



# Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives (ICFMI)

Volume 2

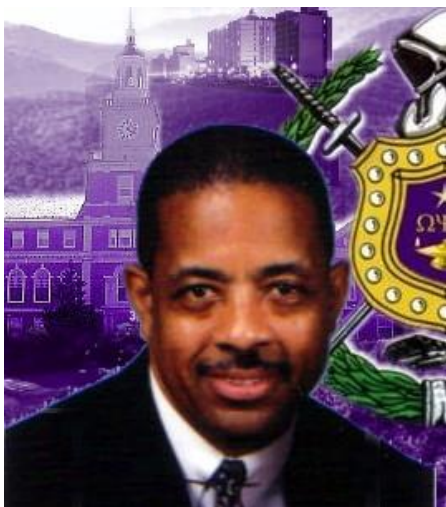
July - Aug - Sept 2015

Number 3

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

## ~~Brother Fairchild's Corner~~

**In Partnership:** As Men of Omega it is extremely important that we are actively involved in working with **fathers** to highlight the importance of their being involved in the lives of their children.



Brothers have really stepped up and are having a significant impact in our communities. Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. We are constantly getting positive feedback and thanks from various individuals around the country. As we face these most difficult times, the family structure with the father present provides a strong support element to insure our survival.

We have *joined in partnership* with Fathers Incorporated in celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March and are committed to working to this end in every possible way. We ask that every brother that is a father and every brothers who knows fathers have them **sign up at [www.millionblackfathers.com](http://www.millionblackfathers.com)**. This is the **Honorable Man Campaign** where we are working to get 20,000 fathers signed and taking the pledge.

I can't say this enough. Thank you for the work that you are doing. This is a true needed service to our community. If you have not engaged in an activity, please do so as soon as possible.

If you need help contact your District Fatherhood Chair or call me @ 703-899-0111.

*Bro: Robert Fairchild, Chairman 10/1/2015*

International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

## National News Items:

**Brothers:** For information from the 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus about why Omega men are marching in the Million Man March and Honorable Man Campaign on October 10, 2015, cut and paste this link to your browser and click on it: <http://www.oppf.org/recommendations/millionmanmarch.pdf>

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*"... in partnership with others ..."©*



Country's 1st African American President meets leadership of country's 1st African American fraternity founded at HBCU. Pictured (L) Brother Robert Fairchild, 2<sup>nd</sup> from (R) Brother Thabiti Boone. Flanking President Obama to picture left is 39<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus Andrew Ray and to the right is 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus Antonio Knox.

**Washington, DC** – During its centennial year celebration in Washington, DC, the Country's first Black President (Barack Obama), met with the leadership of the country's first Black Greek-lettered Fraternity, (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.) that was founded on the campus of a historically black college/university (Howard University).

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., will factor into the history of the Obama era presidency as one of the few organizations to formally have partnered with a President of the United States of America on an important Presidential Agenda – addressing the importance of **Fatherhood and Mentoring**.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has been proudly standing side-by-side in partnership with President Obama since he's been in office. President Obama, pictured above with the 2011 Fraternity Leadership, posed for this photograph. Submitted by Brother Thabiti Boone.

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## **“Does Fatherhood Matter”: Omega Men Sponsor Panel on Fatherhood at 2015 Congressional Black Caucus**

**Washington, DC** – September 19, 2015 – The theme *“Does Fatherhood Matter”* radiated throughout the large conference room at the Washington DC, Convention Center as the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., held a viable Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative panel presentation during the Congressional Black Caucus 2015 Conference.

A panel of experts led by Brother Thabiti Boone, International Representative to the White House for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., energized the audience and engaged them in conversation about the issue of **Fatherhood: Its Impact on the Nation** and particularly within African American communities. A convention center room filled with an enthusiastic crowd heard the Honorable Brother James E. Clyburn, III, United States House of Representative (D-SC).

Brother Clyburn sponsored the event and opened the forum with words of encouragement. He told the audience that “fathers are the pillar of the family.” He applauded the work that Omega Psi Phi is doing in communities and throughout the world. Brother Antonio Knox, 40th Grand Basileus, also complimented the work the Fraternity’s Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative Committee and its collaborative partners are doing to increase fathers’ involvement in the lives of children.

Brother S. Earl Wilson, committee co-chairman, presented a pictographic view of the Fraternity’s fatherhood story. He detailed fraternity involvement in fatherhood programs by chapter throughout the twelve Fraternity Districts world-wide.



**Brother S. Earl Wilson, Co-Chair (Center) surrounded by Omega Leadership and Students of Richard Wright Charter School**

A dynamic panel brought the views of subject matter experts, Dr. Martin T. Thomas, CEO/President, Lighthouse Education Foundation, Dr. Wizdom Powell, Ph.D., PPH., Assoc., Prof., UNC Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health, Kevin Shird, Author, *Lessons of Redemption*, and Rev., Oliver Williams, Executive Director, Hope Center at Grace.

Each panelist provided insight on how fathers play vital roles in shaping society and impacting the lives of our youth. The highlight of the forum took place as over 100 young male students from the Richard Wright Charter School, Washington, DC entered the forum. Students spoke of how the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's involvement in their education has been inspiring and made it possible for them to achieve excellence.

Questions and healthy dialogue rang throughout the forum as attendees were provided answers to fatherhood concerns and were given resource information to take back to their communities. A reception sponsored by the Omega Century Foundation and Omega Charities, Inc., followed the session that evening as brothers, dignitaries and guest paid tribute to honorees U.S. House of Representatives the Honorable Henry “Hank” Johnson (D-GA) and the Honorable James E. Clyburn, III (D-SC) who were recognized for their contributions to political and social change as well as Omega Men who were Olympic medalist. Submitted by Brother S. Earl Wilson.



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### **~Omega Leadership Conference: Saving Young Men's Lives One-at-a-Time ~**

**Jacksonville, FL, July 9, 2015** - As Part of its 2015 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., International Leadership Conference, 100 Young men ages 13-18 from the Jacksonville and Tallahassee areas were engaged in leadership training at Edward Waters College (EWC); a historically black college founded in 1865 by the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

Florida's oldest independent institution of higher learning, it is the state's first institution established for the education of African Americans.

The theme for this year's International Youth Leadership Conference as set by Grand Basileus Antonio Knox was "Leveraging Our Collective Resources for Impact," said Ricky L. Lewis, chairman, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., International Youth Leadership Conference (IYLC) and conference organizer. "The conference provides much needed support for young men who live in communities around the country," he said.

Facilitated by more than 25 brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., from across the country, youth participants were engaged in workshops that addressed subjects on: hygiene and dressing for success, STEM and College Preparation, establishing and maintaining good study habits, goal setting and achievement, Manhood 101, social and personal responsibility, the legal system, and conflict resolution. Content experts ranging from law to health care facilitated the workshops.

The work does not end with the day-long leadership conference. "The men of Omega continue to work with the youth throughout the school year and beyond," said Lewis. "They become the 'go-to' person for helping youth succeed."



**Brother Ricky Lewis Introduces Brother Fairchild at Fatherhood Panel in Jacksonville**

The essence of the mentoring program is to recognize the needs of the youth and help them manage their lives and environment so that they may have a better chance of achieving their educational and career aspirations.

Throughout its history, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has focused on community service, public policy, social action, youth mentoring, philanthropy, and recognizing young talent.

More recently, at its 2011 Conclave, the International Fraternity embraced President Barack Obama's Fatherhood Initiative and the "My Brother's Keeper" program.

The International Fraternity recognized the need to use many of its resources to work with fathers as well as youth in its commitment to serve the larger community.

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## Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Omega Life Membership Foundation Gives More Than \$150,000.00 to Students

**Jacksonville, FL, July 10, 2015** - During its 2015 International Leadership Conference, more than \$150,000 was awarded to youth in Jacksonville by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and the Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc.

2015 - Pay To	Amount	Purpose
Brandon T. Woods	\$6,500.00	1st District Scholar of the Year
Federico Ghelli	\$6,500.00	2nd District Scholar of the Year
Wayne Pollard III	\$6,500.00	3rd District Scholar of the Year
Carlos Louis	\$6,500.00	4th District Scholar of the Year
JaMahl R. McDaniel	\$6,500.00	5th District Scholar of the Year
Ralan Wardlaw	\$6,500.00	6th District Scholar of the Year
Tawn-Tyba Takeli	\$6,500.00	7th District Scholar of the Year
Anthony West II	\$6,500.00	8th District Scholar of the Year
Phillip Grant	\$6,500.00	9th District Scholar of the Year
Anthony Williams, Jr.	\$6,500.00	10th District Scholar of the Year
Theron Smith	\$6,500.00	12th District Scholar of the Year
Andre Anderson	\$6,500.00	13th District Scholar of the Year
Andre Anderson	\$10,000.00	International Scholar of the Year
Justin Wimberly	\$5,000.00	Founders' Memorial Award
Christopher Graham	\$5,000.00	Founders' Memorial Award
JeQua Halliburton	\$5,000.00	Founders' Memorial Award
Gerald Dugas	\$5,000.00	Founders' Memorial Award
Ian Cruickshank	\$5,000.00	Grand Basileus Award
Eugene DeLoach, Jr.	\$5,000.00	Ronald McNair Scientific Award
Khari Cyrus	\$5,000.00	Herman Dreer Award
Daniel Harris	\$5,000.00	George Mears Award
Paul Brown	\$5,000.00	H. Carl Moultrie I Legal Award
Garred Miller	\$4,000.00	Undergraduate Scholarship Grant
Kenneth Evans	\$4,000.00	Graduate Scholarship Grant
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$141,000</b>	

### **TALENT HUNT Demonstration**

**Friday evening, July 10<sup>th</sup>:** This was the first time the International Fraternity's Talent Hunt exposé has been featured at the annual International Leadership Conference. This display of young talent was produced under the sagacious leadership of Talent Hunt Chairman, Brother Larry Pough.

#### **Talent Hunt participants:**

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Christoff Glaude - Musician Guitarist
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Malik Arnett- Mime
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Brett Baboorian- Pianist
- 4<sup>th</sup>- Craig Jackson- Musician Saxophone
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Simone Edwards- Pianist
- 6<sup>th</sup>- Samuel McNamee-Pianist

- 7<sup>th</sup>- Brandon Yang- Pianist
- 8<sup>th</sup>- Ansar Lemon- Pianist
- 9<sup>th</sup>- Jasman Olvera- Spoken Word
- 10<sup>th</sup>- Samuel Mitchem- Musician Guitarist
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Christian Douglas- Pianist
- 13<sup>th</sup>- Ellis Hamilton- Musician Saxophone

**Youngest Talent Hunt Participant** - Pianist 14 year-old Christian Douglas represented the 12<sup>th</sup> District and was the youngest performer. Brother Antonio Knox, Sr., 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Members of the Supreme Council and Brother Dr. Lewis Sears, Chairman, Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc., were present for the demonstration.

Each student received a Plaque, Medallion and \$1000 check from the Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc., bringing the **total amount**

**awarded to youth to \$153,000.** The International Talent Hunt Reception with participants and their parents followed the Talent Hunt Demonstration.

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### Letters to Brother Fairchild:



**Black Rhinos - Sandy Springs Middle School –  
Community Service Project, with Roger Que Henderson**



Dear Mr. Fairchild:

I have been very busy with school and golf. I made the High School Golf team and it has been very fun. Thank you for the opportunity to share the Black Rhinos youth mentoring activities. I have been a mentee in the program for 2 years. The Black Rhinos is a great program within your Fraternity that is making a difference in the black community.

Some of the mentees are from homes with only 1 parent. I have strong father and mother in my house, but it teaches me teamwork and gives me new experiences. The Mentors take us to colleges each year to inspire us on having an education after high school. We just had a career fair.

Our mentors encourage us to be good students and to have discipline so that we can be mature and productive adults. The program also gives Scholarships to High School Seniors that have met certain qualifications.

Sincerely,

Camron Ratliff  
Black Rhinos Vice President  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi  
Fraternity, Inc.



## Fatherhood and Mentoring activity from around the Districts:

### 2<sup>nd</sup> District



**New York, NY** - Brother Thabiti Boone with former NYC Mayor David Dinkins and Fathers at NYC Annual Citywide Father's Day Pledge Campaign Event promoting the importance of Fatherhood. Two-thousand Father's, elected officials, organizations, community residents attended the program.

## 7<sup>th</sup> District



### OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.



#### Seventh District Council

Bro. Leslie A. Gamble  
District Representative

Bro. Fred D. Gray, Jr.  
First Vice District  
Representative

Bro. Brenton Brock  
Second Vice District  
Representative

Bro. James H. Cistrunk  
District Keeper of Record  
& Seal

Bro. Johnnie Smith  
District Keeper of Finance

Bro. Barrington Dames  
District Director of Public  
Relations:

Bro. Raju Aundre Branson  
District Counselor

Bro. Walter T. Richardson  
District Chaplin

Bro. Dominick Riley  
District Marshal:

Bro. David Marion, Ph.D.  
Immediate Past District  
Representative

Greetings Brothers of the Mighty Seventh District,

In partnership with Fathers Incorporated, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. under the leadership of Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr. – 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus has once again taken the lead as a member of the Divine 9 to support a great cause “The Honorable Man National Pledge Campaign”. The purpose of the campaign is to advance the interests and concerns in support of Black Fathers in America. The campaign is in conjunction with the upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Million Man March that will take place in Washington D.C. on Saturday – October 10, 2015.

Our collective effort as Omega Men is to join in action with other Black Fathers Organizations and groups throughout the United States to support the campaign by signing the Honorable Man Pledge to reach and succeed the goal of 20,000 Pledges by **October 10, 2015**. Even more my Brothers, it is a direct challenge to the Mighty Seventh District that consists of the great states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi to apply our great number of Omega Men to speak in great volume to lead and support this noble cause. The collection of 20,000 Honorable Man Pledges will help create a national political platform to meet the executive protocol to rightfully petition our federal government to address the interests and concerns of Black Fathers throughout the United States, and to receive a mandated response to submitted petitions.

As chairperson of the Seventh District - Fatherhood Initiative and Mentorship Committee, I humbly request your enthusiasm to support the Honorable Man Pledge at [www.millionblackfathers.com](http://www.millionblackfathers.com). To ensure all submitted pledges of Brothers from the Mighty Seventh District are accurately recorded and counted, please enter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. - 7<sup>th</sup> District in the field labeled as “If Referred by a Friend”.

**It's time to tell our story as Black Fathers,**

Brother Jonathan Gaines  
1-90-Upsilon Psi Chapter  
7<sup>th</sup> District Chairperson  
Fatherhood Initiative & Mentorship Committee



Alabama • Florida • Georgia • Mississippi



## 8<sup>th</sup> District

**Omaha, NE** - Beta Upsilon Chapter brothers welcomed back the young scholars of Central Park Elementary School. Beta Upsilon Chapter has an ongoing partnership with the Central Park Elementary School through its Project Manhood program.



**Omega men Welcoming Students Back to School**

**June 6, 2015, Denver, CO** - Chi Phi Chapter honors the Omega Leadership Academy of Denver's Class of 2015 – 2016. The Leadership Academy is a flagship program of Chi Phi Chapter in partnership with the Holmes/Omega Scholarship Foundation.



**Omega Leadership Academy Promotion Ceremony**

The program is focused on helping Denver area young men of middle and high school age grow and develop their leadership talents in every phase of human endeavor through mentorship, monthly workshops, field trips and community service. Our program is designed to be engaging, fun and educational with a focus on short and long-term success for every member.



**Brother Greg Labrie and son (Purple Polo) and Mentee Arsean Wilbon**

Brother Greg Labrie's son is a participant in the Omega Leadership Academy. Brother Labrie participated in many of the workshops and was very active throughout the program. Chi Phi Chapter also recognized their "Holmes Omega Scholars." Bro. Labrie's mentee, Arsean Wilbon, was one of the recipients. Submitted by Brother Omar Montgomery.

## 12<sup>th</sup> District

**Las Vegas, NV** - Saturday, February 21, 2015 Kappa Xi Chapter, led by Brother James Jackson, Social Action Chairman volunteered *en masse* for this year's cleanup of the historic Berkley Square Neighborhood.

The Kappa Xi Chapter adopted the Berkley Square Neighborhood as part of its commitment to community service. To support its local neighborhoods, the Chapter conducts an annual neighborhood cleanup. Other volunteers were members of the Omega Gent's Youth Group and the Nevada Boot campers who needed to complete community service hours.

Needless to say many hands did make for light work as the area was transformed in a matter of hours. In addition to thoroughly cleaning the neighborhood, members of the Omega Gents were assigned to paint fire hydrants and areas of the curb that are designated as no parking zones.

Ruth Donte, President, Berkley Square Neighborhood Association was very appreciative of the volunteers work and provided refreshments.



**Ruth Donte and Brother James Jackson**

Brother James Jackson expressed his thanks to the City of Las Vegas and City Councilman Ricki Barlow for providing the equipment and painting supplies used by the volunteers. He also recognized all the volunteers who came out to help. Special thanks went to Brother Brian Williams, Jr., for bringing the Boot camp volunteers and assisting with the cleanup.

Berkley Square was designed in 1949 by Paul Revere Williams and is named after Thomas L. Berkley, an African American attorney from Oakland, California. The historic district contained 148 homes. It was built in the African American West Las Vegas area of Las Vegas, Nevada. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. Submitted by Jerry C. Holliday.

**Las Vegas, NV** - Saturday, August 15, 2015 The Kappa Xi Chapter has a long history of mentoring young people through the Omega Gentlemen's Club. Created in 1989, the Gents is a featured mentoring program for high school aged young men. It provides tutoring, community service programs and training for them to be future leaders.

The young men are encouraged and supported in pursuing higher education, as well developing interpersonal and leadership skills and learning the value of community involvement.



**L-R: Brother Dr. Leary Adams Scholarship Committee, Brother Damon Hodge Omega Gentleman Club Mentor; winners Jalen Glover, John Groom, Jr, Carl Hughes, Jordan Davis, Eyasu Kebede and Brother Jerry Holliday, Member Scholarship Committee.**

In a note from Jalen Glover, a recent member, he shared with the brothers that he's "off to college and I just wanted to thank each of you for helping in ways known and unknown to me."

He said, "I would also like to thank you for helping me grow as a young man as well as giving me the opportunity to be part of the Omega Gents organization and for the advice that I needed then and for the advice I'm using now. I'm forever grateful to everyone and I'll be one of you soon enough lol."

The Gents boast of having an outstanding high school graduation rate (96.0%). Many mentees have earned academic and athletic scholarships to pay for part or all of their college education. Former members of the Omega Gents have not only graduated from college, but also obtained advanced college degrees.

Gents must maintain a 2.5 GPA and exhibit respect for self, education, authority, service and respect for the community. For additional information on the KX Omega Gents Program go to: [www.upliftfoundation-nv.org](http://www.upliftfoundation-nv.org).

**Los Angeles, CA** – Phi Beta Beta Chapter - Since 2008, Phi Beta Beta Chapter's STEM program, has worked with 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Southern California. The Chapter's STEM program consists of two components, College Preparatory and



Career guidance and an Academic Enrichment program in Math, Science, Chemistry and Physics.

College Prep prepares Middle and High school students, for a College major in STEM classes and future careers while academic enrichment provides students with academic assistance in the SAT-Prep, Algebra, and Calculus, College Prep-Science w/Lab Dissection, Physics, Chemistry and Computer Technology. In this program, students are matched with professionals who are currently working in these career fields. Students get the benefit of receiving current knowledge and requirements in the field as well as the opportunity to interact with working professionals who provide them with information about opportunities available in these college majors and career fields.

The STEM Program provides students tools that prepare them for College, and provides them exposure to Careers in: Transportation Management, Bio/Environmental Engineering, Genetic Modification in Foods (GM), Cellular/Computer Technology/GPS, UAS (Drone system operations) and Hazardous Waste and Materials Management.

**STEM CAREER'S: Oil & Gas, Health Care, Science & Engineering** - A new report from CareerBuilder and Economic Modeling Specialists International, i.e., "America's Job Outlook: Occupational Projections 2015-2017," analyzed 785 occupations and has identified those that are projected to grow the fastest.

The report makes clear that the three industries growing at a healthy pace are oil and gas, health care and IT. Learn more about these dominating industries as well as stats on the fastest-growing occupations within each industry. For **Oil and gas** – see [oilandgasjobsearch.com](http://oilandgasjobsearch.com); **Health care** check out [miracleworkers.com](http://miracleworkers.com); and **Computer and Information Technology**, search recommendations and resources, at [sologig.com](http://sologig.com). For additional info email: [dogque@hotmail.com](mailto:dogque@hotmail.com) or call 310-205-2606.

**Los Angeles, CA** – Tau Tau Chapter and Omega Education Foundation, Inc., collaborating to save young lives. “What time is it? Ok Brothers, let’s go to the Lord!”, said Brother Ricky L. Lewis, Executive Director, Omega Educational Foundation and Coordinator, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Tau Tau Chapter, Youth Leadership Conference. With that said and a prayer, the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the planning group for the 22<sup>nd</sup> YLC began.



**L-R: Brother Lewis shaking hands with Pastor Hammond while professor Anthony Maddock looks on.**

Brothers are setting YLC plans that includes provisions for 700 youth ages 8-18, 250 fathers and 250 mothers. With a few weeks left before the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Conference, the living and dining rooms of Lewis’ home were filled with well-educated Black men from various walks of life. Some were sitting, some were standing but all were there on Tuesday, September 8th for one purpose: Collaboration to save young lives.

In 1994 shortly after riots that followed the verdicts in the trial of police officers implicated in the Rodney King beating, Brother Ricky Lewis and men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., held the first Youth Leadership Conference. The conference was designed to quell the anxiety of youth and channel their energy in a more positive direction. That year over 100 inner city male youth ages 8-18 attended the YLC on the campus of Southwest College.







**Friendship: Essential to Building Strong Communities**

The program was a hit so much so that the appreciation and demand for a Second YLC compelled Brother Lewis and his brethren to produce another. Twenty-two consecutively years later, the program has grown from 100 to over 700 young men. The location has changed twice to accommodate its growth – from Southwest College to Compton College to the present site on the campus of the University of Southern California, located in the heart of the racially diverse community of Los Angeles.

The addition of 250 mothers, 250 fathers, 100 plus Men of Omega, and a host of volunteers pushes the number of projected attendees closer to 1500. They will be greeted personally by the president of the University, Dr. Max Nikias.

So, what has made the YLC situated in the second largest metropolitan city in the USA so popular? What has sustained it for so long? Are there any tangible results that can be seen?

Beginning as early as May, the team of brothers begin the planning process by reviewing the performance of the previous conference. Meetings are initially once a month and eventually becomes weekly as the conference date nears. The planning is detailed and the process is carefully monitored; at the helm of it is Brother Lewis leading the team.

There are three main components of the YLC: Youth Conference, Mothers Conference, and Fathers Conference. Each component has a director and support team. When asked why he gives of his time to this initiative, Brother Paul Turner, who coordinates the Youth segment said, “the majority of

the news reports on young black boys is negative. I wanted to take part in changing that narrative.”

Brother Turner believes that our youth are better than they are often portrayed. “I believe that the majority of our boys are good and will exceed our expectations if we just show them that we care, and tell them that we believe in them. The work we do to make the YLC a reality provides that encouragement. If not us, who? If not now, when?,” he asked.



**Omega Men: Fathers and grandfathers getting it right!**

Brothers Robert A. Edison, II, who is a father, and Ronnie Walker, LAPD, coordinate the mothers program. Brother Edison insists that parental involvement in the lives of their children and families is essential to the health of the family and the growth of young children. He noted, that with mothers there is “a delicate balance of explaining what their young men are going through.”

The YLC seeks to provide a space where mothers might learn about how to “communicate better with their growing young men” and “what needs to be done to produce a productive and prosperous young man,” he said.

Brother Keith Parker, coordinator of the fathers program, defended the need for fathers to be involved in this conference. He said, “Research shows a connection between father absence and an increase in poverty, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, physical abuse, suicide, substance abuse and alcohol abuse.”

When asked why the YLC has become actively engaged in father absence in the life of their children and families, Parker responded, "A father's absence not only hurts the children, fathers suffer as well."

This year has brought community partners into the planning process. Other organizations and individuals such as: Concerned Black Men of Los Angeles, Pastors of local churches, volunteers from juvenile detention centers, California Highway Patrolmen, bankers, engineers, college professors, and business men are all coming together to make this program more fruitful than in previous years.



**California Highway Patrol Camrin Servio and Mark H. Anderson, Concerned Black Men of Los Angeles**

"We appreciate what the men of Omega are doing and we are happy to be a part of this effort," says Mark H. Anderson, Vice President Government Relations/Legislative Outreach, for the Concerned Black Men of Los Angeles.

With just four weeks remaining, the meetings are longer but enthusiasm remains high. The men in the room can sense the details coming together; the blanks being filled in. Without a doubt the 22nd year has been a year of growth for the Youth Leadership Conference.

"Brother Brooks, take us out with a prayer, please," said Lewis. And with that the meeting was adjourned until the next time. Submitted by Brother Kwa King.

**Los Angeles, CA** – Zeta Rho Chapter has been busy with several programs directed to youth mentoring and the enrichment of young lives. The photo below depicts their Youth-to-Youth mentoring program which was started in March 2015. Students tutor

each other in mathematics. The classes meet on Tuesdays after school and on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon,



**Brother Alvin Trotter and Mentees**

**Pasadena, CA** – August 2015 was a momentous and game changing month for brothers of Zeta Tau. For the first time in its recent memory, three brothers who were also husbands, fathers, grandfathers or great-grandfathers were laid low to join the Supreme Basileus of the Universe in Omega Chapter. They were: Brothers Lawrence Steward, Dr. Roby Radley, and the Chapter and District's elder statesman Eugene Lester "Gene" Quishenberry.

## 13<sup>th</sup> District

**Okinawa, Japan** - Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter sponsored its 1<sup>st</sup> Basketball and Life Skills Camp from August 10 to August 15, 2015. Brother Damien Seals coordinated the entire event with twenty three young boys and girls from various Department of Defense Schools in Okinawa.



**SGG, participants, coaches and staff, 1<sup>st</sup> Basketball and Life Skills Camp, August 10 thru August 15, 2015, Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, Japan.**



The Life Skills portion of the camp focused on providing professional guidance such as college preparation, financial foundation, goal setting, respect, etiquette, decision-making, leadership, life experiences and exploration of diverse career paths and the study of the fundamentals of basketball.

The camp focused on twenty-three fundamental basketball skills to assist the beginners and enhance the more developed athletes. Participants performed dribbling, defensive, shooting, offensive drills and learned basketball strategies.

Nine guest speakers from the United States Air Force, Marines and Okinawa community discussed their high school preparation, college life and transitioning to their respective careers. They also talked about the difficulties faced at each stage.

Content sessions were held on such topics as: Engineer Career, Taking Care of Your Body, Medical Career, Legal Career, Making Good Decisions a Habit, Leadership and Decision Making, Followership and Decision Making, Money Matters, and Etiquette, Respect and Class of Dress. After each presentation, students engaged the presenters in a question and answer session.

Other sponsors that contributed to the Camp included the Okinawa Enlisted Spouses Club, Noble Logistics and Kadena Top III. Submitted by Mike Robinson, Basileus, Sigma Gamma Gamma.

**Okinawa, Japan – Community Service** - Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter joined forces with Okinawa Outreach on a community service project. Several Brothers came prepared to put in a hard day's work at the Okinawa Ichijo's retirement home for local Japanese citizens.



**Fathers and Families Lending a Helping Hand**

Participating brothers took advantage of the summer season and made it a family event by bringing their children and other kids to join in the day's activity. They lent their efforts to cutting grass, tree pruning and weed removal. This was an opportunity for brothers of SGG to give back to the local Japanese community "while mentoring our children on the positive values of hard work and unselfish giving to the community."

One of the Brother's daughter who is now a high school senior stated "it was great to spend a day learning from others as I worked and had the opportunity to mentor younger kids through my efforts."

**Anti-bullying Campaign** - Brothers Garry Miles, Daniel Thompson and Aaron Cooper devoted some of their free time and skills to volunteering as dee-jays and chaperoning middle school year-end school parties.



**"Winners Never Bully – Bullies Never Win"**

They used this opportunity to promote Sigma Gamma Gamma's anti-bullying campaign, "Bullies Never Win".

This slogan has been the Chapter's mantra throughout the year when we visited the Department of Defense (DoD) middle schools on Okinawa to provide speeches on this growing national and international topic. Because of the hard work of the Chapter, the middle school students entered their summer vacation better prepared to handle and deal with situations involving bullying.

On 26 September 2015, SGG will continue their anti-bullying campaign by hosting its third annual Back-to-School "Que-Nic" at the youth sports opening day ceremony. The Chapter will reach deep



into the community promoting fatherhood and mentoring as well as anti-bullying.

**Using Sports to Promote Principles of Fatherhood and Mentoring** - Sigma Gamma Gamma has used sports as a vehicle to promote the principles of fatherhood and mentoring.

An example would be Brothers Cortez Pree and Anthony Gantt who have coached everything from football to basketball to baseball. Bro. Pree, a retired U.S. Marine has volunteered as coach his entire military career and now post-military career. He has coached players from 8 years old to U.S. Marines. During his practices with the older players he often reinforces the importance of fatherhood in home and how it relates in the team atmosphere.

Many times when coaching the young players, Brother Pree is by default thrust into the role of mentor. Many of the younger players have parents who are deployed and look to his mentorship as a coping tool on and off the field. This is also true for Bro. Gantt who coaches baseball when his schedule allows. Carving this time out of his fully packed schedule allows him the quality time he misses with his kids and gives him the opportunity to influence other young players.

**Father's Duty/Obligation** - It is a father's duty and obligation to mentor and be that positive role model in his family. Brother Daniel Thompson, who is currently on military active duty in the Air Force is during just that and more. While a majority of his time is dedicated to mentoring and grooming young Airmen, he has gone far and beyond in his family life. While studying and completing his own degree in Black Studies, he has mentored and guided two of his older children to keep their eyes on one of our cardinal principles – scholarship.

Brother Thompson's daughter, who studied criminal justice, is a recent graduate of University of Illinois, Chicago. His son, a college junior and talented saxophone player, is in the marching band at the University of Nebraska. Bro. Thompson states, "In my family, education is paramount...no matter what you do, you're going to school."



**A Father's Story**

Bro. Thompson stays engaged in all of his children's education and activities. Whether it's dashing home between his work or other events to help with homework or a basketball game, he ensures that his role of positive father in the family is evident. Submitted by Bro. Frederick White.

#### **About This Newsletter:**

**The goal is to include information from each District each quarter about their Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives. Specifically, we desire to:**

**Ω1. Share what Chapters are doing world-wide to educate, enhance and engage fathers in closing the gap of father absence in the lives of their children; and,**

**Ω2. As we mentor primarily young African American men, we focus on helping them to live a life of aspiration, hope and life sustaining productivity.**

**Submittal process: District Chairmen should submit at least one Fatherhood Activity and one Mentoring Activity from their District each quarter to:**

**Brother George D. Taylor at: [geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net)**

#### **Submittal dates:**

**December 15, for**

**Publication January 1**

**March 15, for**

**Publication April 1**

**June 15, for**

**Publication July 1**

**September 15, for**

**Publication Oct 1, and**

**December 15, for Publication**

**January 1 of each year.**