

Relief Efforts For Haiti

Omega's Organizational Assessment

Interview with Brother Congressman Meek

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OMEGA’S FORMER GRAND BASILEI!

The Oracle
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The cover features, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr., 38th Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. In this, his final formal address to the Brotherhood, Grand Basileus, Brother Lee, Jr. addresses the “State of the Fraternity” in four indept articles that address: Core Values Of The Fraternity, Fraternity Infrastructure, Fraternity Morality and The Importance of Strategic Planning-Where Do We Go From Here.

By mandate of the Birmingham, AL Conclave, Brother Lee, Jr. has provided a completed Fraternal Organizational Assessment. This Assessment of the Fraternity was researched and completed by the Center for Nonprofit Management based in Dallas, TX. Process and Methodology included: Assembly and review of Organizational documents, Extensive interviews with Board Members and key staff, Confidential on line surveys with Board Members and key staff, Development of a written report of findings and recommendations with discussion of Best Practices and Presentation of the final report.
Greetings Brothers!

All around us are examples of what people are against or what they dislike. I have taken a different approach and asked our Guest Editor and former editor of Omega’s Clarion Call, Brother Troy Moore, to focus on what Omega is FOR.

Since the inception of my tenure, I have steadfastly promoted the Omega our Founders envisioned. The pages of this Oracle highlight the projects and initiatives we have undertaken to strengthen and focus our beloved Fraternity. As the ensuing pages proclaim, we are becoming a Service Organization.

Throughout these pages, we have strive to share what real Omega Men are doing. Now, more than ever, we are showing our love for our communities and passion for our mandated programs. I am particularly pleased and grateful for the way Omega responded to the Earthquake in Haiti. We have given of our time, talent and treasure for one of the worst catastrophes in the history of humankind.

Now, we need visionary leadership grounded in Brotherly affection. Over the next few months, you will have an opportunity truly to reflect on who we are as Omega men and where YOU want us to go as an organization. We must decide whether we are willing to settle for small accomplishments or ready to stretch for a large impact nationally and internationally.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Omega as your Grand Basileus! Long Live Omega Psi Phi Fraternity!

Fraternally,

Warren G. Lee, Jr.
38th Grand Basileus
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
From The Desk Of The Managing Editor:
Brother Troy Moore

The Oracle Editorial Board Policies

The Oracle is one of three official publications of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Like its predecessor, this publication is charged with providing a quality magazine which is representative of the high standards of the organization and contains substantive and informative materials for its readers.

Editorial Board Policies and Procedures

All chapter articles must be submitted directly to the District Director of Public Relations before the deadline dates. This will allow for editing by the District Director of Public Relations prior to submission to the International Editor. All articles will be submitted by the DDPR's by email only to editortheoracle@oppf.org. A maximum of three articles per chapter will be allowed per publication / edition.

All articles must be reviewed for grammatical perfection, correct spelling, and proper tense and syntax. They must also be reviewed for acceptable composition and form, relevance and journalistic style. The articles should address who, what, when, where, and how. They should not exceed one page and they should be single spaced only. Photos should have captions which will properly identify the persons and the event or they will not be used.

The Oracle Editorial Board reserves the right to reject any article or to make any editorial changes deemed appropriate.

Oracle Delivery

In order to insure that a copy of The Oracle is received, Brothers must have a deliverable address. The “My Page” section of the Fraternity’s official website will allow an instant update of your address. Go online to www.oppf.org to make any needed changes. Brothers should also check with their local post offices to verify if there are any pending address forwarding requests, mail holding requests or address change requests on file.

Brother Troy Moore
Managing Editor of The Oracle
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
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Omega Partners

The Friendship Foundation:
The Friendship Foundation Inc. (FFI) professionally manages Omega World Center. The staff of property management professionals has been recognized for its outstanding customer service. The facilities are available for Awards Ceremonies, Business Meetings, Classes, Seminars & Forums and Weddings & Receptions.

Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc.:
The Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc. was established in 1984. It was chartered to aid organizations involved in charitable, educational, scholastic and scientific pursuits. It has supported a number of Uplift and Scholastic projects and initiatives started and endorsed by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Omega Charities, Inc.:
Omega Charities, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides educational and youth training for young men and community services for the needy throughout the United States.

Omega Development Corporation:
The preferred usage of the Omega Development Corporation is to be Omega’s primary non-profit entity that partners with other various organizations for the purposes providing good will to humanity.

Omega Federal Credit Union:
With the potential to have more than 100,000 members, Omega Federal Credit Union has opened many financial avenues for the Fraternity’s members, families and employees. Working with an excellent team of dedicated Board Members and Committees, we now have a competitive, financially secure credit union. Brothers are encouraged to join, save, borrow and take advantage of all the services available. Omega Federal Credit Union will continue to increase its services and welcomes new ideas, input and suggestions to make this credit union the finest in the world at servicing the needs of the Brotherhood.
FRATERNAL PROTOCOL
Together, Let Us Learn

For at least 14 of my 26 years of immersion into the sacred oil, I have utterly been taken aback by the ability of some Brothers who appeared to be masters of the ability to handle, direct and execute a Fraternal meeting, function or ceremony. This even includes Brothers who demonstrated true showmanship and professionalism while addressing other organizations during their functions.

After having spoken with a number of members of other Greek organizations, I was pleasantly surprised to hear that Omega is known to many for its ability to organize Chapter, District and International Level meetings and functions. The outside world has seen these efforts as well choreographed demonstrations of fraternal and brotherly co-operation.

The very thought of the Fraternity planning a major event on any Level usually sends emotional shock waves throughout the Brotherhood. Brothers literally change their schedules, plans, points of view and sometimes their minds in anticipation of the great gathering of the dauntless Immersed Ones.

Omega has been fortunate. Brothers have been generous in sharing well learned talents from their professional lives, in this regard, for the benefit of the Fraternity. All the best talent and efforts must be supported by the Brotherhood in the form of devotion, knowledge and commitment to the spirit of co-operation. This spirit of co-operation is only realized in a large organization by means of Protocols. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is no exception to this rule.

The most technical definition of Protocol is, “a code prescribing strict adherence to correct etiquette and precedence.” It is also a Greek word that means, “the first glue.” Protocols are vital to ensure that relations between the officials of organizations and the members they represent are conducted with the greatest of ease and with minimum friction to maximize efficiency. We must always be mindful of how we communicate. This includes our appearance, how we speak to each other, how we listen to each other and how we understand each other. Without Protocols, the glue, Brothers of a feather can not stick together.

In the 2008 District Representatives Training Meeting, a Protocol Workshop was conducted by Brother Carl Johnson, International Protocol Officer. In this workshop, Brother Johnson discussed in detail those Protocols essential to the soul of the Fraternity in respect to functionality and how we communicate.

Based on its Organizational structure, common practices and out of sheer necessity, Omega has developed its own individual set of rules and standards regarding Fraternal Protocol. The primary purpose of this workshop consisted of a number of discussions. The first was to expose and educate Brothers on the agreed upon and accepted methods of Fraternity Protocol. The second was to assist in the implementation of its consistent and uniform application throughout Omega. The third was to avoid “Reinventing the Wheel” by calling out for any existing Protocol information presented at previous workshops and any subsequent manuals produced.

It was identified that there were a seemingly infinite number of Fraternity Protocols with various meanings and/or interpretations to include: Those addressed in the Ritual; Constitution and By-Laws; Others developed specially for Grand, District and Chapter Officers and basic Brother to Brother courtesies.

Brother Johnson has worked diligently to bring clarification to the Brotherhood on how we should communicate in the form of Protocols. The International Headquarters is anticipated to make courses and training in Fraternal Protocol available by way of the new Omega Training Cadre. This tool can be accessed with the use of Member user ID and password.
Mentoring - Mentorship

Brothers of Omega, I think it is useful to give a definition and some historical background on any subject that one is asked to write about. I sincerely believe that our “African American family” is in crisis. Effective mentoring of our young African American “brothers” may be our only salvation.

Mentorship refers to a personal developmental relationship in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable person helps a less experienced or less knowledgeable person. The receiver of mentorship was traditionally referred to as a protégé, or apprentice. However, with the institutionalization of mentoring, the more neutral word “mentee” was invented and is widely used today.

There are several definitions of mentoring in the literature. Foremost, mentoring involves communication and is relationship based. In the organizational setting, mentoring can take many forms. One definition of the many that has been proposed, is “Mentoring is a process for the informal transmission of knowledge, social capital, and the psychosocial support perceived by the recipient as relevant to work, career, or professional development; mentoring entails informal communication, usually face-to-face and during a sustained period of time, between a person who is perceived to have greater relevant knowledge, wisdom, or experience (the mentor) and a person who is perceived to have less (the protégé)” (Bozeman, Fenney, 2007).

Historical

The roots of the practice are lost in antiquity. The word itself was inspired by the character of Mentor, Homer’s Odyssey. Though the actual Mentor in the story is a somewhat indifferent old man, the goddess Athena takes on his appearance in order to guide young Telemachus in his time of difficulty.

Historically significant systems of mentorship include traditional Greek pedantry, the guru-disciple tradition practiced in Hinduism and Buddhism, Elders, the discipleship system practiced by Rabbinical Judaism and the Christian church, and apprenticeship under the medieval guild system.

Mentoring Techniques

Since the focus of mentoring is to develop the whole person, the techniques are broad and require wisdom in order to be used appropriately.

A study of mentoring techniques most commonly used in business was published in 1995 under the title Working Wisdom. In the study, five major techniques or “wisdom tactics” were found to be used most commonly by mentors. These are:

1. Accompanying: This means making a commitment in a caring way. Accompaniment involves taking part in the learning process by taking the path with the learner.

2. Sowing: Mentors are often confronted with the difficulty of preparing the learner before him or she is ready to go to college. Sowing is necessary when you know that what you say may not be understood or even acceptable to learners at first but will make sense and have value to the mentee when the situation requires it.

3. Catalyzing: When change reaches a critical level of pressure, learning can jump. Here the mentor chooses to plunge the learner right into change, provoking a different way of thinking, a change in identity or a re-ordering of values.

4. Showing: this is making something understandable, or using your own example to demonstrate a skill or activity. You show what you are talking about, you show by your own behavior.

5. Harvesting: Here the mentor focuses on “picking the ripe fruit”: it is usually learned to create awareness of what was learned by experience and to draw conclusions. The key questions here are: “What have you learned?” “How useful is it?”

Different techniques may be used by mentors according to the situation and the psychological mindset of the mentee. The authors underline that the techniques used in modern organizations can be found in ancient education systems, from the Socratic technique of harvesting to the accompaniment method of learning used in the apprenticeship of itinerant cathedral builders during the Middle Ages.

Leadership authors Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner advise mentors to look for “teachable moments” in order to “expand or realize the potentialities of the people in the organizations they lead” and underline that personal credibility is as essential to quality mentoring as skill.

Now that we have an understanding of what mentoring is, some historical facts about its origin, and some techniques of how to do it, let us get some actual evidential facts that our “African American family” is in crisis and why only the African American “fathers” & “men” led by Godly Omegas can get us back on a successful path. Let’s “Mentor” and teach a generation of “Mentors.”

Some evidential facts

1. African Americans 16 to 24 years old are not enrolled in high school or do not have a GED
2. High school graduation rates: American Indian (54%), Asian (79%), Hispanic (52%), Black (51%), Whites (72%), Nation (70%)
3. Nationwide, the black student college graduation rate remains at a disturbingly low 42 percent. Women (46%) and Men (35%)
4. Minorities account for 41.45% of all incarcerations, with African-Americans comprising 31.98% of these. The incarceration rate of African Americans is 3,452 incarcerations per 100,000 compared to 18 per 100,000 for Asians, 571 for Whites, 614 for American Indians, 438 for Hispanics, and 170 for others. African American males total 30.83% of all male inmates and 30.33% of all males’ sentences. African American females account for 40.08% of all female inmates and 37.19% of all female sentences.

I could go on with statistical facts, but I think the fact that our “African American family” is in crisis has been supported. Now that we know this, what are we to do about it? I submit to you brothers that we have to stop looking for help outside us, except for God. It is time to stop pointing our finger at others and do what God commands good Christian (Omega) men to do. That is to be great mentors of our “children”, I submit to you brothers that does not end with our blood sons and daughters but our brothers, sons, and daughters. We are an “African American family” in crisis.

Our Grand Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., along with Kappa Alpha Psi, and Alpha Kappa Alpha have entered into a Partnership with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America. I believe one of the most important opportunities of this partnership is that it provides the framework for the best collective resource of all; the educated, experienced, Christian Black men who are best equipped to mentor a lost generation back from crisis of “I can’t because” to “I can because”

I was blessed to be mentored by a great Christian Greek man, Brothers of Omega, before you began to think of reasons why you can not be a mentor, think of our Four Cardinal Principals; Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift.

Remember, for all the negative reason why we say to ourselves we can not mentor, God has a positive answer.

You say, “It’s impossible”, God says: “All things are possible”, (Luke 18:27)
You say, “I’m too tired,” God says: “I will give you rest”. (Matt 11:28-20)
You say, “I can’t go on.” God says: “My grace is sufficient.” (II Cor. 12:9 - Psalm 91:15)
You say, “I can’t figure things out.” God says: “I will direct your steps.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)
You say, “I can’t do it.” God says: “You can do all things.” (Phil 4:13)
You say, “It’s not worth it.” God says: “It will be worth it.” (Romans 8:28)
You say, “I can’t manage.” God says: “I will supply all your needs.” (Phil 4:19)
You say, “I’m afraid.” God says: “I have not given you a spirit of fear”. (II Tim. 1:7)
You say, “I’m not smart enough.” God says: “I give you wisdom.” (I Cor. 1:30)

Brothers of Omega, I can tell you first hand that mentoring the BBBS way does work. I have done it for over seven years. I sincerely believe the wisdom that our Grand Basileus, Warren G. Lee Jr., has shown in entering into this MOU “Partnership” was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Let us not let this opportunity pass. God has especially equipped and positioned at this time to do mentor His children.

You will be getting more details about how you can individually and/or collectively (members) become a mentor and help abate the crisis in our “African American family.”

William J. Edwards said: “Education is the source of all we have and the spring of all our future joys.”

Charles Hamilton Huston said: “Without education, there is no hope for our people and without hope, our future is lost.”

Written by: Brother Charles “Chuck” Matthews National Chair - Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. and BBBS Partnership

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The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education
Remembering Brother Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks
By Brother Dr. Joseph Amos, MD

Brother Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks entered Omega Chapter on Thursday, April 15 at the age of 85 after a lifetime of service to Black America, the community and his beloved Fraternity. Brother Dr. Hooks will be remembered as a dedicated husband, father, clergyman and Civil Rights leader. His noteworthy career will be forever prized for its numerous achievements, awards and examples of service, which include an eight-year tenure as Executive Director of the NAACP.

Brother Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks was born on January 31, 1925 in Memphis, Tennessee. He was the fifth of seven children born to Robert and Bessie Hooks. Although his father managed a successful photography business, like all African-Americans of that period, Brother Dr. Hooks was deeply affected by the intolerant racial climate that manifested itself by way of the then prevailing and infamous Jim Crow laws.

Discriminatory practices were the hallmark of this institutionalized form of hatred towards African Americans in the United States. He often spoke of suffering from the lingering effects of having to use separate water fountains, bathrooms and restaurants. It was out of this hostile and insufferable environment that a great Civil Rights champion emerged.

After attending LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee for three years, he transferred to and subsequently completed his undergraduate studies at Howard University in Washington D.C. After graduating in 1944 from Howard University, he joined the Army when the United States was fully engaged in the great battle in Europe and in the Pacific, World War II. Brother Dr. Hooks had the job of guarding Italian prisoners of war. He found it humiliating that the prisoners were allowed to eat in restaurants from which he was barred. After serving for three years, he was discharged from the Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

After his service to the Army was completed he enrolled at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, IL. No law school in his native Tennessee would admit him. He soon graduated from DePaul in 1948 with a Jurist Prudence Degree. After receiving his Law Degree, he returned to Memphis, Tennessee to practice law. Shortly after returning to Memphis he met and later married, Frances Dancy, his wife of nearly 60 years. In the 1950’s while practicing law he ran for state office as a Tennessee legislator and later for judgeship on the Juvenile Court. In 1965, the Governor of Tennessee appointed Brother Dr. Hooks to the Shelby County Criminal Court making him the first African American criminal court justice in Tennessee’s history. He successfully ran for re-election the following term.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recruited Brother Dr. Hooks to serve on the board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. While serving on the SCLC he became one of Dr King’s valued advisors. In 1972, President Nixon appointed Brother Dr. Hooks to the F.C.C. and then in 1977 he took over as President of the N.A.A.C.P for an ailing Brother Roy Wilkins. While at the N.A.A.C.P., Dr. Hooks guided the Association through some of its most challenging obstacles. The membership had dwindled from 500,000 to 200,000 and was at least 1 million in debt. He was responsible for leading the organization during the Reagan and Bush administrations.
Most noteworthy of his tenure as President of the NAACP was the increase in corporate donations from 696,000 in 1978 to 3.7 million by the year 1991. During his tenure as leader of the organization, the membership increased. With success came some setbacks that included the organization later finding itself in the red. Brother Dr. Hooks resigned from the organization in 1992. In 2007, President George W. Bush presented Brother Dr. Hooks with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country’s highest civilian honor.

Brother Dr. Hooks served as a distinguished adjunct professor for the Political Science department of the University of Memphis. In 1996, the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change was established at the University of Memphis. The Hooks Institute is a public policy research center supporting the urban research mission of the University of Memphis, and honoring Brother Dr. Hooks’ many years of leadership in the American Civil Rights Movement. The Institute works to advance understanding of the legacy of the American Civil Rights Movement and of other movements for social justice through teaching, research and community programs that emphasize social movements, race relations, strong communities, public education, effective public participation, and social and economic justice.

Brother Dr. Hooks’ professional associations included the American Bar Association; National Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Association; Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Tennessee Council on Human Relations. His honors and awards included: The Spingard Medal from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1986; Honorary Doctorate at Central Connecticut State University in 1988; the NAACP created the Benjamin L. Hooks Distinguished Service Award, which is awarded to persons for efforts in implementing policies and programs which promote equal opportunity; was inducted into the Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in 2008 and the Memphis, Tennessee Library’s main Branch is named in his honor.

Brother Dr. Hooks became a fixture at the Grand Conclaves of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. during the 80’s and 90’s. He will forever be remembered as a Civil Rights pioneer and a great son of Omega. Brother Dr. Hooks is survived by his daughter Patricia Hooks Gray; a sister, Mildred Hooks Gillis; a brother, Raymond Hooks and his wife, Frances Dancy Hooks.

On April 21, 2010, Brother Dr. Hooks was laid to rest after a final memorial service occurred at the Temple of Deliverance Church of God in Christ in Memphis, Tennessee.
Interview with Brother Congressman Kendrick Meek

By Brother Troy Moore

I was recently presented with the opportunity to interview Brother Congressman Meek. In the pursuit of this interview, I found out first hand the level of commitment that a United States House of Representatives Member is confronted with. Needless to say, his time and availability are worth their weight in purple and gold. Fortunately, time and good graces allowed the interview to take place. I was pleasantly surprised at the Congressman's willingness to be candid about his responses. The interview consisted of an informal Question and Answer session.

**Editor:** What does your grass roots candidacy for US Senate mean to the people of the great state of Florida and in particular, to the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. across the nation?

**Congressman Meek:** As I traveled the State to be the first Florida Senate Candidate to qualify by petition, I have been able to continue the grass roots leadership traditions set forth by icons such as Brother Dr. Benjamin Hooks and former Baslieus George Grace.

As a young man, I started the Florida College Democrats and was fortunate to serve as Baslieus at Upsilon Psi Chapter, Florida A&M University. Through these experiences I learned early on that at some point, all leadership movements begin at the grassroots level and such movements are a key aspect of Democracy. It is important that I carry on this tradition because if I am to represent the people of Florida effectively, it is crucial that I meet with everyday Floridians to discuss the issues most pressing around in their communities.

The Men of Omega in Florida are part of the foundation of my historic run for the Senate. On the weekend I announced my candidacy, one of my first stops was to an Omega convention in Orlando, Florida. It was there that I was cloaked in the spirit of our founding fathers who sent me off on this journey that would be filled with twists and turns.

Since that weekend, specifically to the Men of Omega, my grassroots candidacy is a day-to-day example of one of our cardinal principals – Perseverance. There were those who told me that I would not be able to cover the state in the time required to gather the signatures. Covering each of Florida's counties is task that is not for the faint of heart but I did it with the support of many in the community including brothers from across the state who were some of the first to sign and help collect petitions. It required preparation, dedication and finally, humility. I have never taken a vote or a voter for granted. I have asked for every signature required to place my name on the ballot and will ask for every vote necessary to win this race.

**Editor:** What good ways can Omega, along with yourself and other public officials, work together to better serve the communities in which we live? A few examples would include testing for Prostate Cancer; Diabetes prevention and treatment; High Blood Pressure prevention and treatment; Proper Nutrition; AIDS Awareness, Prevention & Treatment and Neighborhood Watch & Safety Programs.

**Congressman Meek:** We can do a great deal to help our communities. Our second cardinal principal is Scholarship and education is one issue, despite financial restrictions, where more can be done to improve our educational programs. We must be involved as parents, mentors and neighbors. As we work together, we can challenge our youth to excel to their full potential, help our schools to be greater than ever and invest time in after school and weekend programs. At the same time, local leaders must also support such programs because strong schools are the anchor for livable communities. The primary way community leaders can support education is by protecting funding for consistent educational programs while encouraging innovative new ones. Outside of funding, leaders can support schools through bringing attention to successful programs, which often brings more support throughout the community.
Editor: What is your position on the passage of the Health Care Bill and what does it mean to the communities in which we the Brothers of Omega live and serve?

Congressman Meek: Health care is extremely important in our communities, and I am proud to say that I voted in favor of passage. We often live and serve in communities that are severely underinsured. This translates to friends and neighbors suffering with preventable debilitating illnesses and conditions. Universal health care allows the most vulnerable amongst us to have the preventable care that can stave off the onset of illness. Further, health issues are much cheaper to attend to on their onset and the treatment of such allows us to use our disposable incomes on other priorities. Hopefully the availability of health care will lead to a new consciousness toward the way we eat and live with a focus on proactive wellness measures.

As Men of Omega we must do two things. First, we must work with each other, brother-to-brother, to insure that we are doing the things we need to do to be excellent, healthy fathers, husbands and Fraternity brothers. Second, we should examine our nationally mandated programs to see where we might tie in health education components and healthy living.

Editor: How would your agenda as US Senator fit with Omega’s Mandate to focus on mentorship of young Black males at Risk? (Middle School to College Level)

Congressman Meek: As we all know, many young Black males simply need outlets for their creative and leadership potential. One way I support the mentorship of young black males is through my support of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. When I served as Chairman of the CBCF, I was continuously supportive of our scholarship and internship programs. Through the funds we raise, many at-risk youths can receive support to follow leadership dreams in college and working with Congressional offices. I also exposed members of the Fraternity to the Foundation and the Foundation to the Fraternity. For example, during the 39th Annual Legislative Conference, I along with my congres-sional colleagues and Fraternity brothers, Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, Jesse Jackson, Jr. and Henry “Hank” Johnson convened a congressional forum on fatherhood. Many of the issues articulated during this first-ever forum were focused on adolescents and college level young men, an important demographic for our Fraternity and community.

Moving forward, I will continue to support such programs and initiatives. Moreover, as I continue to employ positive black male role models, I will encourage them to serve as mentors to those young men who come into our office as well as those within their communities.

Editor: What federally assisted programs are available to Omega in reference to mentorship programs and would you be willing to provide assistance to Omega in this pursuit? Examples include: Big Brothers and Big Sisters; After school academic assistance; Boys and Girls Clubs of America; YMCA / YWCA; Gender based charter schools and any other community based related programs.

Congressman Meek: I am always interested in new mentorship programs and would be willing to work with Omega to develop or enhance programs that work to provide a positive influence in our community. When Miami-Dade County had an epidemic of violence, I joined up with local ministers, the NAACP and community leaders to take to the streets to promote peace and find alternative paths for our Black men. We need programs like the Boys and Girls Club, the Big Brothers and Little Sisters, Safe and Drug Free Schools as well as non-federally funded programs like 100 Black Men’s to help uplift the youth in our communities when they need support. I will remain committed to advocating on behalf of mentoring programs and look forward to working with Omega closely on these programs.

Editor: As Omega approaches its 100th year anniversary, what advice would you give to the Brothers of Omega in reference to life, liberty, future and the pursuit of happiness?

Congressman Meek: Almost 100 years ago our Founders set forth on what appeared to be an impossible task, to establish the first African-American Fraternity on a historically black college campus. They were met with resistance from forces within the administration and across the campus, but were undeterred. I would advise our brethren to first...
think retrospectively and examine the original intent of the Founders. For what purpose did they establish our great organization? Was it to stand apart from the community in which they lived, attended school and worked or was it meant to become an integral part of that community to help lift the less fortunate and to strengthen its weaker links?

After an extensive retrospective examination, I would then advise our brothers to be introspective. We should all look deep within ourselves and ask what are we doing to make ourselves better Omega Men. What are we doing to insure that our brothers are living up to the vision of the Founders and, what are we doing, collectively, to insure that we lift up the less fortunate in our communities? I believe that if we engage in those two lines of thought we can celebrate the first 100 years of our Fraternity’s existence and establish benchmarks that will guide us for the next 100 years.

Brother Congressman Meek represents the 17th Congressional District of Florida. There are nearly 640,000 people in the Northern Miami-Dade and Southern Broward County areas which includes Pembroke Pines, Miramar, Hollywood, Pembroke Park, Hallandale Beach, Miami Gardens, North Miami Beach, Opa-Locka, North Miami, Biscayne Park, Miami Shores, Overtown and El Portal.

The 17th Congressional District is described as having an especially rich ethnic and cultural diversity. Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Anglo Americans, Caribbean Americans and a host of others who all work and to live together forming a tight-knit community. At least 4.7 percent of the District’s residents identify as Bi or Multi-racial, a much higher percentage than the national average of 2.4 percent. The sense of community, wealth of physical beauty, and an indomitable spirit among its residents is why many are proud to call the District home.

Brother Congressman Meek was born in Miami, Florida on September 6, 1966. He graduated from Miami Springs Senior High School in Miami, FL, where he played football as a defensive lineman. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1989 from Florida A&M University and was a star football player in college. He founded the Young Democrats club at Florida A&M and was president of the Florida Young Democrats organization. He is also the son of retired Congresswoman Carrie Meek. Brother Congressman Meek pledged Omega by way of Upsilon Psi Chapter at Florida A & M in the Spring of 1987. He was number “5” on the Line, “Jason Bo.” His line name is “Archaic.”

His Committee Assignments in the US House of Representatives include the Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support and Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures. His Party Leadership and Caucus Memberships include: Democratic Steering & Policy Committee, Congressional Black Caucus and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

On January 13, 2009, Brother Congressman Meek announced he will be running for the seat in the United States Senate that will be vacated upon the retirement of Republican Mel Martinez in 2010, saying, “I want to be a fighter for Florida with a strong voice that won’t let the special interests stand in the way of what is right.”

On April 2, 2009, he announced his intention to qualify for the ballot by petition by collecting 112,476 completed petitions. On April 8th, 2009 he made history by becoming the first statewide candidate in the history of the state of Florida to qualify for the ballot by petition.

If any Brother would like to contact Brother Congressman Meek’s office for additional information, please feel free to reference his website at kendrickmeek.house.gov
The power and legacy of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity name carries a heavy responsibility. It is the summation of the Fraternity’s many parts and embodies the authentic, recognizable essence of this institution. It must reinforce to many diverse audiences a definitive and unique impression.

As Omega Psi Phi Fraternity continues to grow through its strategic planning, branding, and implementation, it is imperative that the entire Fraternity community communicate with a clear, consistent public identity.

The most basic yet comprehensive component of a strong institutional image is a unified visual presentation. Collectively, all elements of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity must present to the world a consistent image that reflects our quality, professionalism and mission.

For that reason, I am pleased to have had a role in helping to develop that image over the past three years. We have worked diligently to move from rhetoric to reality in the way we present Omega to the world.

Each time a representative of Omega communicates with the public, it contributes to our reputation. Public appearances, publications, stationery, newsletters, advertisements, media interviews, Web sites, signage and other forms of communication represent not only the individual or program, but the entire Fraternity. Certainly, we are indebted to the Omega men who have labored “without portfolio” to present Omega as a “shining light”. I marvel at the extraordinary way in which they have used in their natural skills and talents to produce quality work and those positive images.

As we have created My Page, the Lockbox, our own email domain, newsletters, bulletins, magazines, journals, new website presence and social networking; we have had a singular objective – to present a polished professional image of our Fraternity. We have a Caleb moment...we have been given good tools, very capable people, and a clear mandate in our fourth Cardinal Principle; now, it is up to our new leadership and all of us to maintain the momentum and seize the time. I appreciate the opportunity to serve.
STATE OF THE FRATERNITY

CORE VALUES
For virtually 100 years, the Brotherhood of Omega has traditionally held the Fraternity’s Core Values as the foundation on which we have conducted ourselves and how we have served the Black community. The Preamble of Omega states, “We the member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., believing that men with similar ideas of fellowship should bind themselves in order to form a more perfect union among college men; to promote the principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift; to further brotherly love and fraternity spirit within the organization; and to protect the sanctity of the home and the chastity of women...” I find myself thoroughly immersed in the spirit of Omega when I read these words that were designed to inspire the hardest of hearts in and among our ranks.

As Grand Basileus of our beloved Fraternity for the past four years, I have found myself in a position to personally speak with a multitude of Brothers from all over the country. I have quite often been presented with great tidings of excellence of thought and action. But when I have sought proof of the fruits of such, I have found results that reflected a different collective image. To have observed the Fraternity in this paradox has proven to be perplexing and somewhat confusing. Although it has been pleasing to have observed individual Chapters performing great works, it has also been disappointing to see that a collective and consistent effort on the part of the greater Fraternity to pursue excellence was not apparent.

Verification and completion of the Fraternity’s Mandated Programs is measured by the receipt of Form #37. There has been a substantial decline in the submission of Form 37s’ to the International Headquarters by individual Chapters. This is evidence that we are not consistently and readily honoring the oath we took to serve Omega. The low submittals appear to be indicative of a lack of follow through on Mandated Programs. These Programs were designed to create and sustain an impact and presence for all of Omega in our respective communities across the nation. It is this national uniformity in impact that is consistent with the desires of our Founders. Unfortunately, what I have seen is a lack of excellence, no sustainable national impact nor enthusiasm for what Omega has historically represented. We must and can do better.

We are fortunate to live in an age that knows no limits to technological innovations in methods of communication. Although there are many methods to choose from, email has become the communication medium de jour for the vast majority of the Fraternity’s members and its method of delivery is famously instantaneous.

I have received a countless number of emails during my tenure. There are many that I have placed in a folder that honors what Brother Herman Dreer referred to as Precious Treasures of the Fraternity and I hope to place many more in this folder in the years to come. But as I have read some email exchanges volleyed at will through out the Brotherhood, I have found that some of our Members are willing and spiritually capable of documenting sobering and sometimes cruel opinions that provide no Uplift. They offer no promises of positive achievement. They offer no complimentary spiritual reinforcement. They unfortunately encourage the demons of divisiveness. Such cruelty and heartlessness can never be reflective of the positive achievements of Brothers in the Fraternity and is most assuredly troubling.

Historically, in every organization, there has been a leadership structure. This is traditionally referred to as the chain of command. Respect for and support of the chain of command by its members is essential for an organization to successfully function. If the members of any organization have issue with its leadership, those members should address their concerns in a civil and professional manner.

The use of emails to discuss the intimate details of the Fraternity’s business is steadfastly irresponsible. Statements made, even if they have merit, are irretrievable once released into cyber space. Such irresponsibility has potential consequences to include legal and financial ramifications. No member of Omega should declare himself immune to any accountability for this type of irresponsibility.

Email should never be the means in which Omega chooses to resolve the issues, conflicts, disagreements and negotiations that weigh on the hearts of the Brotherhood. Omega has traditionally resolved its issues by way of the Supreme Council. Meetings of this body have always been and will always be open to all Members who chose to attend. If a Member of the Fraternity is unable to attend such meetings, his District Representative should be contacted for reasonable guidance.
It is essential that we rise to a higher level and abandon the devastatingly tragic Cain vs. Abel mentality that has stifled our progress.

Productive cohesion among the Fraternity's many affiliate organizations is Essential To The Soul of the Fraternity. It is imperative that all Organizational Department Heads place the Fraternity's interest before their own. The Brotherhood deserves better than the interest of any individual and whatever political loyalty he has chosen to embrace. Any Organizational Department Head who disagrees with this philosophy should reconsider his service.

We as an organization must move forward in the spirit of excellence. We can no longer dance with mediocrity. As Brother Bishop Love stated, “Mediocrity has its place, but not in Omega”! How can we expect Omega to be respected by others when we present ourselves to the world as not worthy of being respected. It is essential that we rise to a higher level and abandon the devastatingly tragic Cain vs. Abel mentality that has stifled our progress. We were founded to make a difference in the lives of Black people. Thus our aim should always be on cultivating ideas and practices consistent with this notion.

Core Values are not descriptions of the work we do or the strategies we employ to accomplish our mission. They underline our work, how we interact with each other, and which strategies we employ to fulfill our mission. Our Core Values are the basic elements of how we go about our work as Members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. They are the practices we use every day in everything we do.

OTHER VALUES
Communication Expansion Beyond The Fraternity’s Publications

I have found over the years that we at IHQ spend a wealth of our time addressing mechanical concerns at the overall expense of improving communication to and with the Brotherhood. This has the potential of the realization of costly consequences. Time and experience has brought about clear indication that it is far more difficult to recruit or reclaim Members than it is to retain those who have proven themselves to be worthy.

It is important that the Fraternity's leadership stay in contact with those Members who make a difference to Omega and the communities they serve.

The alternative is to continue business as usual at the expense of Membership morale and the contributions made to the overall mission of Omega. And since it cost much to be a Friend and keep a Friend, it just makes good sense to do what it takes to keep Friends engaged.

To this end, I launched the Sword and Shield to serve as an email newsletter for the purpose of direct communications with the Brotherhood. My use of this medium was intended to function as both a way to cut through the noise and misinformation that is put forth as truth at the base level of the Fraternity. Such a communications medium can also serve to address damaging petty issues and concerns that are inconsistent with our historical legacy and mission.

In this day and age, access to a myriad of communication vehicles is essential to the leadership of any national organization. Today's technology affords the Fraternity’s leadership the ability to avoid the risk of viral like spreading of misinformation among its Members. IHQ now has access to a number of technologies to include: Phone Trees, Email Blasts, Twitter and Text Blasts. Having these technologies available to us is meaningless if we do not readily use them.

There are a number of reasons why these technologies should be used. Conventional wisdom would dictate that these communication tools be used to provide the Brotherhood with information refuting any misinformation, to remind the Brotherhood of any important events and for any other vital purposes the Leadership deems reasonable and necessary.

But what if the Leadership gave consideration to something that would be very much avant-garde for Omega. What if these technologies were used to communicate moral concerns to the Brotherhood? How about a series of messages during any given MSP season appealing to the Brotherhood to reconsider any notions of hazing? How about a series of messages reminding the Brotherhood that their commitment to the Mandated Programs is essential to the souls of the communities they serve? How about a series of messages reminding the Brotherhood that we are a Christian organization and that we should simply be good to each other?

Members vs. Men

The value of our Fraternity is not in numbers, but in men, in real brotherhood. Eight men thoroughly immersed in the true Omega spirit are far greater assets than eighty with lukewarm enthusiasm.” TO THY DUTY THAT IS BEST, LEAVE UNTO THE LORD THE REST - Brother Walter H. Mazyck

CONTACT OPPF
3951 Snapfinger Pkwy
Decatur, Georgia 30035
Phone: 404-284-5533
Fax: 404-284-0333

The Oracle
SAVE UP TO $500* a year on your car insurance

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2010 Undergraduate Summit
Brother Jamin S. Powell
2nd Vice Grand Basileus

Brothers of Omega,

It was my pleasure to welcome the Brotherhood to the 2010 International Undergraduate Summit held in New Orleans, LA in January. I feel that all who attended enjoyed this year’s Program.

The purpose of the Summit was to discuss issues concerning Undergraduate affairs. The meeting’s purpose was also to provide an opportunity for the Undergraduate Nation of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. to assemble and fellowship TOGETHER IN UNITY.

During the 2010 Summit, Brothers attending had the opportunity to participate in workshops, perform useful community service, listen to inspiring speakers and enjoy the fellowship of good Frats and Friends. As a Fraternity, we remain proud of our Undergraduates and what they are continuing to do in this time of change in Omega and the World.

I would like to extend my thanks to the seasoned Brothers who reached out to the Undergraduates of Omega to assist graduating seniors in their pursuit of career goals and opportunities. I feel Undergraduate Brothers graciously received valuable advice and guidance in good spirits and in good faith. Time has proven that this simple formula can do wonders for the longevity of our Organization and its Brotherhood.

I am most satisfied with the Summit’s completion of a full agenda involving Chapter Advisors. I found the topics discussed to be current, mindful, meaningful and motivational. Our Undergraduate Chapter Advisors are a vital and pivotal group of volunteer Brothers. They deserve our respect and cooperation if they are to complete the tasks that are asked of them by the Fraternity.

Implementation of the Lampados Program was also a topic of discussion during the Summit. Discussion included Laying The Foundation, How To Recognize Potential Members, Selection, Lifelong Commitment and most importantly, Manhood. As the Fraternity moves forward with this Program, Brothers should show patience and support to ensure its success.

I thoroughly enjoyed the 2010 Undergraduate Summit and look forward to all Undergraduates of Omega to live up their oaths by continuing to make our dear Fraternity the greatest organization in the world.

Fraternally,

Brother Jamin S. Powell
40th 2nd Vice Grand Basileus
The 2010 Undergraduate Summit featured a State of the Undergraduate Nation message that was presented by Brother Rasheed Ali Cromwell, Esq. Brother Cromwell delivered a powerful message entitled, “Immoral Tendencies.”

In his message, Brother Cromwell challenged the Brothers of Omega to reevaluate their behavior in light of our history. “The inception of our Fraternity was challenged early at Howard,” stated Brother Cromwell, “and one of six contentions that the Founders laid before Dr. Thirkield were conditional upon their own actions. The Founders basically empowered the university to act accordingly if good character and decent behavior was not consistent with Omega on campus. How many Undergraduate Chapters would be present today if we held ourselves to that standard? In addition to challenging the Brothers, many interactive activities were infused into the presentation for the participants to get to know each other. “Often times, as African-Americans, we attend conferences and never reach outside of our comfort zone to network and meet others who are in attendance. This is especially true for Omega.

Brother Cromwell went on to urge and encourage, “Both newly initiated Brothers as well as more seasoned Brothers should embrace each other and immerse themselves in the true Omega Spirit. The whole reason that I speak is to plant seeds in the listener’s ears. When I speak to the Brothers, especially the Undergraduates, I want to empower them with accurate information that they can use to combat many of the misconceptions and ignorance that currently exists.”

Brother Cromwell continued his message by comparing the talent that exists in Omega to that in professional sports. He mentioned various athletes and focused on the point that, “no matter how talented and intelligent they are they are held to a morals clause in their contract that will prevent them from playing if their behavior is indecent.” Our beloved Fraternity is held to an even higher standard because we all took an oath to uphold our morals clause—not just as Undergrads but for the rest of our lives.”

Brother Cromwell ended by listing practical steps that Undergraduate Brothers can take in how to improve the culture of the Fraternity through proper greetings amongst Brothers, setting individual and Chapter goals and living the Fraternity on a daily basis. Brother Lemuel West, Fall 2008, from Pi Epsilon Chapter at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (2nd District) said, “…every time I hear Brother Cromwell speak he is an inspiration. He spoke at my university last year on personal leadership and people are still talking about it on campus. He definitely set the tone for the Bros for the entire weekend.”

Last year at Atlanta’s Undergraduate Summit, Brother Cromwell spoke on the misconception that “Pledging Produces Premium Product.” a section in his highly anticipated book, The Miseducation of the Black Greek
set for release in 2011. Currently, Brother Cromwell serves as executive director of the Harbor Institute, an education company based out of Washington, D.C. Through Harbor, he is spoken at over 100 colleges and universities nationwide on Black Greek Fraternities and Sororities, Leadership and Entrepreneurship.

In 2009, the Washington DC National Pan-Hellenic Council voted Brother Cromwell (out of over 15 DC area graduate chapters from the Divine Nine) as Frater of the Year, for his outstanding service to the DC community and service to the Divine Nine. Additionally, the 3rd District awarded his graduate chapter, Kappa Psi Chapter of Washington, DC, Social Action Graduate Chapter of the year. Brother Cromwell was initiated into Omega by way of Mu Psi Chapter in the Spring of 1995 where he served as Vice-Basileus and later as Student Government Association Present at North Caroline Agricultural and Technical State College (6th District). Brother Cromwell can be reach at sheedali@yahoo.com; Twitter, @sheedvali, or on Facebook at The Harbor Institute. Office: 202-321-6132.

The Advisors’ position as a role model, confidant and elder was placed in the forefront of the discussion. The Brothers who function in this capacity must present themselves as being worthy of the title by demonstrating trustworthiness and dependability. It was emphasized that it is absolutely vital that the functional relationship between the campus Advisor and the Members of the Chapter be one of trust & partnership and not one of us vs. him.

The Advisors, Undergraduate and Graduate Brothers participating walked away with a new found sense of how essential a reliable and stable Advisor/Undergraduate Chapter relationship is to the success of the campus Chapter. All Brothers gave indication that they would do their part in the establishment and maintenance of these essential reliable and stable relationships.

Chapter Advisors Workshop

A mandatory Chapter Advisors Workshop was held to discuss the importance of this crucial role in Omega as it pertains to the daily life of the Undergraduate Chapter. Undergraduate and Graduate Brothers were given the opportunity to discuss concerns in reference to the Advisors’ directives from IHQ and their influences on campuses across the country.

International Membership Selection

International Membership Committee Chairman, Brother Raymond Bourgeois, presented the newly planned Lamps of Omega Program to Undergraduate as well as to Graduate Brothers. As leader of the Fraternity’s implementation team, Brother Bourgeois’ goal was to clarify the planned revamping and refreshing of the former Lampados Program. He explained that it was his hope that the presentation of the new and improved Program would not only inform the Brotherhood about Omega, but would also add value to the growth of the each individual candidate. There are also plans for the Program to feature sessions on leadership, etiquette, protocol and community service. This is anticipated to add a new dimension. To ensure the Program’s success,
a new Instructor’s Manual and Resource Guide will be introduced.

A number of topics were discussed by Brother Bourgeois to include: Laying the Foundation, How To Recognize Potential Members, Selection, Lifelong Commitment and Manhood.

Laying The Foundation

“…Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was born out of a dream; that three young men, who were drawn together, and an abiding friendship developed…we began thinking in terms of establishing a fraternity that would be a fraternity in reality, as well as in name…The motto chosen was Philia Ophelema Psukis, Greek words meaning ‘Friendship is Essential to the Soul’…the fraternity was established on the friendship of these three young men and this Associate Professor…and we believe that friendship is the strongest attachment that can exist between individuals…So that, friendship, you see, is really a stronger tie than blood rela-

Brother Charles Johnson speaking at the 2010 Undergraduate Summit

...tionships might be…” These words are an excerpt taken from the famous speech of Brother Dr. Edgar A. Love entitled, “The Dream.”

Brother Dr. Love established the foundation of the Heart of Omega in these words. The most talented of bridge builders can testify to the notion that no structure can withstand the test of time without a sure and reliable foundation. It is important that we, the Brotherhood, understand that without Friendship, we have no foundation to be sure of; no foundation to rely on. We must solidify our commitment to this basic necessity of our stability before we can reach out to future potential Lamps of Omega classes.

Friendship sometimes comes with a heavy burden. Many in Omega have shown that they have the stamina to weather the storms of Friendship, but a great number have been overwhelmed by the pressure.

Omega’s retention rate is currently at 10% to 15% of the Brothers initiated after the three year pre-paid period. For Undergraduate Brothers, this rate is even lower at 5% to 8%.

The most conventional wisdom seems to suggest that there is a lack of a formal embrace of our basic foundation in Friendship. It is felt that Brothers fall away because they do not feel accepted as Brothers or do not live up to the true obligations of Omega. Those obligations would include: Becoming Good Citizens; Having Careers / Successful Lives and simply becoming good Omega Men...
by remaining a positive influence in the communities in which they live.

Worse reasons for Brothers falling away are said to be that they find themselves locked into a perpetual Undergraduate Lifestyle; hanging out at the Undergraduate Chapters as if they are the, “Only True Guardians of the fold.” Brother Interaction appears to have gotten progressively worse due to a conscious disregard for the basic foundations of Friendship. Being initiated into the Omega should open a new world, NOT be an introduction to a dark underworld where Brothers have to prove themselves everyday.

How To Recognize Potential Members and Selection

The future of our Fraternity is intrinsically connected to the selection of our new Membership. Omega seeks men of high moral integrity; men of principle; honor; discipline and those who demonstrate ethical behavior. A revitalized Program is needed to address the selection of new members into our Organization. Brother Dr. Love provides an invaluable guide to seeking out and recognizing potential members of the Fraternity:

- “…we adopted our Cardinal Principles of Manhood, and Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. To us Manhood means character; one who dares to do all that doth become a man and who does more is none. We put Manhood first because we think that character is more essential as we look for prospects in Omega than any other one thing".

- “Secondly we put Scholarship, there is a place for mediocrity in our society but, not in Omega. We want men whose minds are at least above the average, that they can make a contribution to the life of an institution and to the world”.

- “Then Perseverance; we want men who will realize that they have a responsibility to stand by any project that they may begin and see it through”.

- “And finally, Uplift; which puts man in connection with the community in which he lives and lets him realize that he has a responsibility to those who are less fortunate than himself; that he must also do what he does with the idea of services to the community and to the nation”.

“Bring all these together, we have the true Omega Man. Omega doesn’t want men simply because they are popular on campus. Omega doesn’t want men simply because they have money to spend. Omega doesn’t what men simply because they have a splendid family background. All this is good if they have at the same time, sterling character and the scholarship that will make them leaders among men rather than followers…”

THIS IS OUR MAP. THIS IS OUR GUIDE.

Duties of the Brothers presenting candidates would include the following:

- Recommend a prospective candidate to the Chapter
- Must know the individual and be aware of his qualifications including community service activities.
- Must be willing to mentor the candidate after initiation into the Fraternity
- Must present their prospective candidate to the Chapter and should be prepared to respond to questions about the prospective candidate and provide any other pertinent information.
- Selection NOT based on who is the coolest, most popular; biggest partier; gangster, etc. Select those who can move to a positive future.

Lifelong Commitment

As Brothers of Omega, we must honor the oath we took. We must acknowledge that entering Omega is a Lifetime Commitment that will require a Financial and Active Participation Obligation. This Commitment is to the Fraternity, which is to supersede any Chapter
loyalty. A Brother should never do anything that will bring shame or dishonor to the Fraternity. Mental and / or Physical Harassment, Brutality or Extortion in connection with the Lamps of Omega Program is Strictly Prohibited and will be dealt with to the fullest extent possible.

We must change our behavior towards each other and take on POSITIVE Leadership Roles on Campus and in our Communities. We are also an organization that is based on Friendship; therefore, we must reconsider the following counter productive behavior:

- Going to the GREEN
- Chapter vs Chapter warfare
- Wearing of Para-Military clothing
- Gold Boots as everyday wear
- Camo Gear and ripped clothing

The Lifetime Commitment—this implies that when you graduate/leave college, you are to matriculate to a Graduate Chapter: NOT keep coming back and influencing the Undergrads, overseeing their activities, being the, “godfather.” Brothers, with this information in your minds, your hearts and your souls:

YOU ARE HEREBY EMPOWERED TO BE “OMEGA’S GATEKEEPER.”

THE 2010 UNDERGRADUATE LUNCHEON

Featuring the GE/Omega Partnership – Omega4Life

Brothers attend the G.E. Session at the 2010 Undergraduate Summit Luncheon.

The 2010 Undergraduate Luncheon guest speaker was Brother Derrick Wilson who is currently a Sales Manager in the Energy Infrastructure and Water & Process Technologies department at General Electric. His sales territory covers a three state area. His department’s customer base includes tire manufacturers, semiconductor fabs & power plants.

Brother Wilson pledged Omega by way of Eta Zeta Chapter at the University of Mississippi in the Spring of 1984. He has a B. S. in Chemical Engineering and has been a valued employee at General Electric for more than five years. He is a former US Army Military Intelligence Officer.

Brother Wilson presented to the Brotherhood that General Electric and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. have partnered to form Omega4Life. Omega4Life is a national leadership development program and is a one year program for collegiate men only whose focus majors are Mathematics, Science, Engineering & Technology, Computer Science and Business (Finance, Management & Marketing). Participants should have at least a 3.2 and higher grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), an active / financial Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and at least be a Sophomore, Junior or Senior.

The Omega4Life Program will assign each candidate a mentor. Each candidate will be invited to a G.E sponsored leadership symposium, provide support structures for particular academic fields as well as workshop & recognition opportunities. The Programs also affords each candidate eligibility for a prized G.E. internship as well as an employment opportunity with G.E. upon graduation.
Brothers attend the Undergraduate Summit Luncheon

The Omega4Life Leadership Structure has been organized as follows:

- Strategic Direction is being provided by the Grand Basileus and the Chief Diversity Officer of G.E.

- G.E. Operating Leader responsible for program execution: Responsible for resourcing the program; Financial, Manpower, Logistics etc.

- Omega Liaison & 2nd Vice Grand Basileus: Support/participate in program execution and planning; Operational interface w/ Grand Basileus & Supreme Council.

- Provide conduit to leverage to other companies.

The G.E./Omega Partnership

Omega4Life Class of 2010 includes the following Undergraduate Brothers:

- Brother Taariq A. Cayne of Sacred Heart University
- Brother Justin W. Graham of North Carolina State
- Brother Joe D. Henry of Paul Quinn College
- Brother Kenneth B. Marshall of Prairie View A & M University
- Brother Ibnijah S. Ross of the University of North Florida
- Brother Christopher T. Taylor of Michigan State University
- Brother Maurice M. White of the University of Michigan

The Undergraduate Summit Class Of 2010
New Orleans, LA
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Friendship Is Essential To The Soul

Making A Difference In The Lives Of Black People

2010 Undergraduate Summit
Three Looks - One Focus - Family, Friendship & Fraternity

Brothers Of Omega Building Bridges To The Future

2010 Undergraduate Summit
OMEGA’S CENTENNIAL: ONE OF FOUR QUESTIONS

As Brothers, whether we hold Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. dear to our hearts is not in dispute. Yet, the African American community, from which our beloved Fraternity grew nearly 100 years ago, will hold Omega irrelevant unless we address the issues that afflict Black people. These issues include addressing home foreclosures, unemployment and access to capital matter. We have secret handshakes, rituals and wear purple and gold clothes. This is traditional and is our way. But, at times, these things seem to be far more meaningful to us than the non-members we are sworn to serve. While the Centennial year of Omega’s founding is virtually upon us, I feel that there are at least four questions that our ancestral Organizational Architects implore Brothers to answer:

1. By what means should Brothers present themselves as noble men worthy of respect?
2. How should men of Omega prepare themselves to be social engineers?
3. Why must Omega Men tenaciously keep the Fraternity’s light shining?
4. What is our individual and collective duty to the Black community?

In short, the greater Fraternity must hit the “re-set” button or find the outside world rendering it as irrelevant in the 21st Century. Over the next 12 months leading up to the Centennial celebration, I will opine the answers to such institutionally existential questions. The answer to the first question rests in resurrecting “Renaissance Omega Men”, by whose demeanor the Black community—and the global community at large—can clearly see the Godliness, courage, competence and vision of our Fraternal Founders. By Renaissance Men I mean men who value endeavors and lifestyles worthy of emulating by those who are most at risk. Contrarily, for at least the past twenty-years of Omega’s history, Brothers have “faithfully” focused on being “OUT”: Pants (and other parts) OUT; OUT of class; OUT of control; Out of compliance with rituals of Omega and, worst of all, OUT of compliance to our Christian creed. It is as though Brothers have been worshiping someone other than God.

Renaissance Men of Omega must value justice, loving mercy and walking humbly before God. They must value standing up for what’s right despite the actions of other Brothers. They must value obtaining skill sets meaningful to the community. They must value seeing the world beyond Purple and Gold colored lenses. For if Omega Men do not come INside from the madness we will all be considered OUTside of our Fraternal minds.

Brother Gary L. Flowers is the current Executive Director & CEO of the Black Leadership Forum, Inc., an alliance of national African American civil rights and service organizations in the United States of America, founded in 1977. Based in Washington, DC, the Black Leadership Forum links leaders of national Black organizations together, forming a coordinated leadership model on legislation affecting African Americans.

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Mr. Flowers has served on the front lines of American civil rights formation and public policy analysis since 1989, having been trained at the historic law firm of Hill, Tucker & Marsh in Richmond, VA. Prior to the Black Leadership Forum, Mr. Flowers served as vice president and national field director for Reverend Jesse L. Jackson's Rainbow PUSH Coalition from 1997 to 2007 in Chicago, IL; a Teaching Fellow of a course on Coalition Politics at the Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, MA; a public policy analyst at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, DC; a special assistant to Virginia Governor Lawrence Douglas Wilder; and executive director of the Old Dominion Bar Association in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As an analyst, academic, and activist, and author he has helped to define the critical issues of his time on television and radio—both domestically and internationally.

Gary Flowers is a native of Richmond, VA and fiercely committed to family, friends, and faith. Gary has a passion for social justice and an obsession for improving the human condition through understanding and information.
When we took the oath to uphold the principles of Omega, we gave indication that we would only give the Fraternity our very best. We promised that whatever we had to give would be meaningful, effective and lasting.

The mainstream media appears to be in a perpetual state of reporting, measuring, discussing and speculating on the performance of financial products and all things Wall Street. Performance measurement in the halls of Omega would seem to be appropriate and worthy of such consideration.

As a Member of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc., ask yourself this question. Are you giving Omega the time, attention and dedication that were promised? As Grand Basileus, I ask this question of the Brotherhood individually and collectively. What is Your ROY? This acronym stands for “Return On You.”

Of course, we all are too familiar with our ROI, Return On Investment. We have shown, Chapter by Chapter, the ROI on various fund raising or social action projects. But what is the Fraternity’s return on you, the Brother / Brotherhood.

“…However, I believe the time has come to ask our Members to prove their value to the Fraternity…”

This topic is worthy of discussion, as I have traveled and dialogued with Brothers throughout the country. I have encountered many who only measure the value of their relationship with the Fraternity in terms of tangible results to include IHQ issued cards, publications or social functions and gatherings. For example, many have argued that because they “pledged” and continue to pay dues, they expect the Fraternity to provide them with special perks and benefits. I know for certain that Omega has accommodated that expectation as best as is humanly possible. Just think back to the last time you visited a hospitality suite at a Conclave, District, or Chapter Meeting. However, I believe the time has come to ask our Members to prove their value to the Fraternity. Determining Omega's investment in you, the individual Brother, is a little easier than figuring out the return on you. For example, the initiation fees can be broken down into various costs for items like your pin, certificate and cards. The camaraderie and team building skills learned during your journey are, of course, priceless. The time and energy spent mentoring or training you for leadership in the Fraternity has an immeasurable value as well.

“...you the Brother must understand what Omega expects of all its members as it relates to making a difference in the lives of Black people…”

In order for Omega to maintain and continue to establish meaningful Infrastructure, a clear and purposeful spirit of volunteerism must be ignited within the Brotherhood. There are a number of things we as organization must do if we wish to remain viable as a national influence on Black America:

*We must timely identify Affective, Informed and Qualified Brothers on the Local, District and International Levels who are willing and able to serve as reliable volunteers.

*We must immediately provide to these Brothers clarification as to the nature, course and scope of the level of service required of any leadership position they choose to pursue.

*We must re-establish in the hearts of the Brotherhood that it is an honor to serve Omega. Prior to accepting any consideration for a leadership position, a Brother must first honestly contemplate what potential value his Fraternal volunteerism brings to Omega.

*And by far, we must identify and pursue those Brothers who can provide a specific level of sophistication in all matters financial. These volunteer Brothers who are willing and able to lend their expertise or partner with the Fraternity to maximize its ability to have access to reliable sources of future income will be worth their weight in gold.

To estimate the bottom number in the ROY equation--the investment--you the Brother must be familiar with all that Omega has added to the quality of your life. To figure out the top number--the return--you the Brother must understand what Omega expects of all its Members as it relates to making a difference in the lives of Black people. This may seem difficult at times, but it is most assuredly doable.
“…Uplift; which puts man in connection with the community in which he lives and lets him realize that he has a responsibility to those who are less fortunate than himself; that he must also do what he does with the idea of service to the community and to the nation…”

Brother Bishop Edgar Amos Love
Theta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Completes Successful Year
By Brother Furman E. Glenn, PhD

Louisville, KY - Theta Omega Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has served the Louisville community since its 12/12/1922 inception eighty seven (87) years ago. Theta Omega Chapter functions principally in the Greater Louisville community as an egalitarian organization that highlights the "Greatness of Mankind" in the context of what God has made. God's desires for the "Greatness of Mankind" are implicit in the precepts set forth in the constitution of the Omega psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. These ideals are incorporated in the transactions of Theta Omega Chapter through the continuity of service principle.

Brothers of Theta Omega Chapter 2009

The continuity of service provided during fiscal 2009 was no exception to previous years. During the fiscal year of 2009, the Brothers of Theta Omega Chapter contributed more than $16,000 and 1,630 manhours of work to youth, family, local and national initiatives in the Louisville community. Thirty-one percent (31%) of the total operating budget was used to fund the charitable projects.

The largest contribution of funds and efforts was in the area of health initiatives. Theta Omega Chapter earned the Silver Member status at the Relay for Life marathon sponsored by the American Cancer Society. More than thirty (30) Brothers participated in a 12 hour marathon held at Central High School football stadium. Additionally, the Chapter continued to support the Visually Impaired Project (VIP).

The ongoing day-to–day work of Theta Omega Brothers required continued discipline and perseverance. The monthly Men-Of-Quality programs conducted in eighteen (18) local middle and high schools represent one of the hallmarks of the Fraternity's Social Action program. Omega Brothers interacted with young male youths in their school environment and challenged each student to improve his functional capabilities and strengthen his life skills related to: 1.) Written and oral communication, 2.) coping skills, 3.) financial planning, social skills, and interpersonal relations.

Men of Quality Session at Liberty High School

The mentoring program was reinforced on March 18, 2009 when 551 male students along with faculty advisors attended the 13th annual Life Style Forum held at the University of Louisville. The forum featured two excellent motivational speakers coupled with nine breakout sessions led by professional in each area of life-style skill-set development.

Lambda Alpha Continues RIF Involvement
By Brother Bill Ryder

Baton Rouge, LA – The men of Lambda Alpha Chapter, under the leadership of Basileus, Brother Calvin Beal, have supported the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Program for more than twenty years. RIF is a federally funded program which allocates grants on a matching ¾ - ¼ basis to community organizations desiring to participate with the government bearing the greater share. Theta Omega Chapter was formed to bring about a union of college men of similar high ideals of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift along with one guiding principle, Ophelma Philia Psurkis. Consistent with Biblical teachings, those guiding principles are dedicated to the preservation of the sanctity of the home, the sanctity of women and the sanctity of the human soul.

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literacy enhancement in the Baton Rouge, LA area. To that end, Lambda Alpha Chapter adopted three elementary schools that met the guidelines. Every year three distributions take place at each of the three schools with the support of the school principal and the assistance of the school librarians.

On book distribution day, a representative number of men from Lambda Alpha Chapter assist with the process and interacted with the students as they received a book. Most recently, Brothers from Beta Sigma Chapter (Southern University) participated as well.

Through RIF, every student in the three participating schools receives three free books during the year, totaling 3600 books, and the children are encouraged to read widely and to collect books.

**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Initiates Days of Care For The Less Fortunate**
By Brother Furman E. Glenn, PhD

**Louisville, KY** - On four occasions during December 21 and December 22, 2009, the Brothers of Theta Omega Chapter braved the cold and provided food for at least 800 people who live in the local community. Additionally, a banquet was also held for less fortunate members of a local YMCA. Our efforts reflect our deep concern for fellow citizens and our philosophy on giving.

In a recent communication, the US Conference of Mayors’ task force on Hunger and Homelessness reported that 27 cities witnessed a sharp 26% increase in the demand for assistance during the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. This was the sharpest increase in 18 years. Further, more people were visiting food pantries and emergency kitchens more often. In 2008, 14.6% of American households were food insecure. The homelessness and hunger are fueled by increased unemployment in consequent to the economic crisis. Louisville currently has a 7.4% unemployment rate with the West End suffering a 13% unemployment rate. This being the season of the “GIFT” should also initiate a season for the sustained practice for giving.

Theta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity subscribes to a philosophy on the nature of giving: “And there are those who have little to give and give it all. These are the believers in life and their coffers are never empty. For in truth, it is life that gives unto life. While you who deem yourself as a giver are but a witness.”

The first two events took place on December 21. Food was distributed in the morning at City View Park, 1115 W. Chestnut St and in the evening at The Coalition for the Homeless Building at 4th and St. Catherine. Brothers of Theta Omega Chapter worked with Dare-to-Care to distribute two truckloads of food to the homeless and needing citizens of our community.

More than 800 people marched through the food lines and received boxes filled with food staples ranging from fruits, soups, dried instance foods, juices, and other foods. The recipients of the food were very animated and very much appreciative of the efforts of Dare to Care and Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Inc.

The event was featured on the December 21st Fox 41 evening news. According to Mrs. T. Wilson and Mr. Ken of Dare-to-Care, one limitation to getting food to the less fortunate citizens in our community is the lack of manpower needed for food distribution such as that provided by the Brothers of Omega on December 21.

At the end of the day, the Brothers of Omega were as much the beneficiaries of the Social Action events as were the food recipients. Brother Audwin Helton’s unsolicited comments follow: “This was the most satisfying and most significant thing that I’ve done since joining the Fraternity.” This statement is a real testament to the impact on the human spirit as Brother Helton is a 30 year veteran of this Fraternity. “It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

Later that night (3rd event) the Brothers of Omega convened at the Chestnut Street YMCA and assembled food baskets for twenty (20) families who live in the area. Approximately one-week of groceries were provided for each family. A similar event had been sponsored by the Fraternity during Thanksgiving season and more are planned in the future.

The next day, the Brothers held a banquet (4th event) for the residents of the Chestnut Street YMCA. Realizing how lonely holidays can be for people who are away from home or loved ones, the Brother of Omega held a banquet for the residents of the YMCA. All food was provided and prepared by the Brothers of Theta Omega Chapter. More than 30 residents of the YMCA were served. Fraternity brothers and the residents then dined, fellowshipped and listened to music for several hours.

In addition to feeding the less financially fortunate citizens, Omega Brothers worked with Brownings Brewery and Restaurant to provide dinner to families present in the waiting room at Kosair Hospital. Those families were visiting children undergoing treatment at Kosair hospital for chronic ailments. It is our objective to expand our Social Action programs and awareness by implementation of new programs and partnering with other organizations.
Xi Omega in Martin Luther King Parade
By Elverez Allen

Tulsa, OK--The Brothers of Xi Omega Chapter in Tulsa, OK participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on January 18, 2010. The MLK Commemoration Society in Tulsa, OK hosts one of the nation's largest Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations. The Brothers of Xi Omega Chapter have been repeat participants for over ten (10) years. The QUES are consistently one of the number one crowd pleasers in the annual event as they present choreographed step routines while advancing through the parade route down historic Greenwood Ave., which was nicknamed "The Black Wallstreet".

Rho Phi Chapter's “Books for Bikes” Program
by Keith Taylor

New Orleans, LA--The Brothers of Rho Phi Chapter, as part of their partnership with Robert C. Moten Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school year, sponsored a “Books for Bikes” program. Each student is required to read a specific number of books each school year, but this program, initiated by Rho Phi Chapter, was designed to encourage and reward students for extra reading. The Chapter donated six (6) bicycles, one to a 4th, 5th and 6th grade boy and girl who read the most books in the months of October and November 2009. Each winner read more than 10 books with the overall winner, a 5th grade boy, who read 16 extra books. On 12/11/2009, Brothers representing Rho Phi Chapter met at the school and presented the winning students with their bicycles at the awards ceremony.

Rho Phi Chapter's Easter Baskets/Religious Articles Donation
By Brother Keith Taylor

Brothers Roger Watkins, Marion Floyd (Basileus), Keith Taylor, Anthony Favre and Damon Singleton

New Orleans, LA--On Thursday, April 1, 2010, the Brothers of Rho Phi Chapter, continued a tradition of visiting children wards at the local hospitals and giving out Uplift, developed a partnership with Robert C. Moten Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school year. Moten is a charter school that originally was located in the City's lower ninth ward, but has had to relocate twice to another facility because of Hurricane Katrina. As part of Rho Phi Chapter's commitment, Brothers from the Chapter visited the school and participated in their "Real Men Read" Program. This program is designed to show young children that Black men do read and care about them knowing how to read well. Brother Marion Floyd (Basileus), Brother Keith Taylor, Brother Anthony Favre, Brother Damon Singleton and Brother Roger Watkins visited several class rooms and read stories to the children. We also encouraged them to develop a love of reading.
Easter baskets and religious articles to patients who will not be able to celebrate the holiday at home. This event, which was spearheaded by Brother Chuck Brown, visited Tulane, Oschsner and West Jefferson hospitals and gave out over 100 Easter baskets and religious articles to the young patients. This event was also featured in the local newspaper, the Times-Picayune, which included a picture and a brief article about the event. This event was also highlighted by Grand Basileus, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr. at the 73rd Ninth District Meeting, held in New Orleans, LA this year.

April marked the first Que Week “On The Hill” in several years, and the Brothers used this week to address several of the Fraternity’s Mandated Programs. A “Que Pollo” talent show started off the week, where the Brothers collected non-perishable food for the price of admission and donated them to the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank in the name of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The Brothers cleaned up a stretch of almost a mile on one of Fayetteville, AR’s main highways as a service project. In addition, the Brothers collaborated with Lambda Theta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to spend time with the youth at Leverett Elementary School. Activities included game playing, group discussions and mentoring. Also during the week, the Brothers hosted an “Omega Splash” at University’s recreational swimming pool and a “Que vs. You” basketball tournament to address health initiatives. These events were aimed to targeting “The Freshman 15” a phenomenon associated with college students who, in their first year, can gain a large amount of weight, reportedly due to a drastic change in lifestyle. The events also facilitated a great opportunity for many African-American students, both male and female, to fellowship and have fun at a competitive level. To address reclamation and retention, a Gamma Eta Chapter Alumni Meeting was held, where information was shared on the current state of the Chapter, and alumni Brothers who were inactive at the time, were urged to come back to the fold. The week was fun-filled with social, service, and fraternal events that really solidified Omega’s presence at the University of Arkansas.

Baton Rouge, LA--The Brothers of the Theta Kappa Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. wanted to exhibit what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day meant to us and repay Dr. King for the great things he did for society. The Brothers decided to dedicate their entire day to the holiday. The day started with a community service project in the less wealthy areas of Baton Rouge, LA. Teaming up with the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Brothers and...
all types of students from the Louisiana State University community began the day at 8:30 A.M. All of the participants arrived on bus and quickly began to work. The goal of the community service project was to help repaint an old shop, house and shed for the elderly who were not capable of accomplishing these things on their own.

All the students and Brothers worked very hard on the buildings and also together. Even though the mission was to finish the buildings, the real meaning of the Day of Service was to implement the dream of Dr. King. All types of young men and women were working together, fellowshipping and coming together for a positive cause. In Dr. King's eyes, the Brothers and these students were living his dream. Successfully, the Brothers and the Louisiana State University community came together and finished each task, but work was not done for the Brothers. The highlight of the day came later that night.

At six in the evening, the Brothers administered a special event called “The Martin Luther King, Jr. Candlelight Vigil.” A prestigious event granted to different organizations each year, the Brothers were selected to put on the vigil. The ceremony was attended by students, faculty and citizens of the Baton Rouge, LA area. Dressed in suits, the Brothers started the ceremony with a prayer and welcome. Following the prayer and welcome, there were powerful speeches and poems that exemplified things that Dr. King was an advocate for and his mission. There was a guest speaker from a nearby chapter of Omega and his words touched each and every one of our hearts. His advice was to keep pursuing Dr. King’s dreams and to realize that we can make a difference in our community whether black, white or any other race. After the great speech to cap off the ceremony, the Brothers led a walk across the campus.

The walk was a reenactment of what was done in the days of Dr. King. The Brothers held a banner and sang great spiritual and powerful songs that gave a sense of pride and togetherness such as: *Lift Every Voice*, *This Little Light of Mine*, and *We Shall Overcome*. When the walk was finished, the Brothers led the audience into the student union where the “I Have a Dream” speech was displayed. This was the finishing touch to a great day. Not only did the Brothers of Theta Kappa Chapter get to celebrate the greatest African American icon to ever live, but they were a huge part of the activities and ceremonies to make this day a success with service and honor.

Kappa Phi Bowls A ‘STRIKE’ To Help Big Brothers, Big Sisters Organization

Milwaukee, WI - The Brothers of Kappa Phi Chapter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin went to the lanes to help Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee. The Brothers participated in the “Bowl For Kids Sake” bowl-a-thon to raise funds and bring awareness of the need for youth mentors in the community.

In Milwaukee 67% of the youth seeking mentors through Big Brothers Big Sisters are African American while less than 15% of the mentors are persons of color. The need is great and the Brothers of Kappa Phi Chapter in Milwaukee have stepped up to do their part by registering a number of Brothers to become mentors.

Kappa Phi Chapter men stepped up to the challenge of raising money to donate to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Milwaukee. The Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization provided the fun, food, t-shirts, prizes and 2 frames of bowling. We all had a great time of friendship and fundraising for a great cause.

In total, after a brief three week drive for direct donated funds and gift matching funds were received; Kappa Phi Chapter was able to donate a total of $1560.

Omicron Nu Chapter “No Lack Book Club” and Youth Mentoring

By Brother Kenneth Adams

Seaside, CA--In spring 2010, Omicron Nu Chapter adopted local youth in an effort to serve as mentors and improve the literacy rate of five to fifteen year old youth. Twenty-two youth, with the support of their parents, participate in Monday book reading at the local Border’s bookstore. The activity consists of quarterly book selection; weekly around the table aloud reading with periodic pauses for discussion, reading comprehension, and one page writing of individual observation.

The activity has been a huge success and has made an enormous impact in the confidence, scholastic performance, and maturity of the participating young men and women. For the summer, we are planning field trips and
camping activities. Eighteen of the twenty-two children are from single parent homes or have had academic performance issues. They have greatly benefited from the positive professional caring family-oriented involvement of Omega Men.

**Beta Pi Chapter, Making An Impact In The Community**

On Saturday, May 1, 2010 the Chapter acknowledged the importance of motherhood with a Mother’s Day Luncheon. Many wives and/or mothers attended the luncheon and enjoyed the fellowship with the Brothers. The food was catered by Piccadilly’s Cafeteria and Brothers and their families enjoyed this dedication to mothers. After the event flowers were delivered to the wives of deceased Brothers who were unable to attend.

On Friday, May 7, 2010 Beta Pi Chapter, along with Omicron Zeta Undergraduate Chapter, participated and raised money for the Annual American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life event that gives everyone in community a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. This is a 12 hour overnight event in which each relay team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event because cancer never sleeps. The Chapter had over 15 members participated in this overnight event and raised several hundred dollars.

Beta Pi Chapter continues to produce and attract community and business leaders. Brother Charlie Jackson, who currently serves as President of the Chapter, is the Facilities Manager for Alachua County. Brother Michael Bowie is the local President of the NAACP, is the Director of Recruitment and Retention and Multicultural Affairs, and is the Executive Director of The Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc. Brother Bobby Welch is Director of the College Reach Out Program at the University of Florida. Brother Greg Bradley is a Finance Manager for the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency. Brother Winston Bradley and Brother Eugene Garvin are ministers. Brother Chuck Reddick, Brother Michael West, Brother Ed Wilkins, and Brother Ernest Miller, II by twenty-two charter members. These twenty-two men of Beta Pi Chapter have played important roles in the Alachua County community. Politically, Brother Neil Butler (deceased) was elected the first African-American Mayor of Gainesville, FL; Brother Edward Jennings, Sr. has served as Mayor and City Commissioner for Gainesville; Brother Charles Chestnut, III has served as one of five Alachua County Commissioners; and Brother Cleather Hatchcock has served twice as Mayor of the City of Alachua, FL. In medicine, Brother Cullen W. Banks practiced for 47 years in Alachua County and was the first African-American physician to be given full privileges at Alachua General and North Florida Regional Hospitals. He was also the first African-American to sit on the Admissions Board for the University Of Florida College Of Medicine. In the field of education, Brother Lougene Hill served as Principal of Prairie View Elementary School. Although only a few Brothers were named in this short paragraph, the members of Beta Pi Chapter continue to play an important role in Alachua and surrounding counties.

**Gainesville, FL –** This Spring the Brothers of Beta Pi Chapter have led and participated in several community and service projects. Beta Pi Chapter is recognized for its community leadership and innovative programs that focuses on service, friendship and community engagement. They continue to strive to make an impact on their community and be considered as stand out leaders.

On April 17, 2010 Gainesville, FL celebrated its 31st Annual 5th Avenue Arts Festival. The 5th Avenue Arts Festival traditionally has been held on the weekend of Malcolm X’s birthday and portrays the rich cultural heritage of the Area. Various civic groups, government agencies and social service programs are represented. The festival is known for its variety of arts, food vendors, and live performances. Several artists visited some of the public schools Friday before the Festival. The Chapter provided its annual service by helping to set up vendors, providing logistical support, and hospitality.

On Friday April 30, 2010 Beta Pi Chapter celebrated the establishment of its chapter with a Chartering Party that consisted of food, memories, and excitement for the over twenty Brothers who participated. Brother James Turk, who was a chartering member, reflected on the chartering process and Omega’s influence in this community. On May 1, 1972, the Beta Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was established in Gainesville, FL under the auspices of 7th District Representative, Brother Dr. Edward J. Braynon and State Representative, Brother Dorsey C.
Wilson are law enforcement officers. Many Brothers own their own businesses including Brother Mickey Rawls (Allstate Insurance), Brother Mike Perkins (Perkins Family Tax Service), Brother Sam Wesley (Wesley Bail Bonds), Brother Chris Chestnut (Chestnut Law Firm), and Brother McArthur Shelton (Shelton Construction Company). These are just a few of our outstanding Brothers who are making a difference in our communities.

**Gamma Phi Chapter Helps Bowl for Kids’ Sake**  
*By Brother Jerry Blackman, Jr.*

**Nashville, TN**- Members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. formed a bowling team and participated in the 3rd Annual CEO’s Birthday Bash, an annual event that raises funds for Big Brothers / Big Sisters (BBBS). Despite threatening weather and lots of rain, thirteen teams showed up to bowl. The event was held at the Strike and Spare Off Bowling Arena in Nashville Tennessee and helped to raise $9,000 for Big Brothers / Big Sisters.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., along with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., have partnered with Big Brothers / Big Sisters in an effort to increase long-term mentoring to youth in the BBBS program.

Mr. Lowell Perry, CEO of the Middle Tennessee BBBS, hosts the annual bowling event to bring organizations together to support the youth. Mr. Perry stated, “We must help bridge the gap as it relates to mentoring our youth because our colleges, fraternities, and sororities will suffer if we do not intervene now”. A total of $1,000 dollars was generated by local chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity to assist in the effort.

Omega bowling team members included Brothers Marcus Ellis, Eric Walker, Robert Slack, Jermaine Scales, and Jerry Blackman. In addition, nine children were matched with caring Big Brothers or Sisters. Congratulations to the Men of Omega Psi Fraternity Inc., friends and supporters.

**Pi Omega PartnersWith Area Deltas for BMAC**  
**Healthy Lifestyles Community Fair**

Brother Eric Brown gets blood pressure tested by Delta Doctor

**Baltimore, MD**-- April 3, 2010. Pi Omega Chapter cosponsored BMAC Healthy Lifestyles Community Fair with Alpha Gamma, Zeta Epsilon, Mu Mu and The Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The Community Fair was held at Northwest Market in Baltimore, Maryland and sponsored by Census 2010.

Numerous booths, manned by Pi Omega Chapter Brothers and the Deltas, gave information and free testing in the following areas: Blood Pressure Screenings, Heart Disease and Diabetes, Kidney Disease, Lead Poison Testing, Dental and Vision, Prostate Health, Smoking Cessation, Mental Health Services, Geriatric Health Services, Birth Control, HIV and STD Services, Healthy Nutrition, Foster Care Recruitment and Services, Mass Transit Mobility Services, Nurses On Demand, Immunization Clinic (including H1N1), Baltimore City Cancer Center, Baltimore Health Department, Census 2010 and Doctors were on site.

**Theta Omega Chapter & JCPS Sponsor 14th Annual**  
**Life Style Choices Forum**

*By Furman Glenn, Ph.D.*

**LOUISVILLE, KY** - On Friday March 19, 2010, more than 650 students and advisors from 25 local schools participated in a ½ day event at the University Of Louisville Student Activity Center. The event was the annual Life Style Choices Forum that featured two motivational speakers and nine breakout discussion sessions. The Lifestyle Choices Forum is designed to increase student’s coping skills, improve awareness of factors that impact health & financial success, to teach effective unit transitioning (middle to high school; high school to college), model positive examples of leadership, and visually demonstrate the negative consequences of gangs, violence and drugs participation. The discussions taught the young men that the choices that they make each day will greatly affect their lives, and ultimately who they become.
The reverend William McKinley Blackford IV, pastor of More Than Conquerors Christian Church, and Plenary speaker spoke to elder gentlemen as proxy for the youth. Rev. Blackford charged elder males to become the moral compass that points the direction and suggest life purpose for these youth or “young lions” who are in their transition and metamorphosis from boyhood to manhood. It is the moral imperative of each male mentor “to prepare these young boys for battle in intellectual and emotional warfare”. Male mentors must be the standard of strong character, the provider for his home, symbol of authentic masculinity, and must set a life purpose dedicated to something greater than himself.

The youth were then divided into nine groups and assigned to the first of two mandatory discussion breakout sessions. The nine discussion sessions were led by motivational speakers who are experts in the following nine fields of life skills: 1) Why are We Dying, 2) The Way In and Way Out-Drugs Gangs & Violence, 3) Black History-All Over the Place, 4) Life After High School-Are you Ready?, 5.) Dealing with the Opposite Sex, 6.) Making Paper-The Power of the Dollar, 7.) Are you the Next President Barack Obama, Lebron James or Both?, 8.) The Music, The Media and You, 9.) Transitioning From Middle to High School.

Mr. DeVone Holt, special assistant to the superintendent, was the after-lunch keynote speaker. The forum theme, “GAIN THE SWAG, DISCOVERING YOUR PERSONAL BEST” was explored. Mr. Holt’s theme was based on his life experiences with a high school teacher. Mr. Holt chronicled several of his life achievements against a backdrop of the opinion of a high school teacher who told him, “He would amount to nothing in life”. When Mr. Holt asked the audience, “How many of you have been told that you would be nothing”, roughly ¼ of the audience, including some adults had experienced the same skepticism from a school teacher. DeVone used that negative vote of confidence to his advantage. He adopted the philosophy, “YOUR SKEPTICISM PRODUCED MY ACTIVISM.” He thus believed in himself and overcame the teacher’s skepticism. He admonished the student: “YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO SUCCEED AGAINST ALL ODDS—BUT DEEP DOWN YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL SUCCEED, YOURSELF.”

DeVone left the group with three questions to ponder:

1) Who will be my master? Your master will be the entity bigger than yourself.

2) Who will be my mate? Proverbs 27:17 is a good basis. Hang with people who are doing the things that you want to do in life.

3) What will be my mission in life? Contemplate, what am I doing here on earth?

DeVone closed with one additional nugget of wisdom: Keynote Address

Boy into Manhood

The Plenary Session Motivational Address Rev. William McKinley Blackford IV in SWAG

The Oracle

Social Action
Mr. DeVone Holt,
Assistant to the Superintendent

“Poor window dressing can prevent discovery of the jewels inside.” He emphasized, “Young people, Sagging is not going to make it.”

Xi Chapter Hope Kids: Restoring Hope, Transforming Lives

Minneapolis, MN - On a recent Saturday this March Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. – Xi Chapter had the opportunity to serve with the Hope Kids Program and brighten some sick children's day. The event was a showing of the new remake of the “Alice in Wonderland” movie for health challenged children and their families.

Hope Kids and events like this help restore fun, excitement and hope to what can be a difficult and uncertain future. This is an ongoing program of regular highly-anticipated events and activities to which all the children and their families in the program are invited. Believing that the power of a “wish” is in its anticipation, this program was created where there is constant anticipation of what will be coming next, therefore strengthening a child’s ability and willingness to fight.

Xi Chapter arrived at the Mann Theater at 8:30am and the families started arriving at around 8:45am. Brothers were in charge of welcoming the families and distributing coupons for free concessions. Many of the families were Gopher fans, and were happy to see two players from the football team present. The children were very excited to take pictures with newly initiated Brothers (Brandon Kirksey and Donald Wilhite). Xi Chapter will continue to serve the community as much as possible before school lets out for the year this May.

Woodbridge, VA--On January 17, 2010, the Honorable Brother Dr. Luke E. Torian (Psi Nu ’85) was sworn in to the Commonwealth of Virginia House of Delegates for District 52. The ceremonial swearing took place in the House of Delegates Chamber located in the State Capitol Building, Richmond, VA. His victory in the November 3, 2009 election was dynamic and historical as Brother Torian became the first Brother in Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter to win an elective office. He received nearly 52 percent of the votes and was the only Democrat to win office in Prince William County. Brother Representative Torian plans to focus on transportation problems and continuing adequate funding for education.

Additionally, Brother Torian is Pastor of the First Mount Zion Baptist Church of Dumfries, VA. Since 1995, under his leadership the church has grown from over 600 members to a 3400-plus congregation and 70 ministries. He is also co-president of the Eastern Prince William County Ministerial Association. According to his website, torianfordelegate.com, he facilitated “The Color of Fear,” a dialogue of more than 1,200 residents on race relations. He also sponsored a community AIDS/HIV Awareness Conference. Brother Torian is also one of the founders of Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE), an organization that represents 120,000 people from 40 congregations from Prince William, Arlington, and Fairfax Counties, and the City of Alexandria. VOICE works to gain access to affordable housing, strengthen education for people who want to learn English, and to provide affordable dental care.

Further testament to Brother Torian’s Omega Spirit of Uplift and service, former Virginia Governor and now US Senator Mark Warner appointed him to the Virginia Board of Counseling. Brother Torian was one of 50 leaders to participate in the John Maxwell special leadership institute and he served on the Board of Directors for ACTS

O Pi Lambda Lambda’s Brother Luke Torian is Sworn-in to the Virginia House of Delegates

By Brother Jimmy Jacobs
and the Cardinal Bank Advisory Board. He also serves as a mentor for troubled teens at Forest Park and Hylton High Schools. Congratulations Brother Torian and best wishes for continued success and service!

Pi Lambda Lambda Successfully Launches Omega U Mentor Program at Potomac Middle School

By Brother Simon X. King

Woodbridge, VA-

The men of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, in conjunction with its adopted school, Potomac Middle School, is pleased to announce the success of the Omega U mentoring program. Omega U was created in September of 2009 to lead male students with different challenges to attain knowledge that promotes the development of character, positive leadership and improved behavior. In addition, the program emphasizes maturity, determination, teamwork, leadership and positive self-esteem.

With parents and students, Omega U was embraced as the first program of its type at Potomac Middle School. Omega U meets at Potomac Middle School three times each month to implement its three main program components that collectively support Omega’s cardinal principals of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. Character Education instruction takes place every 1st Thursday during school hours. Career Counseling sessions are scheduled for each 3rd Thursday during school hours. Team Building/Decision-making training takes place every 4th Saturday from 10:00 am – Noon.

The Career Day sessions have already had presentations from an Air Traffic Control engineer, dentist, and military officer. The Character Education sessions have focused on peer pressure, self-discipline, positive attitudes and work ethic.

The Omega U Mentoring Program has also planned and implemented several field trips to include a tour of Georgetown University and attending a collegiate football game between Howard University and Georgetown University. Following the game, the students had a chance to practice etiquette while dining at the Great American Steak & Buffet restaurant. Their most recent field trip was one that allowed them to be recognized and embraced by the surrounding school community. On December 12, 2009 in the Annual Dumfries Christmas Parade, the men of Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter and the Omega U protégés walked proudly in purple and gold through the main street of Dumfries, Virginia.

Pi Lambda Lambda Brother Greets President Obama

By Brother Jimmy Jacobs

Pictured are (l-r): Eric Liley, Vice President of Marketing, Ms Leah Lamb, Chief Development Officer for Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, President Obama, Brother Jim Almond, and Jerome Beamer, Branch Director.

Woodbridge, VA.

On December 21, 2009, Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter’s Brother Jim Almond, Vice President of Branch Operations for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington welcomed a surprise visit by President Barack Obama who spent some quality time reading to kids of the Richard England Clubhouse #14 in Northeast DC. According to Brother Almond, “The President is everything that he is positively portrayed to be. He was very genuine and gracious with his time as he spent an hour at the Club talking to the staff leadership and the youth that we serve.”

Each child had an opportunity to meet personally with the President as he gave each kid an autographed yoyo, served Christmas cookies and answered their questions and requests for what they wanted for Christmas. It was a day that neither the Club members nor staff of the Boys & Girls Club will ever forget.

Kappa Iota Iota’s Young Men Of Distinction Program

By Brother Scott Wilson

Hampton Roads, VA - Kappa Iota Iota Chapter continues to make its presence known in the community through the Chapter’s signature youth program, Young Men of Distinction (YMOD). The Chapter most recently coached and mentored 5th grade students of local elementary schools in the Hampton Roads, VA area on Monday, March 22, 2010, by sponsoring a basketball training camp for over 75 students of South Morrison Elementary School, YMOD, of Newport News and Riverdale Elementary, South Hampton County, VA.

Brother James Battle established KII Chapter’s YMOD programs as outreach opportunities for Omega in the local community with particular emphasis on impressionable young men attending elementary schools in lower income neighborhoods. Brother Battle's vision to bring
the multiple schools together for a combined session was realized as he, joined by eight Brothers from Kappa Iota Iota Chapter, chaperoned, entertained, coached, mentored and counseled 75 young men. The YMOD events included a basketball camp exercise which included an IMAX video on the life of LeBron James, a one hour session of basketball drills, and a pizza party. Brother Lorenzo Riddick, Kappa Iota Iota Chapter Basileus, was on hand to congratulate all involved for such an important and enduring program. He applauded the effort and remarked that “we must continue to mentor, develop and provide positive enforcement to the lives of our young, they are truly our future.”

Satisfaction Within the Community is Our Satisfaction
By Brothers Jeremy R. Hawkins & Marlon Quinn

Troy, AL—February 23, 2010. The Brothers of the Rho Delta Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. have contributed much of their time and compassion into the campus of TROY University and the community of Troy, AL. While doing so, the Brothers have given back to the community by lending their helping hand to the Colley Complex, which conducts activities for the elderly. This program was designed to allow members of the fraternity to spend quality time conversing, playing games, and being a friend to the senior citizens.

We also hosted the second annual “Miss Omega Pageant.” At this event we had the opportunity to highlight women that were striving for excellence while making positive impacts on the campus and within their communities, the event had a wonderful turnout. Pageant attendees were encouraged to give back by bringing donated items such as can goods to the event. The Chapter was very fortunate to have received so many generous donations on that night. The purpose of this event was to collect donated food items that would in turn be given to local families in need. The Brothers also administered an on campus event called “Ques on the Quad”, the purpose of which was to educate students about the flu virus. Complimentary hand sanitizers were distributed to promote health safety. The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. also managed an on campus event called “Ques for Change” to collect change for the Haiti earthquake victims. Finally, the Brothers of Rho Delta Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. collaborated with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. for a on campus event, which included a charity football game and a food drive. All can goods collected were again distributed to local families experiencing economic hardships.

The Chapter has focused much of their time and compassion specifically into the community of Troy, AL. The Brothers have volunteered their time working with the youth by spending time at Troy Elementary School tutoring students in the areas of math, science, and reading. On special days the volunteers also participated in a program which enabled them to monitor the safety of the students by walking them home from school. Our Chapter continues to push for success with today’s youth by assisting children at the Boys and Girls Club of Troy, AL with their schoolwork on a weekly basis. We look forward to receiving more opportunities in the near future to make an impact, as we strive to become a positive force within and outside of the Troy community.

Alpha Alpha Chapter’s Young Men of Omega Institute Participate in Youth Symposium
By Brother David R. Doctor

Newport News, VA. - On Saturday, March 27, Alpha Alpha Chapter’s young men of Omega Institute participated in a Youth Symposium dealing with gang violence, drugs awareness, peer pressure and dating violence. The symposium was sponsored by the Newport News Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. Omega Institute attended along with other local youth groups. The keynote speaker was Mr. Rashad Wright, Principal at Kecoughtan High School.

Brother Zerbin Singleton, 2010 Disney Dreamers Academy
By Brother Jon Singleton

Orlando, FL -Brother Zerbin Singleton inspired nearly 100 Dreamers (Students ages12-18) at the 2010 Disney’s Dreamers Academy with Brother Steve Harvey. For the third year in a row, Brother Singleton has served as one of the keynote speakers for the commencement breakfast. He speaks about his life of perseverance from being born to a life of drugs, a single parent home, domestic abuse, and poverty to overcoming all odds of becoming the first male in his family to graduate from college.
Graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2008 he was commissioned into the Marine Corps, where he is currently in flight training. He has high aspirations of becoming an astronaut. Brother Singleton delivered his message to the Dreamers as a living testament to the notion that you can achieve anything you dream no matter what obstacle stands in your path.

Iota Iota Iota Chapter Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Brother William A. Smith

Salt Lake City, UT—In November 2009, the Brothers of the Massive and Progressive 12th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. entered into an agreement with Ross Flags, LLC to sell flags honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The flag was designed to promote awareness in the form of a visual aid. One of the major incentives for displaying the flag was to help raise awareness, open up dialogues around social justice, and promote the legacy and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A second and significant incentive for this agreement was to use the flag in conjunction with the Chapters’ scholarship fundraising efforts. The 12th District offered a third incentive, through a friendly competition between chapters, to encourage chapters to sell as many flags as they could. Providing a financial incentive to the seller of the most flags strengthened this friendly competition.

Iota Iota Iota Chapter (Tri-Iota) saw this as a great opportunity to use the flag as a tool in promoting peace during marches, parades, and civil rights rallies. The Chapter also encouraged people to buy them for their home, school, university, and business. Tri-Iota, inspired by the District’s incentives, encouraged the larger Salt Lake City community to purchase and proudly display the flag during the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during Black History Month and any social justice celebration. The Chapter reached out to educational institutions, governments, corporations, religious affiliations, civil rights groups, businesses and individuals and implored them to adopt King’s mission and support Tri-Iota Chapter’s fundraising efforts. Tri-Iota Chapter did what few Chapters were able to do in the 12th District. One of the state’s major universities as well as two of the largest school districts supported the Chapter. Salt Lake City and Granite School districts purchased a flag for each of its K-12 schools in the district.

As a result of creating wide community-based support, the Brothers of Tri-Iota Chapter not only ensured that Dr. King’s image would be seen across the state but it also aided in the effort to promote a conversation around social justice. This is neither a small nor insignificant accomplishment in this state. Utah has not had a great history in honoring Dr. King. In fact, Utah was the last state to name a state holiday after the Civil Rights leader. After initially snubbing him in favor of a generic Human Rights Day, and enduring significant community demonstrations, the state legislature finally relented in 2000.

Immediate Past 12th District Representative, Brother Charles Peevy, shared the news at the March 2010 Southwest Area meeting that Tri-Iota Chapter was the winner of the District competition. Basileus, Brother Smith responded, “Our hope is to encourage every individual to practice Dr. King’s sentiment of nonviolence and social justice for everyone. Now, we want to encourage real change and we know that comes from more than just purchasing and displaying a flag. Our Chapter’s commitments will last far past this initiative.”

Iota Iota Iota Chapter’s Youth Mentoring And Outreach Programs
Brother William A. Smith

Salt Lake City, UT—Iota Iota Iota Chapter (commonly referred to as Tri-Iota) took it upon itself to make a difference in the lives of elementary school students in Salt Lake City, UT. On February 1, 2010, Riley Elementary School became the first school to be adopted under Tri-Iota’s youth mentoring and outreach programs. While many of the Chapter’s efforts assist all students, African American and African boys are specifically targeted.

Brother Dr. William A. Smith, Tri-Iota Chapter’s Basileus, is also the University of Utah’s Faculty Athletics Representative. In this role he assures that the athletics program is in compliance with university and NCAA policies and that athletes persist toward graduation. In this specific effort, Tri-Iota Chapter partnered with the University of Utah men’s basketball squad to adopt the Title I (low-income) school. One of the goals was to show that athletic achievement is not inconsistent with academic excellence. Tri-Iota Chapter presented a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. flag to the school and brought 50 basketballs—each signed by head coach Jim Boylen and the entire Utah basketball team—for students to earn as rewards.

Over $50,000 in school supplies, coats and warm clothes were pledged to the school with over $15,000 given
away in the first year of the adoption. This is an important relationship because 84 percent of the students are racial/ethnic minorities, including 7 percent African American and 62 percent Latina/o. Bobbie Kirby, Riley’s principal and a member of Delta Sigma Theta, sees Omega’s presence as significant because, as she states, “It provides students with strong African American male role models,” in practical terms students “see that African American males can be scientists, lawyers; they can be university professors.”

Tri-Iota Chapter Brothers took the stage, one by one, representing successful Black men who serve as Bridge Builders: a chemist, a lawyer, an entertainer, a systems analyst and the Associate Dean of the University of Utah’s College of Education. Their message: Don’t ever give up, and never find excuses to fail. “My best friend was shot and killed in front of me,” Brother Sharrieff Shah, a lawyer and former University of Utah football player told students. “Now, I could’ve taken the excuse, and said, ‘Listen, they took my best friend right now. Should I get them back?’ No. “I would have been an excuse to do wrong. That would have been an excuse to go to jail. There are no excuses.” It wasn’t easy, Shah said, but from that day on, he vowed to do his best in life. “Let me hear you say it,” Shah said. “There are no excuses!” “There are no excuses!” students yelled in unison.

Tri-Iota Chapter’s future plans include enlisting other Utah athleticsteamstoresupportthiscause. TheChapterwillcontinue to raise money for the school, stage motivational assemblies and offer a positive presence at the school. Tri-Iota Chapter is making adifferenceinthevivesoftheyouthofSaltLakeCity, UT.

Sigma Iota Chapter’s Omega Gents
Sigma Iota’s youth mentoring program, Omega Gents, is a club oriented mentoring program based on our Cardinal Principles and designed to teach and encourage high school African-American males to positively define, plan, pursue and achieve their future. During 2009, our mentoring services included 10 educational workshops, six social/recreational outings, an academic enrichment symposium, a college campus tour at UC Berkeley, three community service events and regular life coaching. Topics covered during educational workshops included: Self Identity; Self Esteem; Self Assessment; Goal Setting & Planning; Academic Achievement & College Preparedness; Developing Positive Relationships; Etiquette & Respecting Women; Community Service and Health & Well-being.

Our formal program runs between September and June to match the school year, but we remain engaged with Omega Gents during the summer. During 2009, we completed one 10-month mentoring cycle that ended with five of our Gents entering college and we started a new cycle with enrolment growing from 8 to 18 Gents.

**Educational Workshops**
Educational workshops were conducted monthly and each ran 2-1/2 hours following a structured format involving a meal, a presentation, an open discussion and exercises to ensure understanding. Omega Gents were also introduced to inspirational poems during workshops and they were expected to recite designated poems from memory.

**Social Outing**
Social and recreational outings included bowling, a movie night, a college football game, a formal ball, an overnight camping trip and a fishing trip. While all of our events were well attended and received great feedback, the overnight camping trip was the most popular. Most of our Omega Gents had never been camping prior to this outing.
Mandated Programs

“Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming.”

John Wooden
**Rho Tau Chapter’s 2nd Annual Ritualistic Rededication Ceremony**

*By Brother Amilcar Murray*

**North Chicago, IL**—Most of us fondly remember our right of passage through the hallowed halls into Omega’s folds. How many of us remember our oaths taken as we crossed those burning sands? I am sure if we are honest with ourselves, we will find that those words are but mere fragments in our minds. On Saturday, March 13th, Rho Tau chapter hosted their 2nd Annual Ritualistic Rededication Ceremony as part of our Reclamation and Retention initiative.

Brethren from across the Omega Diaspora gathered in North Chicago for an unforgettable evening. Brother Andrew Ray from Rochester, NY performed the ritual from sheer memory and proceeded to take the Brothers present down an unforgettable stroll back to their humble embryonic beginnings into Omega. We were all reminded of our sacred duty to Omega...to hold true to her ideals and continued uplift of all mankind. Brother Ray also shared his experiences while interacting with two (2) of our Fraternity’s Founders many decades ago. He vividly remembered the charge given to him then....interestingly enough....the charge given then is the same charge we all NEED to pay heed to now “Do not let Omega die! Take care of her! Nurture her!”

As moving as the ritualistic ceremony was, nothing compared to the fellowship and brotherhood that was on display that evening as Brothers from the 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and beyond shared their fraternal bonds. Stories of a bygone era were handed down to the next generations and more than anything else a renewed sense of devotion and dedication to Omega’s cause was re-lit. The lamp that lit the way for so many Brothers to see and that shunned away the darkness was refueled. I honestly wish there were words to adequately describe what transpired that night. I can only sum it up by saying I wish you were there! This night will go down for those present as one of the mysteries of faith that only those present were allowed to bear witness to.

Let us not forget the ideals upon which this great Fraternity was founded upon. Let thy precepts be true. Let us remember that we are suppose to be men of like ideals and character and more importantly we are the difference between making a positive impact in our communities and merely living in them.

**Pi Gamma raises Norfolk State University scholarship endowment fund to $72,000**

*Brother Conrado B. Morgan and Brother Myron Bowers*

**Norfolk, VA.** - The Pi Gamma Chapter, Third District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. recently raised its scholarship endowment fund for undergraduates of Pi Gamma at Norfolk State University to $72,380. The name of the account is The Pi Gamma Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated Student Leaders Memorial Scholarship Endowment Account. A check will be presented to key leadership at Norfolk State University on Oct. 23, 2010, during halftime of NSU’s homecoming football game in front of an expected 25,000 fans.

The fund is expected to provide two $500 scholarships per semester for an undergraduate who is active in the Pi Gamma Chapter, demonstrates financial need, and is involved in student activities on campus at NSU. The Chapter and Chapter Advisor, Dr. Leroy Hamilton, will vote to select scholarship recipients. The funds will be returned to the account if there is no applicant. The endowment account will remain at $72,380 or above.

The Graduate Brothers and alumni of NSU who participated are to be commended for their financial support and their enthusiasm toward completing this phase for the account. The next phase is to surpass the $100,000 mark in 2010. Pi Gamma Chapter alumni will continue to give back to NSU and especially to PG Chapter. This account recognizes Pi Gamma Chapter’s Brothers of the past, present and future. According to Louis Wright, executive director of development, “Pi Gamma Chapter’s Alumni set the standard for all other Greek organizations to follow at NSU!”

We would like to thank Louis Wright and Phillip Adams at NSU for their support in this project. If you would like to assist or donate, please visit https://nsu.site-ym.com/donations/donate.asp?id=3456. All donations are tax deductible. Long live Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated!

**Tau Lambda Lambda Chapter 2010 Talent Hunt Competition**

**Waldof, MD**—Ryan Harris is the 1st Place Winner in Tau Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc’s 2010 2nd Annual Talent Hunt, held February 27th, 2010. He received the top prize for his soulful vocal rendition of Kenny Lattimore’s song ‘For You.’

‘Talent Hunt’ is one of the Nationally Mandated Programs of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The purpose is to provide exposure, encouragement and financial assistance to talented young people participating in the performing arts. Winners are recognized for their achievement and receive cash awards.
Jake Prater, the Talent Hunt chair, stated, “I was honored to be a part of giving our local youth a forum to display their talents. We need more avenues of encouragement for our youth and TLL Chapter challenges the local organizations and residents of Southern Maryland to also step-up to the plate.”

Ryan, a 16 year old junior at McDonough High School, in Waldorf, said he enjoys singing, basketball, and religious activities. His voice and stage presence truly made him a winner to all in attendance.

First and second runners-up were Jenny-Lynn Bernardo and Khari Malik Whitmyer, respectfully. Bernado attends Gwynn Park High School and sang an original piece entitled ‘Who we are.’ Whitmyer attends Westlake High School and sang ‘Make Them Hear You.’ He said he enjoys singing and photography.

“I was inspired by the young people,” said Tiffany Scott, a resident of Upper Marlboro, who drove to Waldorf, for the event, after hearing about its success from last year. “I would tell young people to forever live your life from your passion and be driven by the unique purpose that God has given each of us.”

Ryan will travel to Syracuse, NY in April to compete in the Fraternity’s 2nd District Conference’s Talent Hunt competition.

Pi Omega Chapter Memorial Ceremony
Brother of Pi Omega Chapter At The Memorial Service

Baltimore, MD--Sunday March 14,2010. The Brothers of Pi Omega Chapter conducted its Memorial Service at The Southern Baptist Church following the 9:30a.m. service, where Pi Omega Chaplain, Brother Dr. Dante L. Hickman is Pastor. Over 60 Pi Omega Chapter Brothers were in attendance with their Omega sashes proudly displayed. The purpose of the Memorial Service was delivered by Brother Dr. Washington Green, Jr. Each year during the month of March, every chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is required to honor the memory of all Brothers who have died during the intervening year by a Memorial Service. The Pi Omega Chapter Brothers who transitioned to Omega Chapter this year were Brother Guy Gillard, Brother Dr. Gossie H. Hudson, Brother Paul Johnson, Brother Hilbert Stanley and Brother Hubert Simmons. May God rest their souls and bless their families. During the service, Pi Omega Chapter presented a donation of 50 Men’s suits to Prologue, Inc., a group helping ex-offenders’ transition back into society.

Pi Omega Talent Hunt Competition

Pi Omega Talent Hunt Winner

Baltimore, MD-- March 7, 2010. The Brothers of Pi Omega Chapter held its Fifty-Fifth Annual Talent Hunt Program at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture. The Talent Hunt is a Mandated Program of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The purpose of this Program is to encourage talented high school students from grades 9-12 to continue to develop their gifts. This is the fifty-fifth year Pi Omega Chapter has sponsored this event and many of our winners have continued to develop their arts in college repatory theaters. Some of our winners have had successful professional careers.

The Masters of Ceremony were the Honorable George K. McKinney and Garland Brown. Greetings were given the audience by Pi Omega Chapter Basileus, Brother John Berkley following the Talent Presentations. Haikeen Johnson was the overall winner of the Talent Hunt competition.

Theta Omega Writes For Success
By Brother Furman E. Glenn, PhD

LOUISVILLE, KY-- Miss Courtney Lattimore, Miss Elizabeth Hollis, and Miss Morgan Bryant were the winners of the Theta Omega Chapter, Omega Psi Phi fraternity 2009 annual writing contest. In addition to local award, the winner will enter into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. national competition where scholarships ranging from $2500 to $4500 will be awarded for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The essay contest focused on the topic: How has President Obama Influenced Your Career Goals and Aspirations? In the award winning essays, the three students related the importance and impact that political leaders who serve as role models have on the aspirations and philosophies of young adults. President Barrack Obama’s rise encouraged the students to 1.) Believe in themselves; 2.) Leave an unaltering legacy, 3.) Reach their full potential, 4.) Dedicate their lives to benefit others, 5.) Overcome obstacles of life,
6.) Inspire political awareness and involvement 7.) Discard political stereotypes that prevent participation in the political system, and to 7.) Engender a philosophy of YES I CAN in career planning. Each winner has made plans to attend a university of higher learning in the fall of 2010.

Courtney Lattimore, a senior at Eastern High School, is the daughter of Kirk and Sharis Lattimore of Louisville, KY. In her award winning expose’, Courtney stated: “Barack Obama’s rise to the presidency not only aroused the world but also inspired the masses. Everyone can take away something from President Obama’s success. President Obama’s influence is momentous and has taught me to believe in myself, have a vision, pursue it, dedicate my life to benefit others, and to leave behind an unaltering legacy.”

Courtney aspire to become an orthopedic surgeon. She writes further, “As an African American woman there will inevitable be negative factors that will stand in my way, but I know that if I press forward through them I will achieve the desired result. I feel that I can essentially do anything and not have to settle for something less than my true aspirations.” Courtney maintains awareness of the political climate from the written and video media. She is faculty editor of her yearbook staff, a former gymnast, and a cheerleader, hardworking, self-motivated and has a high penchant for academic excellence. Courtney dreams of attending Vanderbilt University in the fall and major in Biology and chemistry.

Elizabeth Hollis, a senior at Waggoner High School. Elizabeth related a recent event involving President Barrack Obama. She writes: “In a recent photo, President Obama has been seen speaking with a young boy. In this picture, Obama places an affectionate forefinger on the young boy’s forehead, and he [the boy] looks up with admiration. The others stare with amazement at the boy’s gleaming expression. This picture is significant to me because I want to inspire youth, just like Obama inspired me to achieve anything I desire.” At the end of her essay, Elizabeth returns to the vision: “in twenty five years, the young boy depicted in the picture, will reflect back on the moment when Obama spoke to him. He will then remember how he was inspired by the first Black president of the United States to maintain high goals, for future leadership.” Elizabeth stated that President Obama influenced her career goal in a myriad of ways: 1.) “I am positive that I can reach my full potential”; 2.) with Obama’s establishment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act future success is ensured. The Act provides $13 billion in Title 1 funds to go to K-12 education in disadvantaged school systems”, 3. “We were both raised by single parent, Obama understands the challenges that many young people face when there’s no father figure around and there’s no proper guidance at home”, 5.) “His “black” is triumph because I now see a leader of the nation that looks like me”.

Elizabeth garnered her perspective on the life of President Obama through his speeches, articles written in her history class and the classroom debates on the pros and cons of each candidate during the presidential campaign. Elizabeth is her high school paper editor. She does a variety of writings including, poems, literary analyses, contemporary articles. She will attend Murray State University in the fall and major in English with journalism minor. Her perspective on life: “To survive is to find a meaning in suffering”.

Morgan Bryant, a senior at Male High School, is the daughter of Pedro and Lydia and Bryant. Morgan stated that the Obama’s run for the presidency changed her perspective on politics and politicians. She writes: “Here’s the truth, I have never been interested in government, or the people behind it. In fact, for a long time I didn’t even care who our political leaders were because I had preconceived notions that they were all the same; liars and cheaters, who only go to the top using money and force. See, because I didn’t feel like our politicians were real and relatable, they were never people I aspired to be like. But to my surprise, that fact changed.” Speaking of the campaign of Barrack Obama, Morgan writes further: “He was young, charismatic, easy to listen to, and he actually seemed genuine; a characteristics I didn’t expect to find in a politician. That alone caught my attention. What did matter was the fact that he was real. That I could relate to. For the first time in my life, I was actually interested in a political leader, but even more than that, I was actually inspired.” On a more personal level, Morgan stated: 1.) “President Obama
Morgan has had a long passion for writing. She writes poetry. She was published in the Anthology of Poetry by Young American when she was in 5th grade. She is engaged in lots of writing in her school setting. She will attend University of Kentucky in the fall. She will major in early childhood Education and minor in English. Her philosophy on Life: Put faith first, Do what you Love, Everyday Counts.

Theta Omega Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was formed to bring about a union of college men of similar ideals of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift along with one guiding principle Ophelma Philia Psurkis. Consistent with Biblical teachings, those guiding principles are dedicated to the preservation of the sanctity of the home, the protection of women and the sanctity of the human soul.

BETA UPSILON PRESENTS; BEAUTILLION 2009: ELEMENTS OF A YOUNG MAN!
By Brother Osuman Issaka

Omaha, NE—On Saturday November 28, 2009, Beta Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. crowned Mr. Beauillion 2009. Twenty-eight (28) outstanding young men participated as Beaus in the “2009 Beauillion: Elements of Manhood”. These dynamic young men, all high school seniors from the Omaha Metropolitan Area, were presented by their Mothers (or other influential female figures in his life) plus a Belle escort. The evening of elegance was held at the Mid America Center, in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The mission of the Beauillion is to educate and encourage African American male students from various disciplines on the vital importance of earning a college degree, and to give back to their communities. The program develops a network of emerging scholars of African descent who are dedicated and sensitive to the needs and concerns of an increasingly diverse community. The Beauillion is a program that has been a vital part of the Omaha community for 31 years recognizing African American High School seniors. Over the course of the year, the students participated in workshops such as “Financial Empowerment,” “Health and Wellness: STDs,” and Legal Issues, that were presented by various community sponsors. In addition, the participants did two community service projects.

Since August of 2009, 31 young men from the Omaha Metropolitan Area have been competing for the coveted title of Mr. Beauillion through ad sales in the souvenir book and the sale of tickets to the event. The young man who raised the most money in support of the W. Craig Robinson Memorial Scholarship for the 2009 year, proudly bearing the title of Mr. Beauillion 2009 was Creighton Preparatory High School Senior, Mr. Bradley Christian-Sallis, son of Trevis Sallis and Mrs. Dana Washington. Other members of the Beauillion Court included First Runner Up: Austin E. White, son of Edward and Jacqueline White, a senior at Bellevue West High School; Johnterry Whittner, son of Carrie and Terry Whiter, another senior at Creighton Preparatory High School. Cox Communications, for the 2nd year, sponsored the Mr. Academia Scholarship. Cox Communications representative Tracey M. Newby, Financial Analyst in the Field Services Division, was on hand to present this award to James Robinson, son of James E. & Tessa Rolls-Robinson a senior at Omaha North High School with a cumulative GPA 3.958 (weighted) on a 4.0 scale and ranked #60 in his graduating class of 368. This marks the 2nd North High School recipient to bear this title. The Mr. Personality Award was given to Skylar Reed son of Herschel Reed and Danita Carroll, a senior at Northwest High, and was chosen to receive this accolade by his fellow Beaus for his show of brotherhood.

With Masters of Ceremony Charleston Devereaux and Annette Crowder, the evening began with a performance by Vickie Hughes of Metamorphosis Performance Studio, who presented a special dedication to the Beaus in the form of a routine in Poi Dance (dance with light and music). At the end of the performance, formerly crowned Mr. Beauillion participants were recognized and welcomed to the venue. Singing trio “JED” (members: Justin Payne, Eric Lawson and Derrick Johnson presented an amazing version of “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” As a preview of things to come, the audience was delighted with a special performance by 10 Junior Beaus ranging from ages 8-13. Other performances were, Miss. Sherae Sawyer, a senior at Omaha Benson High who provide a thought provoking Spoken Word presentation.

After an elegant rendition of ballroom dancing by the Beaus with their mothers, their Belles (female escorts) and an exciting routine for just the Beaus, the evening closed with recognitions of the committee, choreographers Fabian Hayden and Tracy Swait, sponsors, and the presentation

All proceeds of the 2009 Beautillion will support scholarships for other deserving high school seniors, as well as mentoring and social action programs facilitated by the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Planning is already underway for the 32nd annual event, scheduled to be held in November 2010, which will be open to high school seniors of African descent who will be graduating in 2011.

The Talent Hunt Program has been very rewarding to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and many talented youth. We will continue to search for and support our gifted youth.

Nu Nu Chapter Talent Hunt 2010


Willingboro, NJ – In keeping with the mandated programs of the Fraternity, Nu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. held its annual Talent Hunt Show at the John F. Kennedy Center in Willingboro, NJ on Saturday, 30 January 2010. Basileus, Brother David S. Linder was the Master of Ceremonies. Brother Carlton Lampkins, Second District Talent Hunt Committee Chairman was in attendance at the event to support our local youth.

After the introduction of the judges, there were four (4) contestants who competed to represent the Chapter at the 62nd Second District Conference in Syracuse, NY. There were two contestants performing contemporary vocal selections, one performing a dramatic reading, and one contestant in the artistic photography category.

Third place was awarded to DaQuan Alonzo O'Neal for his contemporary vocal selection, Second place was awarded to Kyleen Cezar for her contemporary vocal selection, and First place was awarded to Dwayne Dean for his dramatic reading. All of these winners received $75 and a certificate for participation. The overall winner was Jasmine Thompson, who received a trophy, a certificate of participation, $100, and will also represent the Nu Nu Chapter at the 62nd Second District Conference in Syracuse, NY. All of our contestants did a fantastic job, and special thanks to our judges: Mr. Bruce Clark, Ms. Beverly Hutton, Ms. Chrystal Walker, Mr. Art Tolbert, and Ms. Victoria Holsendorf for helping us make our Talent Hunt Program a success.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Talent Hunt idea was created in the Sixth District (North and South Carolina) in 1945, and the first District Talent Hunt Program was held in Charlotte, NC on April 19, 1946. The need for such a program was born out of the unequal opportunity afforded to some American youths to develop and give full expression to their talents.

The Talent Hunt Program has been very rewarding to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and many talented youth. We will continue to search for and support our gifted youth.

IHQ $10K Donation To Shaw University

Raleigh, NC – September 28, 2009—Preparation for the 76th Grand Conclave of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated is officially underway. The City of Raleigh extended an official hand of welcome and partnership to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated at the press conference that was held on Monday, September 28, 2009 at Hedingham Athletic and Golf Club.

Mr. James West, Council Member and Mayor Pro Tempore, told Grand Basileus, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr. that the City is excited about the upcoming Grand Conclave that will be held in Raleigh July 22-30, 2010. “We are thrilled about the partnership with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated and we will work tirelessly to ensure success of this prestigious event. We will roll out the red carpet treatment and extend the best in southern hospitality”.

Brother Lee readily accepted the welcome on behalf of the Fraternity’s national leadership and large membership around the world. Brother Lee said, “We are delighted to convene next year in Raleigh, NC and we are equally delighted to bring our level of commitment and assistance to Shaw University.” He handed the gift of $10,000 to Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy, Interim President of Shaw University. Smiling in her acceptance, she said, “On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Shaw University and the Shaw Family, I thank you for this gift to the University.”

Brother Antonio F. Knox, Grand Keeper of Finance for the Fraternity, is a Raleigh resident and said, “It is only fitting that the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity make this $10K donation to Shaw University as we prepare for the 76th Grand Conclave here in Raleigh next year with the Iota Iota Chapter serving as the host Chapter. The four Founders of the Delta Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity were all graduates of Shaw University and we continue to have outstanding Omega Men graduate from Shaw.” Judge Michael Morgan will serve as the Grand Marshal for the Conclave.
The Fraternity has also partnered with the Garner Road YMCA for the last three years providing financial assistance to scholarships designated for deserving graduating seniors. Brother Lee and other members of the Fraternity played in the 2009 Garner Road YMCA Golf Tournament that was held at Hedingham on Monday. Hank Mattocks, Chairman of the Golf Tournament stated, “We are so excited about the Tournament and what it means to our students. I want to thank Mr. Lee and members of the Fraternity and community for coming out in large number to support us. Our students are not just athletes; they are scholars in colleges around the country.”

The day produced beautiful weather and was tremendously significant for the City of Raleigh, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated and the Garner Road YMCA.

**Xi Omega Chapter– Talent Hunt**

*The Brothers of Xi Omega Chapter with the the Talent Hunt Winner*

**Tulsa, OK**—Xi Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. in Tulsa, OK held its Annual Talent Hunt on Friday, February 26, 2010 in the Tyrone Wilkerson Auditorium at Carver Middle School. The winner of the talent competition was BerThaddaeus Bailey. BerThaddaeus is a student at Tulsa's Central High School. Bailey represented Xi Omega Chapter in the Talent Hunt at the 73rd 9th District Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

**Iota Iota Iota Chapter Annual Memorial Service Ceremony**

*By Brother William A. Smith*

**Salt Lake City, Utah**—On March 12th of every year, Omegas pay tribute to Brothers who have entered Omega Chapter. If the Chapter is saved from this misfortune then a short ceremony is held to honor Omegas across the globe that have met this terminal fate. There are few more noble ways to be recognized in the transition of life to death than by your Fraternity and its members.

Iota Iota Iota Chapter (Tri-lota) respectfully participates in this annual ceremony. Yet, the Brothers of Tri-lota have added an additional ceremony in March. The Chapter celebrates and recognizes all Omegas in the area who have endured the challenges of life to persevere another year. When no one has entered Omega Chapter, Tri-lota wives, mentees, “Friends of Tri-lota” and all Omegas are invited to a formal dinner and celebration ceremony.

On Sunday, March 14th Brother Frank Blackmon (Beta Theta Chapter, 1986) served as this year’s dinner emcee and he seamlessly guided the guest and Brothers through the night’s activities. Brother Sharrief Shah (Iota Iota Iota Chapter, 1992) spoke about the contributions of Brother Carter G. Woodson and the significance of the Memorial Day Ceremony. Brother Earnest Blossom (Kappa Beta Chapter, 1974) provided a keynote address on strategies for connecting our children to opportunities for success through Omega men. Brother David Hollins (Beta Theta Chapter, 1986) provided an update on the Southwest Area meeting. The Basileus, Brother William A. Smith (Tau Theta Chapter, 1984), addressed all Omegas in attendance to be more self-critical on how they are fulfilling their obligations, oaths and responsibilities to Omega and raise their commitments by moving from the “80” to the “eight.” In his own words, “Omegas don’t fulfill their obligations, Black people suffer and Black boys die emotionally, spiritually, academically and their overall development is thwarted.”

The highpoint of the night was the presence of the special guest of honor, First Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Dr. Carl Blunt. Brother Blunt provided an address on a vision for Omega. Brother Blunt’s speech was more than just motivational; he noted the major achievements that the Fraternity has accomplished. This had an overwhelmingly positive response from the guest in the audience. Brother First Vice Grand also encouraged all Brothers who were not financial to become financial.

The Chapter also took time to pay respect to the three Brothers made in the 1970’s: Brother Calvin Blossom (Kappa Beta Chapter, 1973), Brother Earnest Blossom and Brother George Brown (Mu Tau Chapter, 1976). Brothers E. Blossom and Brother Brown, along with their wives, shared the table of honor with Brother First Vice Grand, Blunt. Brother Brown was so moved by the night’s events that he shared: “I haven’t felt this much love in a long time and I miss it. I need to come back to the Chapter.”

This was another goal of the dinner. Brothers who are reclaimable are invited to see the great things that the Chapter is doing. The dinner is an opportunity to fellowship and witness that Omega’s arms are open and ready to receive all Brothers. Omega is alive!

**Alpha Iota Iota Chapter 2010 Scholarship Luncheon**

**Plano, TX**—On Saturday, April 24th, 2010, Alpha Iota Iota Chapter conducted its annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Plano Housing Authority Community Room in Plano, TX. The luncheon is held in honor of the Fraternity’s Mandated Program of Scholarship. The Scholarship Program is intended to promote academic excellence among the undergraduate members of the Fraternity. Graduate chapters are expected to provide financial assistance to student members and non-members of the Fraternity. On the International level, a
portion of the Fraternity’s international budget is allocated to scholarship through the Charles R. Drew Scholarship Commission.

A total of $6,000.00 in scholarships was awarded by Alpha Iota Iota Chapter to qualified students in the Plano, TX area for 2010. There were seven recipients to include: Tristen Yvette Beeler of Allen High School, Monica Chapman of Rowlett High School, Marissa Naomi Davis of Plano East Senior High School, Paige Yvette Davis of McKinney Boyd High School, Danarian Gant of Allen High School, Kiara Rolyce Taylor of Plano West Senior High School and Teressa Waits of Lancaster High School.

**Tallahassee Chapters of Omega Host Talent Hunt Showcase**

By Stephen Jackson

**Tallahassee, FL**--On Sunday April 11, 2010 the Tallahassee Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. came together to help our Fraternity celebrate the arts. The Brothers, lead by Chairman Carey Brown, produced an event for the community to help uplift our youth and continue to serve as bridge builders to higher scholastic attainment. The event was held in Foster Tanner Music Building on Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University campus with the help of a committee comprised of members from each chapter.

Talent Hunt since its inception in 1945 is a Mandated Program the Brotherhood takes great pride in hosting every year. We search for the best and brightest students of the arts to give them a chance to showcase their talents. The 65 year tradition of Talent Hunt is a vibrant and relevant in our Fraternity as it has ever been. The Chapters look forward to sending these talented individuals to represent Tallahassee in the upcoming Florida Statewide Meeting in September.

The first place winner for the event was Antavia Williams whose talent was a musical performance (vocals). Antavia currently attends James S. Rickards High School. The second place winner was Aaron Vaughn, an attendee of Florida High School, whose talent was a musical performance (? instrument or vocal?). The third place winner was Joshua Stegall, an attendee of James S. Rickards High School as well, whose talent was a dramatic performance. Each of these three received a plaque as well as a monetary scholarship courtesy of the chapters. Eleven young ladies and gentlemen performed in the actual Talnet Hunt event in which - all are truly winners.

**Majestic Psi Psi Chapter Showcases Scholarship**

**Frankfort, KY**-- The Brothers of Majestic Psi Psi Chapter, at historic Kentucky State University, recently recognized Brother Moussa Camara. Brother Camara received the distinguished ‘Majestic Psi Psi Chapter Leadership Scholarship’ Award for his outstanding leadership in the classroom and throughout the campus and community. He was awarded $1,000 to foster his scholastic pursuits while at KSU. Brother Camara stated that “Many people have helped to make this award possible for me. My goal is to apply it to my educational needs, so that I may reach back and help others one day”. Psi Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Inc. celebrated 75 years of continued success in October of 2009.

**Omegas of West Alabama Celebrate Youth Achievement**

By Brother Nigel Cleveland

**Tuscaloosa, AL** - On Sunday, February 28, 2010, the Brothers of Alpha Tau Chapter, Rho Gamma Chapter, Beta Eta Chapter, and Alpha Delta Iota Chapter celebrated the achievements of students in the west Alabama area. The Chapters sponsored their annual Achievement Week Ceremony at Birthright Auditorium on the campus of Stillman College. The program was hosted by Basileus Dwight Monroe, Achievement Week Chair Brother Albert Ike, and Location Host Brother Roland Lewis. The chapters celebrated students from Bibb, Green, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa Counties, 157 students were recognized from elementary, middle, and high schools in the area. The Brothers commended each of these students for a job well done and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in education. Five high school students were awarded $500 scholarships to support their future college matriculation.

The Chapters honored Charles Hope (Bibb), Dexter Laye (Green), Jovanté Thomas (Pickens), Scotty Jones Jr. (Sumter), and Tyler Davis (Tuscaloosa). The students were chosen to receive awards based on criteria from their academics, community service, and good citizenship. The Chapters continue to support previous scholars at the Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, University of Alabama, University of West Alabama, and Shelton State College. Alpha Tau, Rho Gamma, Beta Eta, and Alpha Delta Iota Chapters continue to uplift the name of Omega through its dedication to mentoring, education, and good citizenship amongst young men in our west Alabama communities.
I was fortunate during my tenor as Grand Basileus to attend a particular leadership panel session. In this session, the facilitator stated, “…because America is such a young nation, we don’t have many long standing traditions…” He went on to state that the county undergoes a cultural metamorphosis every decade. As I thought about these words and what they meant in regard to Omega, many conversations with many Brothers came to mind. It seemed to me that all of us see dear Omega through many channels. Be these visions through rose colored glasses, all shades of envious green or the times that prevailed when we were initiated into the Fraternity, Omega means to us what it means to us.

Within our dear Fraternity, there are a multitude of points of view to be found in reference to the longstanding questions pertaining to: What is an Omega man? What is a Brother? What is a Que? Any approach to these questions present quite a bit of difficulty for the Brotherhood, as there is an inherent and systemic struggle to find common ground. The real questions in these cases would seem to be: Who is keeping score? Who is the referee that will determine who has the right answer?

As we get closer to celebrating our 100th birthday, it is important to remember that Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded on the idea of Friendship. Our Founders were friends and they incorporated that idea into the Fraternity’s motto and purpose. I believe the Founders shared a common notion of FRIENDSHIP that was based on their upbringings and education. They were versed in , as part of their home training. The Dreer History Book makes references to each of them as having been raised in Christian households. According to Aristotle, the most important friends are those who help us to be our best morally, ethically and spiritually. This kind of friend challenges us to do our very best as human beings. This more virtuous and therefore more lasting friendship is represented by the Philia in our Fraternal Motto. A good Friend demonstrates the following on a consistent basis: a tendency to desire what is best for another Brother; sympathy and willingness to aid in times of trouble; honesty, perhaps in situations where it may be difficult for others to speak the truth with mutual understanding.

We steadfastly, hold heartedly and rightfully approach the next 100 years in Omega’s history with all due anticipation and enthusiasm. To begin this journey, we must re-establish and hold close to our hearts the traditions and sacred values that the past 100 years have afforded us. We, the Fraternity, the Brotherhood, the Brothers, the Ques, the Bruhs, the Alpha Male Nation, have these sacred values in common.

I have a question for you the individual Brother. What, for you, was the significance of the tests that Omega required of you prior to your initiation? I would like to think that you and I have the following in common:

*We all took the same oath to abide by the Preamble of our founding documents and to subscribe to the principles that are identified in Omega’s long standing Constitution.

I have to believe that we have this in common. I am also convinced that if we practice what Omega’s Preamble says to us, then we can channel the Fraternity’s energy into the realization that the Preamble is our one true Value Statement. Thus, if we practice just what it says then we can all bring Omega forward to ensure that it becomes the organization that the Founders envisioned. For this reason, I strongly encourage you to ask yourself the following:

*Take a moment to read the Oath you took. You can find it on the IHQ website under the Resources section. Just click on Constitution / By-laws.

*Determine if the following are true in your life:
1. Are you living up to the Oath you took?
2. Are those so-called Members who are always in your ear living up to the oath that they took?

If you are willing to give consideration to these questions, then go back and review Omega’s Preamble and see if you are truly acting well your part. I further ask that you consider looking at the Fraternity’s activities and see if we are making the purpose of Omega a reality in the lives of our people. If you conclude that this works for you so far, please continue. If not, let us get back on the path that was laid before us many days, weeks, months and decades ago.

One of the things that I have often repeated is that everything rises and falls on leadership. During the 2007 Strategic Planning Meeting in Miami, FL, there was an exercise completed during the meeting that addressed Leaders vs. Misleaders. David Gill’s “10 Principles of Highly Ethical Leaders and Organizers” suggests that effective Leaders cultivate practices such as: #7- Keep commitments and agreements in a trustworthy, reliable manner and/or #9- Communicate truthfully and constructively.

On the other hand, “Misleaders” don’t, and can mess up organizations and the lives of those they serve. I truly believe that Omega Men must share a common code of ethical conduct! Brother, in this regard, how do you measure?

When we consider Fraternal Morality, we must first begin with multi-leveled leadership potential; those who we trust to do what is right by Omega. This includes setting tangible goals on the Local level for Chapter Basilei to include Chapter Basilei succession planning and stated recommendations for all incoming Chapter officers. This same philosophy applies to the District Level as well as the International Level. The concept of Multi-Leveled Stewardship (Serving Others Not One’s Self) is highly ethical. I feel that, morally speaking, the following is what the Brotherhood should demand and, in fact, insist of its leadership:

*That the leadership must establish reasonable expectations of officers once they have been elected to office on the Chapter, District and International Levels

*Each elected officer should engage in a presentation of qualifications prior to assuming the day to day functions of his newly elected office.
“If a man does his best, what else is there?”

General George S. Patton
FIRST WWII NAVY CORPSMEN, MONTFORD POINT MARINE CAMP
By Brother Robert S. Hammond

Los Angeles, CA-- May 4, 2010. Robert Stanley Hammond, age 17 enlisted in the United States Navy, December 13, 1943, and was sent to a segregated Naval Training Camp, Great Lakes Illinois. He became a United States Navy Corpsman First Class, and remained from December 13, 1943 to June 27, 1946. Brother Hammond was one of first 22 Blacks to attend Hospital Corps School. March 1944, he graduated as a Hospital Corpsman and received further training at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital in New York as a Medical Technician, and later was assigned to Montford Point Camp, New River North Carolina.

During the course of World War II as a result of a Presidential Directive the United States Marine Corps was directed to accept African Americans at Camp Lejune, NC. In turn they were sent to Montford Point at New River, a segregated camp.

Medical and Health Services for Black sailors and Marines were poor. It was a policy for white health Care personnel to provide minimum services to African Americans. They did not want to touch a Black person. It was a law in the South at the time, a white person could only care for a Black person if they were being born or dying. For all injuries, marines received All Purpose Capsules (APC), and Brown's mixture, (Mineral oil, Castor oil and a Brown Syrup), for all illness except cuts or fracture's and other injuries. Until Dr. Charles Drew invented blood plasma, all whole blood was segregated, and identified according to the race category.

The Navy Corpsmen were highly respected and were called “Doc.” April 1945, Hammond was assigned to Base 18 Hospital, and later assigned to the medical dispensary at Camp Wise Naval Base, Barracuda Village. Hammond distinguished himself in providing his medical technology and care for wounded for Marines throughout his service.

From 1947 to 1951, Hammond attended Shaw University at Raleigh, N.C. where he became a member of Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honorary Society, and was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Delta Psi Chapter and now celebrates his 60 years with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Hammond, in 1953, worked in the Field of Environmental Health with the City of Philadelphia, Pa. as a Public Health Inspector. His many awards from 1957 to 1994 are well documented.

During the fall of 1959, Hammond moved to Los Angeles, California and went to work with the Los Angeles City Department of Health as a Registered Environmental Health Inspector until his retirement in 1993. Robert has now established the H&H Environmental Consultant Firm, which has established business with major food and beverage companies.

Kappa Xi Chapter Black History Luncheon
By Brother Dewane E. Jackson

Attending Brothers: Eric Rush, Michael Dawson, Leon Pearson, Paul Prosper, Tywann Telfair and Dwayne Jackson.

Las Vegas, NV – On February 3, 2010, the Brothers of Kappa Xi Chapter participated in and celebrated the 15th annual Black History Month Luncheon held on Nellis Air Force Base. The Luncheon was sponsored by the Nellis Air Force Base African American Cultural Association. There were over 65 people in attendance including the Col., Dave Belote, 99th Air Base Wing Commander and CMSgt Alfred Herring, 99th Air Base Wing Command Chief. Out of the 65 in attendance, 5 were men of Omega. They were Brother Eric Rush, Psi Alpha Chapter ‘05; Brother Michael Dawson, Beta Upsilon Chapter ’92; Brother Paul Prosper Beta Mu Chapter ’99; Brother Tywann Telfair, Kappa Xi Chapter ‘08 and Brother Dwayne Jackson, Kappa Xi Chapter’08.

Members of the audience enjoyed an interruptive dance by one of the members of the African American Cultural Association on the spiritual struggle African Americans faced through the years. The key note speaker for the event was Brother Leon Pearson, Kappa Xi Chapter ‘88. His message, “The History of Black Economic Empowerment” challenged senior military leaders to provide economic opportunities for their junior members. The message also inspired junior military members to look at their finances the same way they look at themselves before they go out for a night in the clubs; that is with close scrutiny to ensure that everything is the right place so that we as a people can get off of the bottom rung of the economic ladder.
Valdosta, GA--The Brothers of Alpha Gamma Gamma Chapter believe in the philosophy of the total man. The Chapter put forth much effort to accommodate this philosophy. The Brothers work tirelessly in the areas of Spirituality, Education, Civic Duties, and Social Life.

**Spirituality:**

Brothers William P. DeVeaux and Bernard Perry at the dedication of Francis Lake A.M.E. Church Fellowship Hall.

All meetings begin and end with prayer and are lead by the Chaplin. This is more than a ritual, all the Brothers believe in the guidance of the Almighty. We live every day really believing in the statement, “With faith in God and heart and mind.” It is not unusual for Brothers of AGG Chapter to meet at each other’s churches for worship. During times of death or illness they will meet to pray and comfort each other.

Brother William P. DeVeaux, an AME Church Bishop, came to Valdosta, GA to dedicate a new Fellowship Hall at Francis Lake AME Church. The Brothers of AGG Chapter bought the evening meal for Brother DeVeaux and his chauffeur. Incidentally, his chauffeur is a Brother. The Chapter received a hand-written letter of thanks from Brother William Phillip DeVeaux, Ph.D. He is indeed a classy Brother. Shortly after Brother DeVeaux’s visit with the Brothers of Alpha Gamma Gamma Chapter, he paid his life membership.

**Education:**

Brother Calvin Walker announcing the essay winners

During Achievement Week, AGG Chapter awarded three scholarships to rising High School Seniors. The winners were selected by writing essays. The Chapter does this to encourage young people to continue their education. We believe that a well-trained mind is the key to success.

The Chapter is a partner in education with three of the local schools in Lowndes County and Valdosta, GA. The Brothers serve as mentors, read to students and assisted in any way to uplift students. AGG Chapter also provides scholarships to many young people through the SCOPE Program at Valdosta State University.

Several of the Brothers have been encouraged to seek advanced degrees for personal growth and enhancement. By doing so, many of the Brothers have been promoted, received new job titles, and salaries increased.

**Brother Walter Venerable, Sr. Honored by Phi Iota**

(Left-to-right) – Brothers Paul Hodson, Walter Venerable, Jr., William Jefferson, Walter Venerable, Sr., Andrew Davis, Alex Williams, Alex Dumas, and Charles Peevy.

Phoenix, Arizona-- On April 24, 2010, Brother Walter Venerable, Sr. celebrated his 90th birthday with numerous close family members and Brothers from Phi Iota Chapter. This joyous occasion presented a wonderful opportunity for the chapter to honor one of our senior Brothers, initiated into Phi Iota Chapter in the Spring of 1946.
Ques Honor Brother Charles Bolden as NASA Administrator
By Brother Dwayne Brown

Washington, DC - NASA Administrator, Brother Charles Bolden, 4th from left, is presented a plaque by NASA Headquarters members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc in honor of his becoming the 12th NASA Administrator. L to R: Andrew Hubbard, Clinton Green, Carl Person, Dwayne Brown, and Elbert Cox. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded at Howard University on Nov. 17, 1911. The phrase “friendship is essential to the soul,” is the fraternity’s motto. Photo Credit: (NASA/Bill Ingalls)

Omega Man On The Move, Brother Adetayo Adesanya

Brother Adetayo Adesanya working in Purdue’s Digital Lab

Purdue University-- Brother Adetayo Adesanya is an elite All-American High Jumper on Purdue University’s Track and Field team. In June of 2009, he cleared 7 feet 2.5 inches and finished in fifth place at the Division I NCAA National Track and Field Championships held at the University of Arkansas to gain this recognition. Shortly afterwards, he went on to win Nigeria’s National Track and Field Championships in Abuja, Nigeria on July 25, 2009. He is currently training in hopes of qualifying for the 2012 World Olympic Games in London.

Not only has he excelled in his sport, he has made some major scholastic accomplishments. In July 2008, Brother Adetayo, a senior majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology, won the National Undergraduate Student in Technical Research Poster Competition held in Orlando, FL. His research consisted of wireless sensor node development with the assistance of a faculty advisor and collaboration with graduate students.

Currently, Brother Adesanya tutors minority freshman students in Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology. He has aspirations on helping them succeed in the Electrical Engineering Technology Department. He plans on acquiring his Certificate of Entrepreneurship and Innovation and is scheduled to graduate May 2011.

Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter -- Ques Loves Skiing

By Brother LeMarr Ketchens

On February 20, 2010, Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter sponsored its annual ski excursion. What is a ski excursion you say? Well, every year the Chapter gets a group people together to travel up to the Grand Geneva Ski Resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. On the way there, the group stops off to shop. This year there were a few things that happened differently.

This year, Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter changed the shopping venue from Gurnee Mills to Prime Outlets Pleasant Prairie Mall in Kenosha, Wisconsin. This location was better logistically. The other change was that the Chapter added an overnight component to the trip. This piece was a stay at the Best Western – Executive Suites in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

As usual, the group arrived at the Ski Resort, some received the ski lessons, while others went on skiing because they were comfortable getting on the slopes. The day went great and no one got injured. After all the skiing was complete, the return to hotel was on the agenda and the night wasn’t over.
The group returned to the hotel and prepared for the planned Party. Yes, there was a party. There was food and beverages to please the crowd as well as music to help people dance and enjoy the rest of the evening. The evening was a fun experience. The next morning, breakfast was waiting in the hotel and another trip to the shopping mall. This was a fun-packed event and will be revisited again in 2011. A special thank you goes out to the Brothers of Rho Tau Chapter for your continued support and participation.

Alpha Chi Chapter Recognizes Brother Herman Boone

Gary, IN--The Brothers of Alpha Chi Chapter of Gary, IN presented a recognition award to Brother Herman Boone for his work in motivating people to continue to break racial barriers and live the life of the four Cardinal Principles

The Gary, IN Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. held it 45th Annual Life Membership Banquet with guest speaker Brother Herman Boone, April 24, 2010 at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary Indiana. Brother Boone is better known as Coach Boone in the movie, Remember the Titans, where Dezel Washington portrayed him. In 1971 the city of Alexandria, VA decided to totally integrate its school system and appointed Brother Herman as its first consolidated head football coach at T.C. Williams High School over a white coach Bill Yoast with several years seniority and a steadfast citywide following. Remarkably, Brother Herman was able to pull together and solidify a diverse coaching staff and an unfocused group of young boys into one of the most powerful football teams in the state of Virginia, winning the 1971 Virginia State Championship. This team was ranked second in the nation by national polls. The willingness of these young men to talk to each other, along with their determination to win, brought together a city torn apart by prejudice and hatred. Brother Herman has retired from coaching and enjoys a career as a public speaker at functions regarding his time as a high school football coach at T.C. Williams High School.

Brother Ramon Harewood, Undergraduate Achievement in the 7th District

Raised in Barbados, West Indies, Brother Ramon Harewood focused on track and field, volleyball, and rugby. Brother Harewood had been a member of the Barbados junior national teams in rugby, volleyball and track and field. He had never thought much of American Football. “There’s no American football in Barbados, so for me to aspire to do that would be ridiculous,” Harewood was quoted as saying in a CNN video.

In the spring of 2006, the 6-foot-6, 340-pound Brother Harewood enrolled into Morehouse on an academic scholarship. At Morehouse, Harewood had immediate success making the Dean’s List every semester earning better than a 3.0 grade-point-average, a testament to the Cardinal Principle of Scholarship. While maintaining stellar grades in college, Brother Harewood, who had never played American football prior to 2006, didn’t experience the same immediate success on the football field.

“I didn’t immediately fall in love with it,” Harewood said. “My first year here was a little bit tough trying to get adapted to the sport. I didn’t really know too much about football.” Through perseverance and a new coaching staff at Morehouse in the spring of 2007, Brother Harewood was moved to Left tackle and had excelled at the position ever since making first-team All-Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) his last two years at Morehouse. In April, Brother Harewood was selected in the sixth round of the 2010 NFL Draft to the Baltimore Ravens. The Ravens realized Brother Harewood has a lot to learn but his potential is endless and they are looking forward to the success that he can bring to the offensive side of the ball.

Brother Harewood was initiated into Omega by way of Psi Chapter (Morehouse College), in the Spring of 2008. Exemplifying our Fraternity’s four Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, Brother Ramon Harewood is the Seventh District’s Undergraduate of the Month for May of 2010 and we look forward to seeing him wear Purple on the Football field in the coming years.
Savoy 2010 Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America

Brother Michael A. Wright is the Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer of Covanta Holding Corporation. He is charged with leading global human resources initiatives in the areas of strategy and programs, labor relations, compensation, benefits and talent management. Brother Wright also serves on Covanta’s Senior Executive Leadership Team. He garnered most of his 25 years of hands-on experience while working for the Altria family of companies. He is a member of the Executive Leadership Council, an organization founded to provide African-American officers and executives of primarily Fortune 500 corporations with a professional network and forum. Brother Wright also serves on the Executive Advisory Council for the College of Business at Delaware State University. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC and an MBA from Columbia University, where he received the “Class Distinguished Service Award.”

Theta Omega Brothers Selected as Adult Achievers

by Furman E. Glenn, Chapter Editor

LOUISVILLE, KY: On February 27, 2010, the Chestnut Street YMCA honored the 2010 Youth Achiever of the Year, the 2010 Adult Achiever of the Year, the 2010 Distinguished Achiever of the Year, the senior high school student Black Achievers/scholarship recipients and the company-sponsored adult achievers in the recent 31st Annual celebration. Two Brothers, Dr. Furman E. Glenn, Sr., and Dr. Cedric Terrell, were recognized as two of the 48 company-sponsored achievers of the year before an audience or more than five-hundred attendees. As Theta Omega Chapter’s Omega Man of the Year, Brother Glenn automatically was awarded the honor as Black Achiever. Brother Cedric Terrell was selected by Norton Brownsboro Hospital, Norton Healthcare for his work as the Director of Pharmacy Services.

The Chestnut Street YMCA Black Achievers program was formed two decades ago by six Louisville men of vision to serve African American youth in the Louisville area. The mentoring program has a mission to help young African-Americans believe in their innate abilities, encourage high academic achievement, develop good character, develop perseverance and foster self-determination. Over the course of its existence, over $18 million in college scholarships have been awarded to more than 1,630 high school seniors.

The Chestnut St YMCA is located in the predominantly African American Western part of the city of Louisville, KY. Theta Omega Chapter is a devoted supporter of the Black Achiever’s program and the Chestnut Street YMCA having donated more than $2500 annually while providing leadership for the YMCA board of directors. Currently Brother Rodney Martin is the District Executive Director. Brother Martin follows two predecessors (Brother George Dave and Brother Kenneth Barnes) who are also Omega men that served the YMCA with distinction. Six Omega men currently serve on the Chestnut Street YMCA Board of Directors.

Omega Power Twenty Monthly Prayer Conference Call

By Brother Clint Boyd, Jr.

Nashville, TN – In March 2010, Gamma Phi Chapter initiated a new benevolence program called Omega Power Twenty, a monthly prayer conference call for members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The intent of the program is to allow an avenue for men of Omega to dwell together in unity to pray. All members of the Fraternity are invited to participate. The call is scheduled for the last Friday of every month from 6:00a.m. – 6:20a.m. (Central Standard Time). During the call, specific Brothers are asked to lead the Brothers in prayer for different subjects. Thus far, prayers have been
offered for the Fraternity, the nation, President Barack Obama, financial security and healthy relationships, in particular, healthy marriages. In addition, Brothers on the call are encouraged to ask for special prayer requests for themselves or for loved ones.

Participants on the call have included Brothers from Nashville, Memphis and Knoxville, TN; Louisville, KY; Atlanta, GA; Dallas, TX, Houston, TX and Birmingham, AL.

The conference call can hold up to 96 Brothers. Brothers are free to enter or exit the call anytime within the twenty minute period. The conference call details are as follows: Date: The last Friday of every month; Time: 6am – 6:20am (Central Standard Time); Dial in Number: (760) 569-9000; Participant Access Code: 382145#.

"I found the Omega prayer conference call to be a different, unique and satisfying experience. How genuine and powerful it was for ‘bruhs’ from all ages and different parts of the nation to come together to praise and serve our Most High for a few precious minutes in time. The beauty of it being that these precious moments will occur repeatedly into the future," said Brother Tarif Shabazz from Houston, TX. Brother Ken Payne, Sr. from Atlanta, GA stated, "After the call my spirit was uplifted and my faith grew stronger."

**Gamma Phi Chapter Hosts Omega Day On Capitol Hill**

By: Brother Clint Boyd, Jr.

Nashville, TN - Members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. descended on Capitol Hill on March 17, 2010. The event was an opportunity for Brothers to gain more information on the activities of the legislature, especially as they pertain to the African-American population. The annual event is hosted by the Gamma Phi Chapter and is open to members of the Fraternity throughout the state of Tennessee.

The Brothers were welcomed by State Representative, Brother Joe Armstrong as well as by State Senator Thelma M. Harper. Harper thanked the Omegas for spending time on Capitol Hill and encouraged larger participation and more frequent visits.

The Brothers attended a presentation regarding Meharry Medical College’s HBCU Wellness Project, a program that partners with historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) to formally engage their immediate communities for health disparity reduction. The program has student health ambassadors at Fisk University, Lane College, Knoxville College, Lemoyne-Owens College and Meharry Medical College whose key function is to be advocates for health promotion and disease prevention.

The Brothers also attended a presentation given by Dr. Bergein Overholt regarding a new procedure to screen for colon cancer called ColoMarker. The screening is done by a simple blood draw. According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death and disproportionately affects African-Americans, having a 52% higher mortality rate than Caucasians. The ColoMarker blood test is in the clinical testing stage and is estimated to be available in the United States within two years. Biotech Corporation, the owner of ColoMarker, was conducting free screenings to members of the legislature and visitors to the Capitol. Many of the Brothers participated in the screening. The day was concluded with a luncheon and photograph with Tennessee Governor, Phil Bredesen.

**Tau Gamma Chapter 45th Anniversary**

By Brother Jermel Liddell

Tau Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. celebrated its 45th anniversary April 2nd-5th, 2010. It was a great time as new and old Members reunited to fellowship and reconnect. They hosted numerous events throughout the weekend such as a happy hour to welcome Brothers coming from out of town, a luncheon, a party and a barbeque to involve the campus of SIUE in the joyous occasion of recognizing the newest members of Omega: Brother Nick Jones, Brother Jarvis Harden, Brother Darien Orr and Brother Maurice Jackson.
SIUE SPRINGFEST 2010
By Brother Darien Orr

Edwardsville, IL--The Brothers of Tau Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. participated in SIUE’s annual Springfest event on April 21-22. Springfest is the longest running annual event on campus. This event features such traditions as a giant banana split in a canoe, an outdoor activities fair and cougar karaoke. Each year features a different theme which is accompanied by themed events. This year some of the tropical themed events were a volcano building contest, Survivor on the Quad and a treasure hunt. On Wednesday and Thursday of this weeklong activity, organizations on campus were given a table in the quad area in which they could use to sell food and publicize themselves. The men of Tau Gamma Chapter used this opportunity to sell “Q” dogs. These were barbequed hot dogs that were wrapped in bacon. This activity had a great turnout and gave the Brothers of Tau Gamma Chapter a great opportunity to be involved on the campus.

Omegas At The Capital
By Brother Phillip Hardware Jr.

Springfield, IL--The Brothers of Tau Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. participated in a great Pan-Hellenic event on April 28, 2010. We were accompanied by two representatives of Nu Chi Chapter (graduate chapter), Brother Cedric Mitchell and Brother John Freeman. The purpose of this event was for the Divine Nine to get together and mingle with one another. Also to go to the Capital to discuss some of the political issues that have arisen in the state of Illinois, especially the political issue involving the state’s minority communities.

The men of Omega represented the Organization very well by going around to the different houses of representatives in various districts to discuss there views and what they propose for changes in each respected district. As a whole we spoke and listen to Jil Tracy (Illinois House of Representatives 93rd District) on her views and thoughts of these various situations and lethargic outcomes in the state. This was a very educational event for all the undergraduates that attended and even those from the various graduate chapters.

Fourth Annual LEGENDS Event:
Lunch with the LEGENDS

Minneapolis, MN - The “Legends” franchise of events continued this year with “Lunch with the Legends” and provided an opportunity for the members of Epsilon Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated to honor its past while also setting its course for the future. This year’s event, the Chapter’s fourth, was held at Harry’s Food and Cocktails in downtown Minneapolis on Saturday, March 13, 2010. It was just the right atmosphere for food and fellowship. A diverse population of the membership was in attendance. The Brothers of the chapter were able to reconnect with leaders of the past and present and share stories of the chapter’s illustrious history.

Brother Ray Pleasant, first Basileus of Epsilon Rho Chapter and honoree of the event, provided all in attendance with a few words of inspiration, which focused on the importance of leadership. Brother Pleasant provided insight to his challenges in leadership. He reflected on the Fraternity’s Cardinal Principles and how those guiding principles prepare the members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc for leadership. He impressed upon those in attendance how important it is at this time in history to seek out and take advantage of opportunities to lead.

This year’s “Lunch with the Legends” event created new relationships for some and helped to rekindled relationships for others. The attendees left with a thirst to continue the rich discussions that were sparked by Brother Pleasant’s words of inspiration, along with a desire to plan action steps to meet the challenges facing the fraternity today.

PHA Volunteer Of The Year,
Brother Robert Morgan, Jr.

Brother Robert Morgan Jr. was recently honored as the Volunteer of the Year by PHA. Nearly 90 PHA Supporters were invited to a Community Volunteer Appreciation Reception on Jan. 27 in appreciation of their efforts, dedication and enthusiasm for community service. Employees from about 30 departments volunteered 830 hours or over 100 business days. The celebration took place at Doneraki restaurant.

PHA volunteer opportunities include teaching elementary and middle school students through Junior Achievement, cleaning up trash at the Annual Trash Bash, giving food to the Houston Food Bank or blood through the Gulf Coast Blood Drive and packing backpacks at Volunteer Houston’s “A Visit from Saint Nicholas” project. PHA employee efforts attract more volunteers from the larger community.

Brother Morgan is a Trade Development Manager ~ Customer Service, who volunteered 29 hours at five events.
Phi Gamma Chapter Fall 2009 Intake

Denton, TX—November 15, 2009. North Texas State Representative, Brother Terry Forest, conducted the final phase of the Area Fall 2009 MSP. This phase was facilitated by Eta Mu Mu Chapter and Phi Gamma Chapter along with the North Texas Area Regional MSP Team.

The nine new Brothers, The Nasty N.I.N.E. (Nine Intellectuals of a New Era), are the following New Brothers: #1 Donald Smith – Oneshot; #2 Aston Sims - Never2much; #3 Ronnie Davis – HarmoniQue; #4 Derrick King Jr. - D Que-Tenderfoot; #5 Shannon Nix – BirdQue; #6 Terrence Forest – FlexQuenator; #7 Craig Robertson - G-Que; #8 Brandon Osuagwa-Akpunku – ShakaQuelu and #9 Marcus Sykes – CrookedeyedQue.

The Oracle

Phi Gamma Chapter Fall 2009 Intake

Pictured above Left: North Texas Area State Representative, Brother Terry Forest. Right, Brother Kenneth Terrell, North Texas Area Regional MSP Chairman. Back left to right: New Brothers Terrence Forest, Craig Robertson, Marcus Sykes, Brandon Osuagwa-Akpunku and Shannon Nix. Front left to right: New Brothers Donald Smith-Miles, Ronnie Davis, Ashton Sims and Derrick King.

Alpha Iota Iota Chapter Welcomes “The Improbable 2”

Plano, TX—On Saturday March 27, 2010, Alpha Iota Iota Chapter welcomed “The Improbable 2” into the fold of Omega. After crossing the burning sands of Omega, the Chapter’s new Brothers immediately began to show a genuine willingness to serve on the Social Action Committee where they now participate side by side with seasoned Members of the Chapter in various functions to include a weekly visit with residents of a local area assisted living facility. The new Brothers have also attended the 2010 9th District Meeting and other various Fraternity functions held in the Dallas / Fort Worth Metroplex. The new Brothers are Brother William Bradfield and Brother Dr. Joseph Amos.

Brother William Bradfield, Non-Que-Lant, is married to Jamille (Delta) and is the father of two. He is a graduate of Hampton University and has a B.S. in Finance. He also has a MBA from the University of Texas at Dallas. He is an Auditor by profession and is currently employed by the firm, Judd, Thomas, Smith and Company. Brother Bradfield is originally from Atlanta, GA.

Brother Dr. Joseph Amos, 3-D Que, and Dee (AKA) are the proud parents of three. Brother Dr. Amos graduated from Morehouse College with a B.S. in Biology. His post collegiate studies include Morehouse School of Medicine and the University of Mississippi- Surgery. He is a Trauma/ Acute Care Surgeon by profession and currently is a staff Trauma Surgeon at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. Brother Dr. Amos is originally from Chicago, IL.

Alpha Iota Iota Chapter extends its congratulations to the “The Improbable 2” and looks forward to their many anticipated years of service to the Chapter and to Omega.

Alpha Iota Iota Chapter 20th Anniversary Celebration

Chapter Editor, Brother Troy Moore

Plano, TX—On September 19, 2009, Alpha Iota Iota Chapter, aka North Dallas Ques, celebrated its 20th Anniversary in the North Dallas, TX Metropolitan area. The greatly successful Black Tie Affair was held in the State Room at the Holiday Inn Express Plano and was amply attended by Brothers and their families along with...
friends and supporters of the Chapter throughout the community. The celebration produced an atmosphere of friendship, community and much appreciation for beloved Quettes and Significant Others alone with noted reunions of old friends and acquaintances.

Brother John Davis served as the Celebration’s Master of Ceremonies. The program featured recognition of charter members, past Basilei, a musical selection from a past Chapter Talent Hunt winner, a candle lighting ceremony for Omega Chapter Brothers, recognition of current Chapter members and an Omega Toast to a successful future.

Alpha Iota Iota Chapter enjoyed the support of a number of Local and Regional Chapters to include: Theta Alpha Chapter, Eta Mu Mu Chapter, Omicron Gamma Gamma Chapter, Theta Theta Chapter, Sigma Tau Chapter and Phi Alpha Iota Iota Chapter. Much love and support was received from other Greek organizations to include: National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc., -Suburbia Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta—North Dallas Suburban Alumnae Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha—Omicron Mu Omega Chapter, Sigma Gamma Rho—Alpha Omicron Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta—Denton County Alumnae Chapter and Alpha Phi Alpha, Xi Tau Lambda Chapter.

The Chapter received a noted proclamation from the mayor of the city of Plano, TX, Phil Dyer, which read: “...NOW THEREFORE, I, PHIL DYER, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PLANO, TX, do hereby proclaim Saturday, September 19, 2009 as ‘Alpha Iota Iota Day’ in Plano, and I do hereby encourage all citizens to join me and the Plano City Council in congratulating Alpha Iota Iota on its 20th Anniversary. Your organization’s volunteers in North Dallas and Collin County are valued contributors to our community, and we thank you for your many hours of work...”

Alpha Iota Iota Chapter has an extraordinary history. During the late 1980s, Omega men living in the North Dallas corridor contemplated the formation of a new graduate chapter. In February of 1989, their research led to the generation of letters of inquiry. On Saturday afternoon, April 29, 1989, approximately 35 Omega men met at the home of Brother Earl Simpkins in Plano, TX. They were informed that all criteria had been met to apply for a charter to establish a Chapter to service the North Dallas community. The first formal meeting of the new Alpha Iota Iota Chapter took place on Saturday, October 14, 1989, in the Haggard Public Library in Plano, TX. During its first year of existence, the Chapter was very active in completing a number of activities to include: creation of The Omega Herald (Dec., 1989), a monthly newsletter; conducting the Purple Hearts dance, the Chapter’s first major fund raising event (February 1990);

sent representatives to the Ninth District Meeting in Austin (April 1990); coordinated its first family picnic (September 1990); held its First Corporate Worship Service at the New Mount Zion Baptist Church (October 1990).

Alpha Iota Iota Chapter has enjoyed 20 years of success, friendship and bridge building. The Chapter’s vision is to be a leader in the community, strive to eradicate illiteracy and to ensure the survival of community youth. In support of this vision, the Chapter has a genuine shared commitment to community service and family values among its Members and volunteers. All’s Mission is to provide needed programs and services for the North Dallas community when and wherever possible. Its mission is to achieve, by its Members and affiliates, the advancement of literacy and scholarship, uplifting the character of the community’s youth, to promote social and political empowerment and to enhance financial awareness and economic development.

Alpha Iota Iota Chapter is moving forward with an animated devotion to making a significant difference in the lives of those served by the Chapter. All’s training philosophy, resources, support systems, coupled with strong community support, is a tangible road map to an excellent future.

Kappa Xi Chapter Black History Luncheon
By Brother Dewane E. Jackson

Las Vegas, NV – On February 3, 2010, the Brothers of Kappa Xi Chapter participated in and celebrated the 15th annual Black History Month Luncheon held on Nellis Air Force Base. The Luncheon was sponsored by the Nellis Air Force Base African American Cultural Association. There were over 65 people in attendance including the Col., Dave Belote, 99th Air Base Wing Commander and CMSgt Alfred Herring, 99th Air Base Wing Command Chief.

Out of the 65 in attendance, 5 were men of Omega. They were Brother Eric Rush, Psi Alpha Chapter ’05; Brother Michael Dawson, Beta Upsilon Chapter ’92; Brother Paul Prosper Beta Mu Chapter ’99; Brother Tywann Telfair, Kappa Xi Chapter ’08 and Brother Dwayne Jackson, Kappa Xi Chapter ’08.

Members of the audience enjoyed an interruptive dance by one of the members of the African American Cultural Association on the spiritual struggle African Americans faced through the years. The key note speaker for the event was Brother Leon Pearson, Kappa Xi Chapter ’88. His message, “The History of Black Economic Empowerment” challenged senior military leaders to provide economic opportunities for their junior members. The message also
inspired junior military members to look at their finances the same way they look at themselves before they go out for a night in the clubs; that is with close scrutiny to ensure that everything is the right place so that we as a people can get off of the bottom rung of the economic ladder.

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An earthquake struck the island nation of Haiti on January 12, 2010 at 4:43 p.m. The 7.0 magnitude quake’s epicenter hit just 10 miles west of Port-au-Prince and its 2 million inhabitants. Over 3 million people are in need of emergency aid after this major earthquake and its after shocks.

To date, the Fraternity has identified at least six Brothers who are from Haiti. All Brothers are encouraged to notify their District Representative of any Brother who is from Haiti or has family in Haiti. This information will be cumulated and forwarded to IHQ.

Although all contributions are appreciated, the Fraternity hopes that the Brotherhood would consider the following donation structure; Minimum Chapter Level at $100.00; Minimum District Level at $500.00; SC Members at $100.00. IHQ has donated at the $5,000.00 Level. The Fraternity is hopeful that more Brothers will also make contributions through Omega Charities.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Omega Charities, Inc. are committed to providing support for the Haiti earthquake survivors. Donations will continue to be collected (checks or money orders) at Omega Charities; 3951 Snapfinger Parkway, #202; Decatur, GA 30035.
RELIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI

“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”
Mahatma Gandhi
Phi Gamma Chapter Assists With Haitian Relief Effort

Denton, TX—On January 30, 2010 the Phi Gamma Chapter at the University of North Texas (Denton, TX) combined a program intended to introduce their newest members to the community with an opportunity to help the embattled nation of Haiti. "When we heard about the earthquake in Haiti, the Chapter decided we wanted to help," stated Chapter Basileus, Brother Landon Ellison (Senior-Denton, TX). "We decided to make our upcoming probate show a fundraiser to help the people of Haiti." We were not sure how to go about it but when I attended our graduate chapter meeting I found out our National Leadership was asking each chapter to give $100 toward the effort. Phi Gamma Chapter's event produced $400 and 250 – 300 lbs of non-perishable food and bottled water. All of which will go to assist Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., in its' Haitian relief effort.

"As undergraduates we do not often have a chance to feel like we make a difference. I am really pleased with how the Brothers of Omega and the UNT student body stepped up". A packed auditorium comprised of family, friends and students were introduced to the nine new members of the Chapter. "I am quickly learning that there is more to Omega than what you see from the outside looking in. I am honored to be a part of an organization that makes a difference not only here in Denton but as far away as Haiti", said neophyte, Brother Craig Robertson (Senior-Stafford, TX).

Chi Lambda Lambda Chapter Vice Basileus, Brother Dr. Jerry Jordan told the crowd, "By opening your hearts, a Haitian child, a Haitian family will be helped directly by your actions. This shows how we can effect change anywhere in the world." He offered additional thanks to the Joseph Assignment Global Initiative and Jaime Gill for their supportive efforts to collect the donated goods, and deliver them directly to Haiti's most needy. A caravan of over 30 cars, SUV's, and trucks transported the goods from the Omega Center in Hazel Crest, Illinois to Brother Trunell Felder's New Faith Baptist Church in Matteson, IL.

Chi Lambda Lambda Chapter's partnership with New Faith Baptist Church and the associated charitable organization, Joseph Assignment Global Relief Initiative, led by Dr. Alexis Felder, collected the goods donated by the Omega Haitian Relief Drive. This was done in addition to donations by members of New Faith's congregation. All food, goods, and medical supplies were directly transported to Haiti. Within eight days of the earthquake, the collected goods had reached their final destination. Almost immediately, the medical supplies were used to help save the life of a man who had been severely injured by a fall while searching for food to help his family. The supplies were also used to help perform an emergency C-Section on an expecting mother. At the time, both the mother and baby were at risk and suffering from trauma due to malnourishment.

Local chapters of other Black Pan-Hellenic Organizations merged with Omega's relief efforts including members from Alpha Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Delta Sigma Theta, and Zeta Phi Beta. Elected public servants including, Village of Hazel Crest Mayor, Brother Robert Donaldson, Illinois State Senator Toi Hutchinson (Alpha Kappa Alpha), Illinois State Rep. Will Davis (Kappa Alpha Psi), Calumet City Alderman and Illinois State Rep. (Elect) Thaddeus Jones, partnered with other charitable organizations to support the relief effort including, Brother Daniel Bowen's Operation Safe Passage, The Uplift Foundation, The Richton Park Raiders Youth Athletic Association, and local business owners Steve and Josie Luster. Additional photos from the relief drive can be seen on the Chi Lambda Lambda's website: www.chilambdalambda.org
Chi Delta Brothers Raise Funds for Haitian Relief

Brentwood, MD--On Friday, February 19, 2010, members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated’s Chi Delta Chapter (University of Maryland College Park; Undergraduate) sponsored an off-campus fundraiser for victims of the recent, horrific earthquake that felled the city of Port Au Prince and other surrounding areas in Haiti. Undergraduate) sponsored an off-campus fundraiser for victims of the recent, horrific earthquake that felled the city of Port Au Prince and other surrounding areas in Haiti.

The Chapter sponsored its 'Hot & Hazy Mardi Gras’ specifically to raise money for the cause. Chi Delta Chapter Brothers did an excellent job of marketing their event and were able to attract over 1,200 patrons. In addition to ticket sales, the Brothers also sold Mardi Gras masks to assist in fund raising efforts.

Chi Delta Chapter, currently under the leadership of Basileus, Brother Evan Smith, stated, “One of Omega’s Cardinal Principles is Uplift and the Fraternity mandates that we perform social action services, but this was an important and easy situation for us to support because we have a chapter brother that has close ties to Haiti.”

Brother Jeff Raphael, a senior Finance major, is a first generation Haitian American whose parents first immigrated from Ouanaminthe (a city in the Northeastern part of the nation), Haiti to the United States in 1985.

Chi Delta Chapter event Chairman, Brother Ben Simmons commented, “After seeing the destruction and devastation that has befallen Haiti, Brothers from the Chi Delta Chapter were inspired to do all we could to help those in need. As a result, we had over 1,200 people come out and celebrate for a cause at our 1st annual Hot & Hazy Mardi Gras. Specifically, through the sale of Mardi Gras masks we were able to raise money that can now go towards Haitian relief efforts. Hopefully our donation of $1,000.00, will not only help the cause, but inspire other Brothers and chapters throughout the Fraternity to make similar contributions.”

Alpha Delta Xi Chapter and Haiti Relief

Ottawa, CA - On January 15, 2010 the Alpha Delta Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated held a fundraiser party for the earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

Given that two of the brothers in Alpha Delta Xi Chapter are of Haitian descent and have family living in Haiti, timely fundraising efforts were a Chapter priority.

To this end, the Brothers of Alpha Delta Xi Chapter were able to mobilize its campus (Carleton University) as well as its local community to raise 2,300 $CAN from the party alone. Moreover, because the Chapter worked with the Canadian Red Cross, it was able to get its contributions matched by the Government of Canada and therefore send 4,600 $CAN towards health-aid in Haiti.

The efforts of the Brothers of Alpha Delta Xi Chapter brought a wind of energy across the campus in respect to Haiti relief projects. Using the bridge that was built by Alpha Delta Xi Chapter, other clubs and associations on the university campus started to hold fundraisers (in the form of parties, bake sales, etc.) for Haiti. Members throughout the community at large as well as the Ottawa-Haitian community were deeply moved by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated’s role in aiding the international community and taking the first organized form of action to help the people of Haiti. This goes to show that the 13th District is truly international!

Mu Iota Chapter Donates $1,325.00 From Talent Hunt Ticket Donations

By Brother Mark C. Shaw

Columbus, Ohio - Mu Iota Chapter was already in the process of preparing for its 2010 Talent Hunt when the earthquake unfortunately struck Haiti on January 12, 2010. Fortunately since the Chapter’s Talent Hunt Program had three corporate sponsors to underwrite this year’s event, the Talent Hunt Committee along with Mu Iota Chapter
decided to donate the proceeds from the Talent Hunt ticket donations to the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus.

In order to embark on that worthy endeavor, Mu Iota Chapter had to enter a Chapter Cause-Related Marketing Agreement with the American Red Cross which in part read as follows; “The Mu Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is helping those affected by the Haiti earthquakes by donating $5.00 to the American Red Cross for every Talent Hunt ticket sold until March, 20, 2010. Assistance provided by the American Red Cross may include sending relief supplies, mobilizing relief workers and providing financial resources. The American Red Cross name and emblem are used with its permission, which in no way constitutes an endorsement, express or implied, of any product, service, company, opinion or political position. For more information about the American Red Cross, please visit www.redcross.org.”

The preceding content was printed on the back of all Talent Hunt tickets as well as was attached to all promotional materials used to advertise the Mu Iota Chapter Talent Hunt which was held on March 20, 2010 at Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center in the performing arts theatre.

One Wednesday, April 7, 2010, members of Mu Iota Chapter presented a check in the amount of $1,325.00 to the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus. Michele B. Cenci, Director of Financial Development and Read G. Harris Chief Services Officer were very impressed the organization and efforts of Mu Iota Chapter and look forward to partnering with the Chapter on future endeavors such as the Charles R. Drew Blood Drive, Disaster Relief and Preparedness, CPR and First Aid Training and Community Transportation.

Omega Men believe in our Fourth Cardinal Principle of UPLIFT and UPLIFT is what we were doing and plan to continue to do. With the help many Omega Men and people in the community working with the Joseph Assignment, hundreds of non-perishable food items, supplies, and clothing for the Haitians were collected. These items were delivered just 5 days later and utilized as the missionary arm of the Joseph Assignment performed their duties.

Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter has also made 2 $100 donations to 2 separate charities that have established entities in Haiti for a total of $200. The Joseph Assignment (http://josephassignment.com) & Adventist Development and Relief Agency (http://www.adra.org/). Both of these entities have facilities and personnel on the ground and have been a strong backbone for the Haitian people during their time of desperate need.

Brother William Higginbotham Haiti Medical Relief Mission

Brother William Higginbotham III MD of Nu Omega Chapter was a member of a medical relief mission to Haiti. A team of 15 doctors and nurses from Detroit, Michigan traveled to Cayes-Jacmel, Haiti where they were stationed at C.M.E. (Central Methodist Emanuel) hospital from February 27 until March 6 2010. The team was sponsored by Team Ange’a US non-governmental agency, The Detroit Medical Center’s Sinai-Grace Hospital and Ascension Health System’s Providence Hospital. Brother Higginbotham, a Detroit Orthopedic Surgeon ran a fracture clinic and performed surgical procedures to care for injured limbs.

The team worked twelve hour days assisting earthquake victims and people with a variety of medical problems. The team staffed a clinic that treated as many as 300 people per day. “We saw diseases that you would never see in the worst circumstances in the U.S.A. Many of the extremity injuries had infections due to the lack of sanitary conditions. The Haitian people were gracious and appreciative of our efforts. They were stoic and tough in the midst of one of the worst disasters in the western hemisphere. While this was challenging it was also the most rewarding volunteer service that I have ever done. There is and will be much to be done for the Haitian people for many years to come."
STATE OF THE FRATERNITY

THE IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING
Where do we go from here?
State of the Fraternity
THE IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING

Can Omega become a transformational organization as the Founders envisioned? Or do we persist as an organization without change? There is a spark within this organization propelling us toward a future as a responsible and respected corporate citizen.

By transformational change, we mean a change that is not merely an extension or improvement over the past, but a stated change. Achieving this stated change requires altering and expanding the limiting mindset in which the organization operates.

So far, as a service organization, we have not defined or embraced our riche'. The delegates at the 75th Grand Conclave understood the need for transformational change and authorized an Organizational Assessment and the authority to implement it.

SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP
Going forward, we should give momentous consideration to what a successful Leadership team should look like. What does a successful Grand Basileus look like? What does a successful Supreme Council look like?

According to our rules, the Grand Basileus shall serve as the Chief Executive of the Fraternity, Presiding Officer of the Grand Conclave and the Chairman of the Supreme Council and as such shall have responsibility for the general management and direction of the business and affairs of the Fraternity. Very early on in my tenure as Grand Basileus, I decided to open a discussion about the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer in relation to the Board of Directors. In other words, I sought to explore and contemplate the traditional relationship between the Grand Basileus and the Supreme Council in terms of their respective duties and responsibilities to the Fraternity. The purpose for the discussion was to simply reiterate that as members of a nonprofit corporation, we are expected to meet or exceed three duties: obedience, care and loyalty to Omega’s mission.

According to nonprofit corporation law, a board member should meet certain standards of conduct and attention to his or her responsibilities to the organization. Obedience to

Omega’s Cardinal Principles must guide all decisions. Supreme Council Members must exercise due care in all dealings with the Organization and Its interest. This includes oversight of financial matters and the reading of minutes, attention to issues that are germane to the organization and raising questions whenever there is something that seems questionable or damaging to Omega’s legacy. Conflicts of interest, including intentional violations of Board confidentiality, must be avoided.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE
What should a successful candidate for International office look like? What does a successful candidate for District office look like? What does a successful candidate for Chapter office look like? The same consideration given to those individuals who have presented themselves as worthy to hold an International office should also be given to those on the District and Chapter Level. It is said that all politics are local. Omega is no exception to this rule.

Before a Member of the Fraternity is considered for an office on any level, the Brotherhood should readily evaluate what that Brother has to bring to the table for the greater good of the Organization. The Brotherhood must avoid considering candidates on the basis of popularity contests, that’s my boy fever and it’s now my turn syndrome. You would not consider a 1st year intern to complete your brain surgery over a seasoned brain surgery veteran just because that 1st year intern is your boy. Omega should be given the same consideration when candidates are presented for office.
Once a candidate's credentials and ability to serve has afforded him the privilege of serving as an officer in any capacity, an evaluation phase should be enacted. This evaluation should serve as a barometer, measure or review of his performance as an officer. This evaluation must be fair and consistent without any political motives. Evaluation should come directly from the voting Brotherhood, possibly in the form of an email poll. This method is currently in use in some Districts.

PROTECTING OUR BRAND
Branding is bigger than just a logo. The brand is the Fraternity's promise. The process of branding is built over time by supporting the Fraternity's programs and activities.

Think about it like you think about yourself as a person. Your personal brand is all that makes up the uniqueness of YOU. It is not just your clothes, which can change with the styles of the decade. It is your character or personality (your brand traits) and the core of who you are (your promise).

To successfully build a brand, all Members must work together as ambassadors of the brand—this means being consistent in how we present the brand to each other, as well as to our communities and partners. By representing Omega in a consistent and meaningful way, you establish a promise and an expectation in the marketplace that helps build awareness, loyalty, and continued support.

LAMP OF OMEGA PROGRAM
Omega is currently contemplating a cultural shift from Membership Selection to the Lamps of Omega Program. This will begin with providing a six-part overview training on our expectations for the Program. The Fraternity’s Implementation Team should continue to move with all due speed to revamp and refresh the former Lampados Program. The new and improved Program will not only inform the Brotherhood about our great Organization, it will also add value to each candidate's growth experience. Sessions on leadership, etiquette, protocol, and community service will add a new dimension to our intake program. We are also adding a new Instructor’s Manual and Resource Guide. The Fraternity should be presented uniformly to each new candidate.

NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PARTNER
In July of 2009, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. teamed with Tanisha Bagley to Fight Domestic Violence. Tanisha Bagley is an author, public speaker, entrepreneur and advocate for victims and survivors of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. She is also the founder of E.N.S.H.R.I.N.E. (Everyone Needs Support, Help, Respect, Inspiration, Nourishment and Empowerment), an organization that provides safe housing, financial support, job training, mentoring and counseling for women and children who have been victimized by domestic abuse and violence. Tanisha is also a survivor of domestic violence.

Through our continuing relationship with kNOWMore (www.knowmoresaymore.org/omega/) and our new relationship with Tanisha Bagley (author of The Price Of Love available online at www.thepriceoflove.com/) we are expanding our reach in the fight against domestic violence. Please support the Fraternity’s efforts by visiting the websites, reading the materials and using the resources available there. The women in your life will love you for it; and the men you know will respect you for it.
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT
By Brother Vroman Wright, PHD

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Background
The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was established in November 17, 1911 by three undergraduate students with the help of their faculty advisor at Howard University. The Fraternity founding members were Dr. Ernest E. Just (1883-1941), Professor Frank Coleman (1890-1967), Dr. Oscar J. Cooper (1888-1972), and Bishop Edgar A. Love (1891-1974).

Omega continued to flourish, largely because Founders Love, Cooper, Coleman and Just were men of the very highest ideals and intellect. The Founders selected and attracted men of similar ideals and characteristics. It is not by accident that many of America’s great black men are/were Omega Men. To this date, there are very few Americans whose lives have not been touched by a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Purpose
The purpose of the Fraternity is to bring about a union of college men of similar high ideas of scholarship and manhood in order to:

- Stimulate the attainment of ideals and ambitions of its members;
- Disseminate and inculcate those ideals among those with whom its members come in contact;
- Cooperate with the schools where it Chapters may be located in fostering these ideals;
- Occupy a progressive, helpful and constructive place in civic and political life, domestically and internationally;
- Prepare its members for greater usefulness in causes of humanity, freedom and dignity of the individual; and
- Aid down-trodden humanity in its effort to achieve higher social, economic and intellectual status

Officers The officers of the fraternity are Grand Basileus, First Vice Grand Basileus, Second Vice Grand Basileus, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Grand Keeper of Finance, Grand Counselor and Grand Chaplain.

The Grand Basileus is the Chief Executive of the Fraternity, Presiding Officer of the Grand Conclave and Chairman of the Supreme Council. The Grand Basileus is an elected position by the members and may not hold the office after service of two (2) successive full terms.

Currently, Mr. Warren Lee Jr. serves as the Grand Basileus of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Process And Methodology
The assessment project process included the following key elements:

- Assembly and review of organizational documentation
- Confidential survey of board members and staff (online survey)
- Extensive interviews with board members and key staff (in person/telephone)
- Analysis of information, Development of written report of findings and recommendations with discussion of best practices in nonprofit organizations
- Presentation of final report to Board Organizational Assessment Committee

Survey
Online surveys were sent out to all board members, and selected staff. The breakdown of the survey responses returned is as follows:

Board members 14
Staff/Others 16
Membership 1,236

Interviews
During the course of the project, the consultant interviewed 21 board members, 16 staff members.

Top Five Focus Areas
Board Leadership
The board is composed of:
- Grand Basileus
- First Vice Grand Basileus
- Second Vice Grand Basileus
- Grand Keeper of Records and Seal
- Grand Keeper of Finance
- Grand Counselor
- Grand Marshall
- Grand Chaplain
- District Representatives
- Three (3) Undergraduate Representatives
- Immediate Past Grand Basileus

The following items are not in place:
Written strategic plan
Formal performance evaluation of the CEO
Formal new board member orientation
Assessment of the Board’s performance
Succession plan
Board operations manual

Recommendations
The board has a significant amount of work to do in this area. Key tasks are:

- Conduct a performance evaluation of the CEO on an annual basis.
- Develop and document board member and officer job descriptions.
- Develop and implement a written strategic plan for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s future direction and growth.
- Develop and implement a formal board self-assessment process.
- Create a board operation manual.
- Employ written and confidential voting ballots at board and committee meetings.

Strategic & Operational Planning

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. does not have an official strategic and operational plan in place. Without a strategic plan, an organization does not know where it is going and may make poor decisions. An operational plan cannot be created until a strategic plan is in place. These plans should guide the board and CEO in their daily and future decisions.

Recommendations

The most important step in this area is for the board to create and implement a written strategic plan that clearly states the strategic direction. In addition, an annual operating plan should be created and written to support the strategic plan. These two plans must be used in making future decisions for the organization.

Executive Leadership

Leadership is important to any organization. A good leader guides the organization into the future by implementing strategic direction, empowering employees, executing relevant programs, encouraging an atmosphere that builds solid relationships with members, and establishing sound financial practices.

The Constitution says that the Supreme Council is responsible for the hiring, reviewing and firing of all employees. Best practices for non-profits indicate the chief staff employee (i.e. Executive Director) is hired, reviewed and fired by the Board (Chairman of the Board), and the chief staff employee is responsible for the hiring, reviewing and firing of the staff reporting to him or her.

Recommendations

The Grand Basileus (Supreme Council) should hire an Executive Director. An employee performance appraisal process should be developed and implemented. Performance appraisals should be written with measurable goals and objectives. They should be conducted annually in a face-to-face coaching session for the Executive Director and all staff employees.

Organizational Culture

The definition of organization is “a group of persons organized for some end or work.” The definition of culture is “the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic or age group.” Organizational culture is the identity of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

During the interviews, the following words were used to describe Omega Psi Phi’s culture. This is a partial list.

Positive Comments

- Committed Brotherhood
- Friendship is essential to the soul
- Passionate
- Dedicated
- Professional

Constructive Comments

- No room for advancement
- No accountability
- No recognition
- No Trust
- Not transparent
- No documented processes
- Disorganized
- Overworked
- Low morale
- Each person their own island
- Judgmental
- Entrenched in their own ideas
- Lack of communication
- Roles not clearly defined
- Favoritism
- No teamwork
- Under paid
- Fragmented
- No trust
- Brothers need true brotherhood
- Gossipy
- Role not clearly defined
- Gangster mentality with young members
- Lack of training
- No direction
- Under paid
- Fragmented
- No trust

The interviewees did not find the culture open and friendly, and there was not an effective way to handle office conflict.

Per the interviews, if there is conflict in the office between staff members, the office manager calls each staff member individually into the office. There is no resolution.

Lack of communication and trust was a phrase that was said in over 90% of the interviews.

Recommendations

Organizational culture must be started at the top and flow down. The CEO becoming a better manager and leader, the board developing a strategic plan for the organization to follow, the board making decisions for the best interest of the organization, employees working as a team and open communication all has a positive effect on the culture of the organization.
**Recommendation**

Create an environment of openness, respect and teamwork. This would include building better and healthier communication, establishing an employee recognition system, setting employee expectations and building a foundation of respect for each other.

Develop a process for internal conflict resolution. For example, a roundtable with employees to discuss 1) what’s working, 2) what’s not working and 3) what certain things mean.

**Financial Administration**

The Supreme Council reviews and approves budget at Grand Conclave. The Grand Keeper of Finance is responsible for all transactions.

The Grand Keeper of Finance is responsible for monitoring the budget and variances.

The organization uses QuickBooks (“QB”) to record and track its financials. The Grand Keeper of Finance is at the board level, there is a Finance manager on staff and he has an assistant to help with day to day activities.

At the operational staff level there is not a current operations budget in place.

**Recommendations**

Establish an operations budget for Executive Director and Finance Manager.

Develop and implement written financial policies for internal controls, purchasing practices, compensation, order processing and fulfillment, Omega’s expense approval, and expense reporting.

Choose two to three financial ratios to review at each F&D Committee meeting. These numbers should be a quick reference to the financial state of the organization. Put a policy in place to respond to these numbers/ratios if they are not in alignment with positive growth. I would strongly advise close monitoring of Cash on Hand and Expenses.

Document the financial decisions approval process.

Document who has final approval on all financial decisions.

**Summary**

There are a number of areas I would encourage you to work on. It is my experience these areas are the foundation of an organization. Without building a good foundation, an organization cannot grow in a healthy way. I have selected and prioritized these areas.

They are:

1. Executive Leadership
2. Board Leadership
3. Strategic & Operational Planning
4. Organizational Culture
5. Financial Administration

In working with the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., I realize that there are a number of critical strategic decisions that will need to be made. The Supreme Council will have to decide to take a serious look at the above recommendations of the assessment. They will have to decide if they are willing and ready to embrace these changes, put the steps in place to achieve these changes and move the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity to the next level.

An organization can put the best marketing plan in place and have the best service offerings, but if they don’t have the infrastructure in place, the services will not be quality and may impede customer service. These issues cause stress within an organization, which can lead to infighting and can cause a passive-aggressive work environment. One definition of passive-aggressive is “(negative personality trait) a personality trait said to be marked by a pervasive pattern of negative attitudes and passive, usually disavowed resistance in interpersonal or occupational situations.” By this definition, this kind of behavior is already an issue with Omega’s office staff and members.

The Center for Nonprofit is here to help. We have the tools to assist you to become your best.

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**ORACLE ERRORS AND OMISSIONS**

- The article for All Chapter in the previous issue of The Oracle listed pictures from Theta Omega Chapter. Apologies to both Chapters are extended at this time.

- For those Chapters that were not included on the Chapters and Baslei list in the previous issue, an updated list has been received and all financial Chapters should be included in this issue.

- An overwhelming number of articles were received from the District Director Of Public Relations for this issue. All of the articles were not able to be used in this article due to the volume of articles received. All articles used in this issue were used on a first come first serve basis. The article that were not published have been set aside to be published in the next issue of The Oracle, as those article have been edited and are ready for direct publication in the next issue.
“When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world.”
George Washington Carver
Brother Calvin Ezekiel Weems

Montclair, New Jersey- Omega Chapter

Brother Calvin Ezekiel Weems, Jr. entered Omega Chapter Saturday, January 17, 2010. He was initiated into Upsilon Phi Chapter, Newark, NJ in 1966. He attended Delaware State College and graduated from Morris College, Sumter, SC. Brother Weems was drafted into the U.S. Army and proudly served during the Korean Conflict.

Brother Weems was a teacher, mentor and advocate of education at East Orange High School for 27 years. He served the Fraternity as a Life Member for more than 40 years in various capacities, such as the Keeper of Peace, Chapter Photographer and Editor to The Oracle. He was a member of the Lions Club, Essex County Retired Educators Association, Northern New Jersey Hums an auxiliary of Chums Inc., Men of Essex and the Crawford Crews American Legion Post 251.

Brother Weems, a current member of the Eta Pi Chapter in Montclair, NJ, had the honor of being selected Eta Pi Chapter’s Citizen of the Year for 2009. He was an active member of Bethany Baptist Church of Newark, NJ. Brother Weems was preceded in death by his wife, Valerie and leaves to cherish his memory a son Kirk and daughter-in-law Kay and a host of other relatives and friends.

Brother Lucious Jones--Omega Chapter

By Brother Derek T. Smith and Brother Joe L. Simmons

Jefferson City, MO—On Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 11:15 a.m., Eta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. lost its patriarch. For more than 90 years, the world was privileged by the presence of one Brother Lucius Jones. So, how do you adequately document a life that was so productive? Likewise, how does one attempt to communicate the profound lost felt by so many, and especially his fraternity brothers? This is our unenviable task.

Brother Jones was born on June 16, 1918, in Birmingham, AL. He graduated from Industrial High School (now Parker High School) in 1936 and went on to earn degrees from Alabama A&M University and Lincoln University of Missouri. Early in his professional career, Brother Jones was employed at the Oklahoma Eagle Newspaper in Tulsa, OK and Modern Litho-Print Co. in Jefferson City, MO. He later joined the faculty of Lincoln University where he served forty years as an instructor in the Department of Technology and Industrial Education, and surrogate father for countless students.

Brother Jones was very active in his community. He served selflessly through a variety of affiliations. A few of these affiliations included: the Jefferson City Chapter of the NAACP, the Community Center Association, the Prince Hall Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, the president of the Board of the Adult Basic Literacy Education Association and the vice-chairman of the Jefferson City Development Commission. He was also a faithful member of Second Baptist Church where he served as the director of the Male Chorus, Deacon and past chairman of the Board of Deacons. In addition, he prided himself on being a “professional gardener” faithfully maintaining the church garden where most of the produce was given to people in the community. These are a few illustrations of the depth of his community involvement.

Brother Jones’s initiation into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is the “stuff” of legend. In 1945, Brother Lucius Jones of Tulsa, OK was voted membership into Omega by the delegates of the 32nd Grand Conclave held in Washington, D.C. (Chapter IV, pg. 24, Supplement to the History of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Herman Dreer). On May 25, 1946, he was duly initiated through the auspices of the XI Omega Chapter in Tulsa, OK. He eventually became a Life Member, and until his death he remained an active and dedicated member of the Eta Alpha Chapter. Throughout his life, he held every possible chapter office including Area Intake Coordinator. Brother Jones’s longest tenure was as Keeper of Records and Seal, a position he held for over 40 years.

Well known throughout the Eighth District, accompanying Brother Jones to a district meeting was akin to arriving with Omega royalty. Recently awarded his sixty-year pin, he was one of the district’s oldest active members. He was even once coaxed into service as the District Chaplain in a process that could only be described as a “unanimous appointment.” So beloved was Brother Jones within Eighth District circles that his public memorial service was attended by a veritable who’s who in Omega. Along with several current and past district officers, Brothers from virtually every state within the Eighth District including Nebraska and Colorado came to pay their respects.

It is impossible to fully express the void that has been left in the wake of Brother Jones’s passing. He was a consistent compass not only for the Chapter, but also for the larger Jefferson City community. A counselor, a teacher, and always a friend was Brother Lucius Jones. To say that he will be missed is an understatement. We can but wait in restless anticipation, hoping one day to be reunited with him in the warm glow of Shekinah light.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Mrs. Vivian Dotson Jones, daughter, Ms. Vivian Eilene Jones, one sister, nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Brother Sloan E. Johnson- Omega Chapter

Brother Sloan Johnson served the Fraternity for more than 34 years in various capacities. Wherever Brother Johnson was needed he always filled in. Brother Johnson had the honor of being selected as the Gamma Iota Omega Man of the Year as well as Citizen of the Year. He was a member of Antioch United Methodist Church. Brother Johnson leaves to cherish fond memories his wife, Dorothy D. Johnson; two sons, Dwayne Edward Johnson and Eric Lamont Johnson; a brother, James Otis Johnson; a sister, Betty A. Dalton; and a host of other relatives and friends. Brother Johnson was 73 years old.

Brother Donald M. Kincaid – Omega Chapter

Charlotte, NC – Brother Donald Mack Kincaid entered Omega Chapter on October 22, 2009. He was initiated at Pi Phi Chapter in 1989. He earned a BA degree from Winston-Salem State University. He married the love of his life, Roberta Byers on November 23, 1974.

He began his insurance career with Aetna Life and Casualty before joining Cameron Harris as a Commercial Broker. Brother Kincaid went on to start his own agency, Kincaid and Associates, where he insured an assortment of commercial properties. The largest of those was the Carolina Panthers’ Stadium.

Brother William A. Perry – Omega Chapter

Raleigh, NC—Brother William A. Perry entered Omega Chapter on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 after 87 years. Brother Perry, a faithful husband, devout Christian, community leader, and devoted Son of Omega for 64 years, was a shining example of our Fraternity’s four Cardinal Principles. Brother Perry was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. by way of Delta Psi Chapter, Shaw College in Raleigh, NC on July 16, 1946. He was a graduate of St. Augustine’s College (Raleigh, NC) where he majored in Chemistry. Upon graduation from college, he served in the United States Army then returned to Raleigh, NC to begin a long career in the Wake County school system teaching chemistry at the Fuquay-Varina Consolidated High School.

Brother Perry was very active for many years in Iota Iota Chapter. He is survived by his children, William Alexander, III and Wayne Elliott, sisters Della Mae Wimbish, Frieda Rapelyea, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Brother Larry Keith – Omega Chapter

Raleigh, NC— Brother Larry Keith departed this walk of life on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 after 58 years. Brother Keith, a devoted Son of Omega for 23 years, was initiated into Omega Psi Phi, Inc through the Iota Iota Chapter on April 17, 1987 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Brother Keith earned his bachelor of science in biology from N.C. A&T State University in 1975, and went on to earn two Master of Science degrees - the first in biology from Virginia State University in 1976, the second in anatomy from the University of North Carolina in 1985. For 20 years Brother Keith ran a program that gave thousands of mostly minority students an opportunity to prove to themselves and others that they could be successful in medical or dental school.

He worked at The University of North Carolina for 24 years, and held five titles in the School of Medicine: Associate Director of the Office of Educational Development; Assistant Dean for admissions; Director of Special Programs; Director of Recruitment; and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Allied Health Sciences. His mission, as all of us gathered here know quite well, was to increase the number of underrepresented and disadvantaged minorities in the health care professions.

Brother Keith played an integral role in Iota Iota Chapter’s Leonard Medical Scholarship Program. This program awards scholarships to high school students who have chosen the field of medicine or dentistry as their future profession. Brother Keith is survived by his wife, Wilma, and two adult children.

Brother Joseph H. Nichols, Jr. – Omega Chapter

Winston-Salem, NC - Brother Joseph Hevron Nichols, Jr. (Joe Nick) entered Omega Chapter on Wednesday January 27, 2010. He was a graduate of East Forsyth High School and continued his education at North Carolina A&T State University and Winston-Salem State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

After graduation, Brother Nichols enjoyed a career in sales and he eventually became an Environmental Control Officer for the City of Winston-Salem. Brother Nichols had the wonderful ability to work with people and he excelled in his job. At age twenty-nine, he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

He became a member of Psi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1997. He served as Keeper of Peace from 2000 until 2006 respectively. Brother Nichols also served on the Achievement Week, Cook-Out, Mardi Gras and Social Action
Brother Wilder was honorably discharged from the US Army in 1955. His early employment included the US Postal Service and the New York City Parks Department. From 1960 to 1966 he was field representative and staff director in NYC of District Council 37, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO. From 1967 to 1996 he worked for NYSUT. His specialty was arbitration, mediation, legal education, and welfare fund disputes. On retirement, the Yonkers Federation of Teachers named him a Friend of Education, noting that his work had been “characterized by many special personal qualities and characteristics: a self effacing sense of humor, a laser-like intelligence, a true commitment to the highest ideals of the teaching profession, and the ability to reach deep into people and find the good that can transform them.”

In 1982 Ken married Cora White Sarjeant and moved to Rockland County. Sharing many common interests, they established Cellar Gallery, a venue to promote the work of Black and Third-World artists. Through exhibitions, juried shows, and other presentations throughout the greater New York and New Jersey area, they promoted the careers of many artists. Ken's expertise and knowledge of African and African American art and history was well known, respected, and sought after. Ken and Cora also named, and were the first co-editors, of “Crossroads,” the newsletter of the Nyack Branch of the NAACP.

Among his many achievements Ken was recognized in 1990 for participation in the Community dispute Resolution Program. In 1987 he was the only non-attorney participating in a Harvard Law School Program of Instruction for Lawyers. In 1981 the NAACP honored him with an Outstanding Leadership Award. In 1980 he received a fellowship from the national Endowment for the Humanities and was privileged to study with the renowned labor Historian, Herb Gutman. Ken was a candidate for the New York State Assembly, 4th AD, Bronx, NY in 1962.

Ken held memberships in ACLU, Southern Poverty Law Center, Amnesty International, Friends of the Nyacks, Friends of Nyack Public Library, the National Notary Association, and the Nyack Branch, NAACP (Life member). For several years he served on the South Nyack Board of Appeals and as a Deputy Sheriff/Consultant for the Rockland County Sheriff’s Department. He served on the board of the African-American Historical society of Rockland County; he was appointed by the legislature to the Advisory council on the Aging and was a member of the Orangetown Senior Coordinating committee. The two groups he was especially passionate about were Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Orangetown-Nyack Senior Club. He was elected Chaplain for the former and served multiple terms as the President of the latter. He provided leadership in an open and sharing manner. He was a beloved member.

In the spring of 1997 Ken became a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity by way of Beta Alpha Alpha Chapter in Westchester, NY. Brother Wilder had a great love for Omega and demonstrated it by becoming a Life Member. In 2004 Ken left the Westchester chapter to become a member of the relatively new chapter in Rockland County – Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter. This move also meant that he would be able to make a contribution to the community that he lived in. Ken’s love for children was reflected when he took it upon himself to create a program that would move the Chapter’s mentoring program (Rockland
Omega Academy - ROAD to the next level. The program he wrote was very detailed and incorporated a lot of his vision on how we can help our youths. The ROAD program is still using many of the ideas and concepts that Brother Wilder put into action. Although Brother Wilder never got to participate in the program due to his long illnesses and hospital stays his legacy lives on through the young men that are a part of ROAD. The highest honor that a chapter can acknowledge a member with is the Omega Man of the Year award. In 2009 this award was bestowed upon Brother Kenneth Wilder.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife and soulmate of 25 years, Alice; his wonderful daughters, Alicia D. Dove and Jocelyn R. Dove; a devoted brother, Henry A. Dove, Jr.; a loving sister, Dr. Phyllis Dove Hines; mother-in-law Lillian Rutherford; two aunts, Avis Torrence and Serena Bradley; nieces; Lisa D. Dove, Erica K. Dove and Kimberly Hines-Monroe, nephew Melvin L. Hines, Jr.; and a host of in-laws and other relatives and friends. Gamma Pi Chapter will dearly miss Brother Dove and his quiet, dignified, warm and friendly manner.

**Brother Hilbert Stanley**

---Omega Chapter

**Charlestown, MD.** — Brother Hilbert Stanley was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for more than 60 years having been initiated into the Organization in 1949 by way of Pi Chapter, Morgan State College, now Morgan State University. He was an active member off and on in the Pi Omega Graduate Chapter of Baltimore, MD. Most recently he was a member as late as 2005 before he was admitted to the Charlestown Rehabilitation Center. He was well educated and an ideal role model of an Omega Man, exemplifying the Fraternity’s motto, creed, ethic and our four Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

He excelled in school, earning a B.S. degree in Biology in 1952 and a M.S. degree in Science in 1972. Brother Stanley went on to Wayne State University in Detroit and in 1978 earned an Ed.D. in Administration and Supervision.

Upon graduation Brother Stanley taught science subjects, but soon became a high school principal at Edmondson High School. He also served as principal at Lake Clifton Senior High School and Southwestern High School. As an urban area administrator, Brother Stanley’s assignments included System Reorganization and Decentralization, Desegregation, Drug Abuse Ladership training, and Creer Development programs. Brother Stanley was involved in many social and professional organizations. He served as chair of the Board of Trustees of the MSU Foundation. As well as several Committees of Pi Omega Chapter including – Constitution and By Laws, Housing and as a Member at Large.

Pope John Paul II awarded Brother Stanley an honor by his appointment as a Knight of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church.

**Omega Chapter: Brother Douglas L. Dove**

Prince George’s County, MD - Gamma Pi Chapter lost one of its “quiet warriors” recently when longtime member Brother and Life Member Douglas Dove went home to be with the Lord on December 11, 2009. Brother Dove, 62, was recently retired from the District of Columbia government.

The funeral and Omega Services for Brother Dove were held at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., his hometown, on December 21. A large contingent from Gamma Pi Chapter attended the service.

Throughout the Chapter, Brother Dove was known as an avid golfer and bowler. He participated in both sports regularly with chapter Brothers and had a reputation as a quiet, behind the scenes leader in Gamma Pi Chapter activities and affairs. He was known as considerate, compassionate and even-mannered.

Brother Dove entered Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. by way of Mu Rho Chapter in Annapolis, MD in 1971. He later joined Gamma Pi Chapter in Prince George’s County, MD. He was a charter member of the Omega Mixed Bowling League Team for more than 25 years and took pride in planning bowling and golfing activities especially with his Omega Brothers.

Brother Dove had a productive career in business and government. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Howard University in 1971. Brother Dove started his career at IBM. He then moved on to be a sales representative for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and later the Playtex Corporation. He then accepted a supervisory sales position within the District of Columbia Public Schools within the Labor Relations Department at the Penn Center and later accepted a position within the D.C. Department of Mental Health as a Human Resources Specialist where he retired in 2009.

Ken loved to travel and he was partial to cruises. Together with Cora and friends and family, he shared more than 27 cruises over the past 30 years. He also found great joy in family reunions and trips abroad. His scheduled trip to Egypt was cancelled in February 2008 due to illness.

To cherish his memory, Brother Wilder leaves a loving wife, Cora; daughters Sharon Wilder Kornegay (Robert) of Goldsboro, NC; Michelle Worthy (Earl); Maxine Sarjeant; and Marlene Sarjeant of Silver Spring, MD; and Marilyn Sarjeant of Brooklyn, NY; and brothers, Dr. Joseph A. Wilder of Richmond, VA; Leotha Wilder of Bronx, NY; Cleotha Wilder of NYC; and Carroll Wilder of Charlotte, NC. He leaves also six grandchildren, Robert Kornegay, Jr. of Goldsboro, NC; Rachel Worthy, Aziza Clunie, Jasmine Sarjeant, Laura Worthy, and Aliya Clunie. Finally, he leaves a host of other relatives and friends and a legacy of love and generosity.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife and soulmate of 25 years, Alice; his wonderful daughters, Alicia D. Dove and Jocelyn R. Dove; a devoted brother, Henry A. Dove, Jr.; a loving sister, Dr. Phyllis Dove Hines; mother-in-law Lillian Rutherford; two aunts, Avis Torrence and Serena Bradley; nieces; Lisa D. Dove, Erica K. Dove and Kimberly Hines-Monroe, nephew Melvin L. Hines, Jr.; and a host of in-laws and other relatives and friends. Gamma Pi Chapter will dearly miss Brother Dove and his quiet, dignified, warm and friendly manner.

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Pope John Paul II awarded Brother Stanley an honor by his appointment as a Knight of St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church.
Brother Stanley played a key role in the construction of “Our Mother of Africa Chapel” at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Stanley was executive director of the National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC). With some three million Catholics of African descent in the U.S., the NBCC provides leadership and programs aimed at raising the consciousness of the Church to the history and cultural values of African Americans.

On February 12, 2010 Bro. Hilbert Stanley was called into Omega Chapter to serve among those chosen by the Supreme Basileus of the Universe. We now bid farewell to our Brother Hilbert Dennis Stanley, Omega Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. May you rest in peace!

Brother Paxton Marks, Sr. Enters Omega Chapter

Atlanta, GA - Brother Paxton Marks, Sr. was born Feb. 14th, 1930 in Fulton, AK. He graduated from Arkansas Baptist College-High School Department in 1947. He went on to attend Morehouse College, for 1.5 years before entering the United States Army. During his service he served as a rifle/small arms instructor. His unselfish attitude and devotion to duty, earned him the admiration and respect of all the Officers, Cadre, and Trainees with whom he worked.

Subsequently he returned to Morehouse to finish his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Math in 1951. Brother Marks began a career with the postal service as a railway mail clerk. He was promoted to the regional office in Atlanta, GA and Memphis, TN. He had responsibilities for the states of South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Arkansas as a Logistics supervisor. He retired from the postal service after 39 years in 1993. He was a faithful member of Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, serving as a Deacon, on the male Usher board, and finally as the church Treasurer.

He was married to his life long mate, Annie Mae White, for the last 44 years and has two sons Paxton Jr. and Derek. He is also the grandfather of four wonderful children.

He loved Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and was a dedicated member of Eta Omega Chapter where he was initiated in 1967. He received numerous awards including the Superior Service Award. He was also very active serving on various committees, including the Social Committee. His bread and butter was his work with the Purple and Gold Ball where he served as Chairman for many, many years. No one could ever get the Brothers to attend the Ball like Brother Marks. No one could coordinate and plan like Brother Marks. Additionally in 2007, he received recognition for 40 Years of active service in Omega—a tremendous accomplishment in and of itself. His thoughtfulness and hard work and the care and concern he showed for his friends are what many of us will always remember. Brother Paxton Marks, Sr. entered Omega Chapter on Sunday, March 14, 2010.

Brother Edward A. Yearby, III—Omega Chapter

Dallas, TX—On Saturday, May 22, 2010, Omega services were held for Brother Edward Aresand Yearby, III at the Potter’s House church in Dallas, TX. He was born in Columbia, MD on November 12, 1984 to the proud parents of Edward Aresand Yearby, Jr. and Thalia Anita Coleman-Yearby. Brother Yearby, III departed this life on Sunday, May 16, 2010 in Oklahoma City, OK.

He was a graduate of Desoto High School Eagles Class of 2003 where he was an honor student, a recipient of the Tom Landry Award and was a member of the football team. Brother Yearby, III earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Langston University in Langston, OK in 2007 where he was also a member of the football team. He was initiated into Omega by way of Phi Psi Chapter on the Line, “The UnConQueable 5.”

Brother Yearby, III leaves to mourn his passing: one daughter, Elayah Areshell Yearby of Oklahoma City, OK; parents, Edward and Thalia Yearby, Jr.; sister, Brittany Nicole Yearby and brother, Dorian Isaiah Yearby all of Desoto, TX; fraternal grandparents, Edward and Beverly Yearby, Sr. of Baton Rouge, LA; maternal grandfather, Rev. C. P. Coleman, Sr. of Baton Rouge, LA; four aunts, Stephanie G. Yearby of Cedar Hill, TX, Zelda(Ray) Thomas of Zachary, LA, Debraca Coleman of Baton Rouge, LA, Morre-scia Coleman of Smyrna, GA; two uncles, Gerald(ShaRhonda) Coleman of Smyrna, GA, Constant Coleman, Jr. of Smyrna, GA; devoted girlfriend and mother o Elayah, Phillicia Gaines of Oklahoma City, OK and a host of great aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who loved him dearly. Brother Yearby, III was pre-ceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Deloris B. Coleman.

Brother Lt. Col. Harrison Tull, Tuskegee Airman—Omega Chapter

Omaha NE—Brother Lt. Col. Har-rison Tull, one of Bellevue’s most noteworthy veterans, died of cancer at age 89. Brother Tull was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, the first Black American pilots who flew in Europe during World War II while the military was still segregated. In 2007, Brother Tull was one of 300 Tuskegee Airmen to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor that Congress can bestow upon civilians. Brother Lt. Colonel Har-
rison "Harry" Tull was drafted into a segregated Army Air Corps in 1943 and was accepted to the Aviation Cadet Program at Tuskegee, AL.

Assigned to the Aerial Bombardment School in Texas, he received his rated observer wings in 1944. During World War II, he flew with the prestigious 477th Bombardment Group in the B-25. During the Korean War, he served as a navigation instructor. Since desegregation was a new idea in the armed forces at the time, assigning an African-American officer to an air crew required a vote of acceptance by the rest of the members. Brother Tull was accepted unanimously, and his crew was assigned to Yokota Air Base, Japan, flying Korean postwar support missions with the 98th Bombardment Wing. From 1956–1970, he served in the field of electronic warfare. Brother Tull was assigned to the 55th Electronic Intelligence Operations Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, NE, commanding it until his retirement in 1970.

Brother Tull's daughter, Dr. Janet Tull of Charles City, IA, said her father didn't talk about his military accomplishments. She didn't even know he was a Tuskegee Airman until a year or two before he received the Congressional Gold Medal. "He never talked about it," she said.

He retired after 27 years in the military, and then began a career in education. He taught Biology at Omaha's Technical and Northwest high schools. After receiving a master's degree, he was a counselor at Monroe Junior High School in Omaha, NE. He retired from education in 1990.

Brother Tull volunteered regularly at First Baptist Church's Backdoor Boutique, which provides clothing and food to victims of domestic abuse. "He was a real servant," said Bernie Wrye. "He's a guy that people ought to emulate."

Janet Tull said service was an important part of her father's life, whether on the library board or in the Bellevue Civil Service Commission. "I'm proud of my dad," she said. "He was a big influence on people."

Brother Tull pledged Omega at Wilberforce College and entered Omega Chapter October 11, 2009. He served in many positions within Beta Upsilon Chapter including Basileus. In November of 2008, he received the Chapter's Outstanding Citizen Award.

Brother Tull was preceded in death by his wife, Charleyne. Survivors also include daughter Elaine Tidwell and son Kevin, both of Bellevue; and three grandchildren. Offutt Air Force Base dedicated a new road in memory of Brother Lt Col Harrison Tull on April 6, 2010.

Brother Theron Jerome Polite--Omega Chapter

Monterey, California, May 7, 2010. Brother Theron Jerome Polite, entered Omega Chapter, April 10, 2010. Brother Polite was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., January 1978, by way of Omicron Nu Chapter in Seaside, CA. He became a Life Member of the Fraternity, served in numerous capacities in Omicron Nu Chapter including Vice Basileus, and Keeper of Records & Seal. He was recognized as Omega Man of the Year and King of Omega Madrigal Glee Club as the top fundraiser for the Chapter.

Brother Polite was one of six siblings born to the union of Charlie and Gussie Polite on February 24, 1930 in Tampa, FL. He converted to Christianity at an early age. Brother Polite enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1945 at the age of 15. He later joined the U.S. Army, where he rose to the rank of First Sergeant before his retirement on December 31, 1969 after 24 years of honorable service.

His assignments included Korea, Germany, Vietnam and numerous other tours of duty. He was highly decorated with a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Award, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and numerous others.

After retirement, he completed his studies for a Bachelor, and Masters Degree in Criminal Justice at San Jose State University and Golden Gate University. He then taught Criminal Justice for 11 years at Hartnell, and Monterey Peninsula Junior Colleges. He was a strong advocate for education.

Brother Polite's service includes a number of firsts. He was the first Black Bailiff Deputy Sheriff hired by the Monterey County Sheriff's Department; the first Black 33rd Degree Mason on the Monterey Peninsula and accordingly recognized with Distinguished Noble Award for outstanding contributions to the spirit, and reclaiming members of the Temple and the Imperial Council. He is further recognized as the founder of all five Masonic organizations on the Monterey Peninsula.

Brother Polite served two terms on the Seaside City Council from 1982 to 1990. In that capacity, he served as Mayor Pro-Tem, President of the Community Development Corporation and numerous other duties. His Community Service was extensive: He was a Life Member and Golden Heritage Member of the NAACP. He also held Life memberships in the American Legion and the Non-Commissioned Officers' Association of the United States of America. Brother Polite was the owner and manager of Polite Investigation Service in Seaside, CA. He was a long time member of Hays CME Church in Seaside, CA.

Brother Polite leaves to cherish his memory one daughter, two sons, eight grandchildren, and two sisters. Brother Polite leaves a service void in the Seaside community and he will be sorely missed.
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The Oracle

Chapter, Basileus and KRS Listing

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

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