



Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

International Committee - Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives (ICFMI)



Volume 2

Oct - Nov - Dec 2015

Number 4

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

~Brother Fairchild's Corner~

Challenging Times – Building a Better Future: Brothers, Happy New Year! I sincerely thank you for the work that you have done the past year to move the Fatherhood and Mentoring effort forward. We continue to make a significant difference in our communities. Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of visiting several District and Chapter activities and programs. The participation and enthusiasm of the brothers has been great. They can see the impact we are having and it encourages them to do more! In several locations I have seen programs and activities grow because of the positive feedback from members of the community – brothers working with both the young people and the fathers. I was especially impressed by the Youth Leadership Conference that Brother Ricky Lewis and the brothers in Los Angeles conducted.



The unsolicited thanks, recognition from community leaders, and copies of notes from parents and others expressing appreciation for the work that we have done have been great. Comments from mothers like: "You made a difference in my son's life", "You saved my son's life", "My son is on track for college because of the impact you had in his life", and from fathers: "Thanks for caring", "Omega helped me see the importance of being involved with my family", "My son and I are closer because of Omega," are evidence that our work is appreciated. But, there is more to do!

We are facing *very challenging times* in our communities. Standing on the sidelines is not an option. I ask that the District Fatherhood Chairmen make yourselves available to provide assistance where possible. Looking to the new year, we are: *developing a Future Dads Program* with an undergrad focus; *putting together an individual dad recognition program* to basically say thanks; and, continuing to work *in partnership with the White House on encouraging Black men and fathers to get enrolled in healthcare* during the open enrollment season of the Affordable Care Act which ends January 31st and more!

Brothers, this is powerful stuff. Of all of the programs and things that we do in Omega we are working at the root – the family. And, at the heart of what we do is – the father being involved in the lives of his children. What happens here absolutely affects our future. What happens here makes a difference! Let's push for more participation. Let's keep up the good work as we move into 2016.

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

Again, have a very Happy New Year!

Bro. Robert W. Fairchild

Chairman 1/1/2016 International Committee, Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives

Volume 2

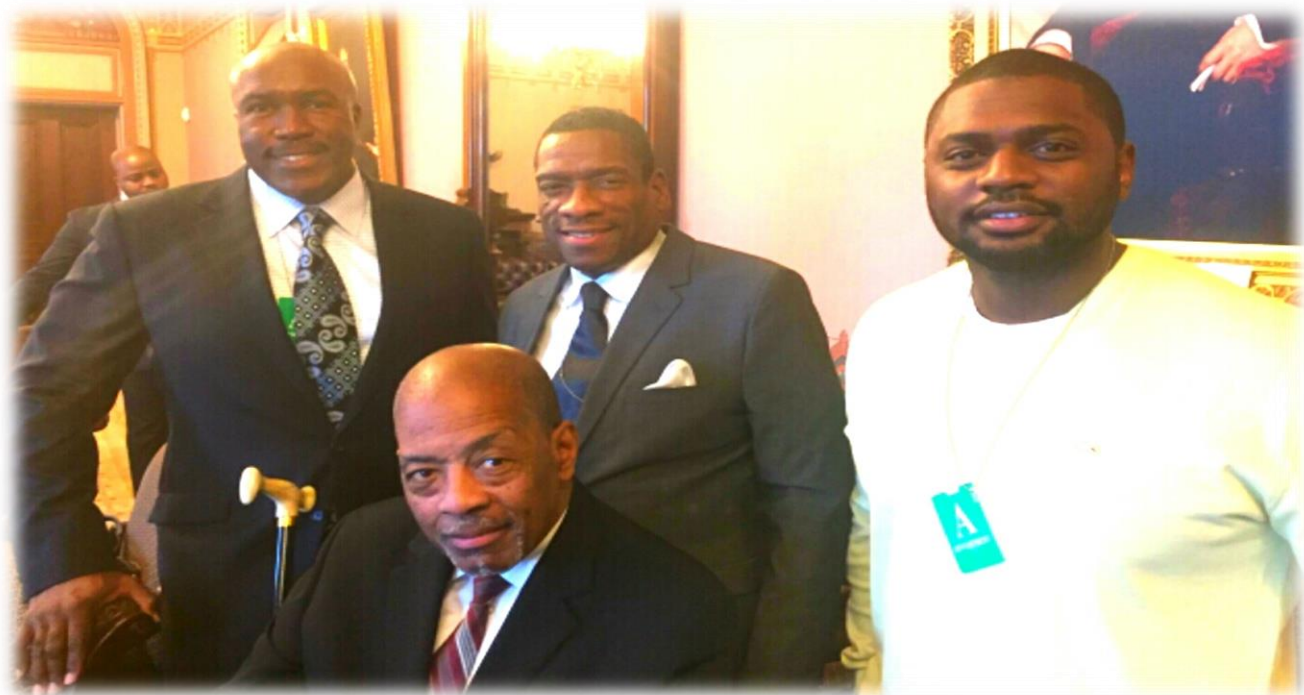
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"... Challenging Times ~ Building a Better Future ..."©

National News Items:



L-R: Brothers Minister David Street, Robert Fairchild, Thabiti Boone and Reggie Ware.

Washington, D.C., The White House - Brothers Thabiti Boone and Robert Fairchild represented and participated on behalf of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., at the President's White House Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment Leadership Roundtable. The special White House Meeting was held Monday, September 28, 2015. Select leaders and organizations, along with Congressional Representatives and representatives from the US Department of Health and Human Services, met to discuss strategies and Outreach efforts to support President Obama's Commitment to increase Health Care Insurance enrollment, particularly in the African American Community among Men.

FROM WHERE I SIT: Brothers, My name is Gregory C. Pittman. I serve as a Family Court Judge in the State of Michigan, and have so served since 1998. I was initiated into the Fraternity through Sigma Chapter (Michigan State University) in the spring of 1983. I proudly serve on the International Committee for Fatherhood and Mentoring, representing the Talented Tenth District.

On a weekly basis I am involved in all manner of situations that bring to the fore, the impact and import of the involvement, or lack of involvement, of men in the lives of their children. Literally, the life and/or death of a child hinges on the quality of the participation of the man who created him or her.

From the time of the birth of a child, the father is pivotal in the trajectory of its life. Ignore what social service institutions, the very court system of which I am a part, or what any organization or school of thought does, or tries to "sell" as a new and acceptable paradigm. The immutable truth is, that children need their fathers. And they need those fathers to be engaged, informed, concerned, capable, sane and sober, with the best interest of their children at the foundation of all that involves that child. Let's get to it!

... Children need their fathers to be engaged, informed, concerned, capable, sane and sober ...

An appreciation of our rights and our responsibilities as fathers puts us on the plus side of the ledger. Knowledge gets fathers results instead of frustration. Our children benefit, our families thrive, our communities grow, and our world becomes a better place to live. Let's get to it!

So, Brothers, as we take the precept of Manhood to the world as only the Bruhs can, let's make certain our own house, in theory and reality, is in order. Not one of us is the "perfect father", but, we must realize that not one of our children is awaiting perfection. They are, however, in far too many cases, waiting on **THEIR** father. Let's get to it!

All over this country, and throughout the world, Omega continues to make its mark, in every field of endeavor. More specifically, Omega has assumed a leadership position as an advocate for effective Fathering and Mentorship. Let's keep lifting as we climb. Let's take care of our own, as we serve our communities. Let's live our creed. Let's work at being better men and better fathers! Let's get to it!

~~~ Friendship is Essential to the Soul! ~~~

## Creating and Sustaining a "Culture of Good Health and Happiness"!



Dr. Edison and Omega Psi Phi Team

**Los Angeles, CA, December 15, 2015** – Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and the Omega Educational Foundation, Inc., met Tuesday evening with Doctors at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA) to form a partnership to "Treat Kids Better" as noted on the cover of CHLA's blue information folder.

The meeting was held in the fourth floor conference room of the hospital located in the center of Hollywood on Sunset Blvd. It came about because of a simple telephone call from Dr. Bianca R. Edison, MD, MS, FAAP, to Brother Ricky Lewis, Tau Tau Chapter. The call was about setting a meeting to discuss (**Story Continues, Page 12**)



The Honorable  
Gregory C. Pittman, Esq.

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

\*\*\*\*\*  
Presiding Judge  
Family Court  
State of Michigan



## Fatherhood and Mentoring activity from around the Districts:

### 1<sup>st</sup> District

#### Thanksgiving Dinner with Alpha Nu

**Norwalk, CT** – It's becoming a tradition that the Brothers of Alpha Nu Chapter forego the comforts of home, family and football to break bread with the homeless and other community residents on Thanksgiving.



**Alpha Nu - Doing Something for Others**

“Doing something meaningful for other than yourself is gratifying and a wonderful way to express thanks for your own blessings”, said Donald Thomas, Basileus of Alpha Nu Chapter. “We have been doing this for a few years now and every year we have been able to persuade more brothers to come out and support this effort.” The effort is an Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner that provides meals to the city's homeless and others who do not want to be alone on Thanksgiving.

Alpha Nu is pleased to be involved: it affords chapter members an opportunity to speak to men who are fathers and who struggle to provide for their children and/or participate in their lives in a meaningful way.

Brothers attempt to encourage these men by helping them to understand that it is important to do what they can, but most importantly, to be an encouragement for their children, to listen to them and make sure that they know that you are there to guide, encourage and love them.



**... but for the Grace ...!**

Many young people come to this dinner; it is an opportunity for Chapter Brothers to serve as upright examples of men helping others. Very often the opportunity is available to speak with the boys and young men and encourage them to seek a life that is meaningful and represents a positive contribution to society. We are able, to exhibit or speak about our Cardinal Principals. We believe that boys and men are impacted positively by our presence and our encouragement. Participating were: Donald Thomas, Basileus, Greg Burnett, KRS, Eric Edwards, Vice Basileus, Gary Ford, Sr., Mike Charles and Ed Artis. (Submitted by Brother Donald G. Thomas).

#### Choices We Have: Decisions We Make!

**Dorchester, MA** - On Sunday November 15, 2015 brothers from Iota Chi held their annual brunch and ball community service event, where a panel discussion was held. They were joined by brothers from Delta Chi. The content of this discussion pertained to making the right decisions. The topic of this discussion was entitled “Making good choices”.



**Choices, Choices, Choices – Decisions too!**

During this discussion speaker Desmon Overshon shed a little of his background, on some of the not so good choices he made earlier in his life. He stressed how he made academics a priority, and how he strived for success in school by always trying to make the right decision. This event took place at the Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St, Dorchester, MA.

It was a great showing of young men; approximately 15 in attendance to see Mr. Overshon, and listen to his personal story. He connected with many by making it clear, “although they were significantly younger in age; they weren’t so different after all,” he said.

Brothers attending from Iota Chi were: Christopher Copeland, Geneiri Cyrus, and Lamar Moss along with brothers Curtis Reed, Jermaine Corbin, and Charles Wilson from Delta Chi.

**...he made  
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Submitted by Bro. Christopher Lewis Copeland

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

### VIP Meet and Greet

**Princeton, NJ, December 15, 2015** – Maat Hotep – Justice and Peace! On November 20, 2015, Delta Upsilon's Social Action Committee (SAC) met with the director of Mercer County Community College (MCCC) Youth College VIP Program to plan support activities for 2016. SAC chairman presented program director Ms. Nekiel Butler (DST) a \$200 check to assist the program with after school snacks.

The seventy youth who participate in the VIP Program come to the Kearney Campus and Trenton High West Campus five days a week after school from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Delta Upsilon will supply a line of speakers to address the children about the career path each speaker has chosen. To

date six career spokesmen have volunteered. Brother Steven Cooper will be the first speaker.

The VIP Program's focus, according to Brother Sumbry, “is to facilitate each child choosing a career path” which for some children may or may not mean attending college. He explains, “All children are not meant to attend college.” In some cases technical or some other training is sufficient as long as the result is the potential for a living wage.

Delta Upsilon looks forward to interacting with the Fathers/Parents/Guardians of the children in addition to mentoring their children. We will be planning a 2016 summer cookout and a fishing trip. In addition, we will be developing a VIP Hope All-Stars Team.

Finally, we will organize and sponsor a 2016 Kwanzaa program for VIP staff, parents and students. Any Brothers interested in working with the team please contact Brother Aula Maarufu Sumbry (609-638-7635; [brotheraula@yahoo.com](mailto:brotheraula@yahoo.com)).



L-R: MSP Candidate Wayne Snead, Ms. Nekiel Butler (DST), Brother Aula Maarufu Sumbry, community activist Divine Allah, candidate Kenneth L. Moore, Vice Basileus Dr. Charles Williams

### Delta Upsilon Fatherhood Initiative

**Princeton, NJ, June 18, 2015** – The Delta Upsilon Chapter Social Action and Fatherhood Initiative Committee presented a Presidential Honor award to Ms. Karen Andrade-Sims and the staff of the Union Industrial Home of New Jersey (UIH) during UIH’s Annual Robert E. Alston Platinum Dads awards program.

The Platinum Dad’s program recognizes men in the community who exemplify the highest ideals of fatherhood. The program was named after the late

Brother Robert E. Alston a stalwart supporter of the program for many years until his untimely death in 2013. Brother Thabiti Boone, International Fatherhood Representative was on hand to present the award to Ms. Karen Adrades along with the brothers of Delta Upsilon Chapter.

#### **Tau Pi Mentoring Committee**

**Columbia, MD. March 21, 2015** – The Mentoring Committee held its Midyear Celebration at Guilford Elementary School. Ms. Tanya Holland, who is an Alternative Coordinator at Guilford ES in conjunction with the Tau Pi Mentoring Steering Committee held the celebration for the second consecutive year. Omega men on the Steering Committee were Brothers Richard Layne, Frank Miles, and Jerry Watkins.

In its inaugural year in 2014, parental participation and awards rejuvenated the Mentees and motivated them to perform better for the 3rd and 4th quarters. This year, Mentees participated more in the program.

Students Jashua Morton and Rocklin Curtis provided the opening and closing prayers. After the welcome by Ms. Holland, parent Paula Dofat gave an exhilarating presentation on the parent's responsibilities in raising their sons.

As a College counselor in the Baltimore City School System and having a son Malachi who is a senior in the Howard County School System, Ms. Dofat was able to share her professional and personal experiences with her four sons' ages 14, 16, 18, and 20.

Rocklin Curtis, Daniel Darko, and Shem Darko, our 10th graders, gave an outstanding PowerPoint presentation on their HBCU tour in November 2014.

To ensure that our mentees learn our Omega history, each is assigned a research project of a famous Omega man. Camren Purcell, a middle school student also gave an outstanding PowerPoint presentation on Count Basie, his famous Omega Man.

Mentors assist the Elementary and Middle School students. High Schools students have been issued laptops to do their research. In addition, the

mentors encourage them to go to the library to conduct a more in-depth research.

To build their confidence in public speaking, all are required to make a presentation to their respective age group. The group will provide constructive criticism at the conclusion of each mentee presentation.

To round out the program, Certificates and McDonald's gift cards were presented to students for academic achievements for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters. Subjects recognized and awarded were Math, Science, Social Studies, English, and Spanish.

Certificates were also given to students with improvements in learning behaviors, school attendance, and Omega mentoring attendance sessions. This year we included Chess as part of our Elementary and Middle Schools curriculum.

Bro. Chester Williams recognized the students with the best attitude, knowledge and progression of the game. The program concluded with a light meal and fellowship between the parents and the Omega Mentors.

This gave parents the opportunity to talk to Mentors about their sons. Parents shared that they can see the development and growth in their sons since entering the program. Mentors shared areas where the student needs improvement. We continue to emphasize the importance of the parent's involvement and reinforce our mentoring efforts.

**LGG Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative**  
**Springdale, MD.** April 14, 2015 – Gary Wood, 17, a senior student from Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter Manhood 101 Program at Charles Herbert Flowers High School was awarded a paid summer internship by Baltimore Gas & Electric. Wood is looking forward to interning at BG&E in the electric distribution division before he enters North Carolina A&T and majors in engineering.

Wood, who is participating in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Manhood 101 Program, stated "I was elated and relieved when I heard back from BG&E and learned that I received the internship. I knew the competition was fierce so I answered every question with confidence and assuredness. I felt confident that I gave it my best shot."

**"To build their confidence  
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Speaking specifically of the Manhood 101 portion of the program, Wood stated, “Manhood 101 has been my guardian angel. The men of Manhood 101 have impacted my life in a big way. They taught me that not having my father in my life is not an excuse anymore. Manhood 101 has taught me how to take responsibility for my actions and to earn respect from my peers and elders. I have grown as a student and as a young man due to presence of the Manhood 101 mentors.”

Bro. Bart Griffin, a senior project manager at BG&E, is a mentor and active member of the Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter. Bro. Griffin brought this opportunity to the young men of the Manhood 101 Program at Charles Herbert Flowers High School. For the past three years, the Brothers of the Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter have sought to empower and uplift the young men through its weekly mentoring program.

**Psi Lambda Lambda Mentoring Initiative**  
**New York, NY. June 2015** – Psi Lambda Lambda Chapter participates in monthly mentoring of elementary age children at the Global Charter School in Harlem. Bro. Taameir Drew, Chapter Editor, is a teacher in the school and oversees the mentoring as well as reading program called “Reading with the Bruhs”. Brothers rotate each month to address the students as well as read different books relating to African American History and careers. The program is six months old and to date Brothers have sponsored a children’s library through the donation of new books and monetary funding.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> District

#### **Omega Academy Charles Bolden Session**

**Greater Washington, DC** – The Omega Academy (OA) Mentor Coaches led young men through a curriculum that included career-planning exercises. Its purpose was to help youth *transform themselves into self-reliant young men*. The career-oriented workshop involved the aviation industry. An array of career tracks ranging from military and commercial piloting to technicians specializing in aircraft or helicopter repair and maintenance to aeronautical engineering and design were offered.

**“They taught me  
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anymore.”**

OA also provided information on outstanding black pilots who made significant contributions to the field of aviation and United States history. Brother Major S. Galloway opened the workshop with introductions and a prayer. The first presentation was on “the Aviation Industry and Flight Instruction.”

***Flight Instruction: Operating an Airplane (Cessna 150 and 171).*** Alpha Omega’s Bro. Celio Young, a practicing attorney, pilot and flight instructor, introduced participants to the field of aviation and provided flying instruction. Participants engaged in pre-flight check, the parts and functions of an airplane, how a flight plan is developed, how

pilots communicate with air-traffic controllers, and enjoyed a flying experience.

#### ***Outstanding Black Aviators in U.S. History:***

Bro. Nijel Redrick introduced the youth to accomplished professional men they may want to do research on to learn about potential career options. Three famous African-American aviators who were Tuskegee airmen were introduced to the youth: **John Robinson**, the Father and Founder of the Tuskegee Airman Program, **Gen. Benjamin Davis, Jr.**, and **Gen. Daniel Chappie James**, the first African-American four-star General who flew missions in Vietnam and commanded NORAD in the 1970’s.

The youth also learned about **Bro. Ret. Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden**, a former Marine pilot, astronaut and the current NASA Administrator. Looking Ahead OA is designing a Career-Planning/Job Fair Workshop to include: several professionals from an array of fields: medicine, the law and related fields, banking, accounting and financial services and engineering. Participants will be encourage to research famous African-American professionals in career fields they want to learn about.

**Prince William County, VA** – On Friday October 16, 2015, members of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter Fatherhood Committee donated 380 composition books to Dumfries Elementary School Principal Marlene Coleman to assist students in the school’s writing campaign.

Principal Coleman, and her staff, were appreciative of the donations from the chapter and said, “the composition books, as well as pencils and

other school supplies, would help students achieve their writing goals,” and bring Dumfries Elementary School one step closer to becoming a “School of Excellence.” Submitted by Bro. Raymond J. Bell, LM #4473 Vice-Basileus, Undisputed Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. For more information see: [www.pll-omega.org](http://www.pll-omega.org).



L-R: Raymond Bell, PLL, Vice Basileus; Marlene Coleman, Principal; Eric Noel, PLL Social Committee Chairman

**Richmond, VA** - On Friday May 22 the Omega Stars Youth Academy had their closing ceremonies for the year. Eight students completed the program for the 2014–2015 school year. The Youth Academy is sponsored by the Phi Phi Chapter in Richmond, VA. To complete the nine month program, students are required to attend biweekly sessions each month.



Omega Stars Youth Academy Graduates, May 2015

Students are also required to engage in educational, recreational, and community service activities. Some of the topics covered this year were: appropriate interaction with law-enforcement, goal setting, conflict resolution, and money management. Students also participated in numerous recreational

and community service projects. Submitted by Brother Albert Woods.

## 5<sup>th</sup> District

### **Favorite Fathers of the Mid-South: Celebrating “Normal” Everyday Fathering!**

**Memphis, TN** – Local chapters of the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. have engaged in a partnership with the **Hope Center @ Grace** to support its current programs. This is a charity awareness builder of the Hope Center @ Grace.

The program called **Favorite Fathers of the Mid-South** is a fatherhood promotion to encourage responsible fatherhood in 5 categories. The categories are: “The Dreamer,” “The Blessing,” “The Rock,” “The Owl,” and “The Empathic.” The winner in one of these five categories will become the grand prize winner. The 5<sup>th</sup> District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is seeking to offer services to fragile families.

Candidates are now being sought for this year’s contest. “It is not a live pageant, but a drive to disclose the fathering of normal everyday men while celebrating, uplifting and encouraging them for the work they do,” says Brother Oliver Williams, 5<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood Chairman.

Each participant will have a photo and write-up describing the activity of the father. Votes are absolutely free. However, we encourage and accept contributions toward the promotion of fatherhood within our communities. An anonymous committee will select the winner in each category. Parents, relatives, friends, coworkers, and neighbors are all encouraged to vote. Here is the link to the promotion. Cut and Paste to your browser: <http://www.hc-grace.org/3rd-annualfavorite-fathers-of-the-mid-south>. Mail all correspondence to: The Hope Center @ Grace, Attn: Favorite Fathers of the Mid-South, 982 Meagher Street, Memphis, TN 38108.

**The promotion begins December 21<sup>st</sup> and voting will begin December 21<sup>st</sup> and will end March 12<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be announced at the 2016 5th District Fatherhood Prayer Breakfast, April 2, 2016. All nominees should be present to be introduced with their families.**

“We aim to host a series of events tailored to strengthen the fragile families offering diverse services to all communities within the Mid-South,” said Williams. Favorite Fatherhood “nominees” must be an active member of a fatherhood program,



PTA, or men's fellowship promoting responsible parenting within the Mid-South. (Participating agencies only in the region) If you have any questions or desire additional information, please call: Brother Oliver Williams or Dessie Lee at (901) 323-3900.

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

**Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi** – Omega Brothers from the great states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi proudly represented the Mighty Seventh District traveling north to attend and actively participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Million Man March in Washington D.C., Saturday, October 10, 2015.



7th District Present for One Million Man March

The 7<sup>th</sup> District supported the online Honorable Man National Pledge Campaign in great numbers in partnership with Fathers, Inc. In a repeat of the historic event that took place 20 years ago, Brothers traveled with their sons, daughters and youth groups for them to be able to tell their story and truths first hand to the next generation.



Brother, "we gotta talk about it."

Brothers expressed the need to stay focused on serving as change agents to self-address and advance the position to increase the percentage of Black Fathers in the household.

Brothers also continued to provide a steady message based on truths and re-education of the many minds to derail the social ills that have negatively impacted the Black Male. Brothers in attendance from around the Seventh District left the March with a renewed mind set to continue the great work within their local communities to bring about even more positive change.

Throughout the weekend event emerged new friendships, resources and allies of common interest. Brothers shared their personal stories of progress and the need to aggressively address injustice no matter where it exists or whom it may victimize.

While TV Networks did not widely provide coverage of the march, the dearth of coverage did not diminish the cause and effect of the event. Brothers upon returning home from the march spoke of how warm they were greeted by their neighbors and friends as they proudly stood at the forefront in support of the Million Man March. (Written & Submitted by: Brother Jonathan Gaines – Chairman 7th District Fatherhood Initiative & Mentorship Committee.)

## 10<sup>th</sup> District

***Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Awards Cash Prizes to Universal Academy High School Students:***

***UACB and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Tenth District collaborate with My Brother's Keeper Essay Contest***

**MILWAUKEE, WI.** – November 5, 2015, – Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s Talented Tenth District, which represents Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota, has awarded ninth grade students at Universal Academy for the College Bound High School cash prizes for participation in the "My Brother's Keeper" essay contest.

The Talented Tenth District is mentoring students at Universal Academy High School through the "Mentoring Engagement Series", which launched during the Tenth District Meeting this past April in Milwaukee. The "My Brother's Keeper" Essay Contest is Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's initiative under President Obama's Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative.

The eight male high school freshmen who are being awarded and recognized for their essays currently attend, Universal Academy High School, Rufus King High School and Riverside University High School. The “Mentoring Engagement Series” is comprised of workshops that enable adults to mentor male and female students. Workshops will take place at the UACB High School Webster Campus.

“Our work is the fulfillment of our commitment to its Cardinal Principles, with regard to the uplift of our communities. This relationship between Universal Academy and the Talented Tenth District brings to fruition the long-standing partnership between Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and President Obama’s Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative.” said Pittman, Chairman of the Tenth District’s Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity’s Tenth District Representative to its Supreme Council is the Hon. Steven G. Watkins, a judge in Chicago, IL. “We applaud every student who took the time to participate in the My Brother’s Keeper Essay Contest.” said Judge Watkins.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is the first international fraternal organization to be founded at Howard University, November 17, 1911, in Washington, D.C. by three Howard University undergraduates and their Faculty advisor. Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift were adopted as the Fraternity’s Cardinal Principles.

Universal Companies’ Family of Schools works in collaboration with community stakeholders to create an environment where all children are achieving academically, socially and emotionally at high levels. (Submitted by Hon. Gregory Pittman)

### Chicago PD and Iota Chapter

**Chicago, IL** – The City of Chicago has been in the news of late with headlines and stories of gun violence, police shootings and civil unrest. Yet, in the windy City life goes on and *“hope springs eternal.”* Looking into the faces of these youth, one can see dreams of possibilities unheralded by the ordinary.

**“Our work ...  
commitment to  
its Cardinal  
Principles... to  
uplift our  
communities.”**



**A Uniformed Police Officer, Omega Psi Phi, Iota Chapter and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel Rest Uneasy Souls!**

The Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi and the Chicago Police Dept. have partnered in the effort to bring direction and hands-on mentorship to young people in some of Chicago's most challenged neighborhoods. The Tenth District is proud of the work that Iota Chapter is doing, under the leadership of Bro. Marco Johnson. These Brothers, along with the Chicago Police Department are continuing to lift as they climb, to the betterment of the youth of Chicago. <https://goo.gl/uHIZGT>  
(Submitted by Brother Gregory Pittman.)

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

### Youth Leadership Conference

**Los Angeles, CA, October 10, 2015** – The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Tau Tau Chapter, in partnership with the Omega Educational Foundation, Inc., and several Southern California Chapters sponsored its 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive Youth Leadership Conference (YLC). The Conference was held at the University of Southern California (USC) where more than 1000 folks connected to the YLC were moving about on a very hot and humid day.

In his initial wrap-up report, program founder and executive director of the Omega Educational Foundation, Inc., Ricky L. Lewis, reported that all went well and excitement prevailed on the campus of the University of Southern California. “We had 650+ young men to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Conference; 150+ Mothers attended the Mother’s conference; 100+ Fathers to attend the



Fatherhood Initiative,” said Lewis. In addition to the youth, mothers and fathers, and approximately 150 men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity were there to work with the youth and their parents.



**L-R: Brother Ricky Lewis, USC President Max Nikias, and Brother Dr. George D. Taylor with 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders at USC**

The morning began for most members of the Fraternity at about 5:30 a.m. on the Trousdale Parkway in front of Taper Hall. Tables, chairs, and canopies were being setup to receive the more than 1000 guess who began arriving as early as 7:00 a.m. Dr. Max Nikias, president of the University was at Seeley G. Mudd Hall at 9:00 a.m. “to speak to the High school young men about The Power of Perseverance,” Lewis said.

After his 20 minute talk, president Nikias invited the students to ask him questions and they did. The first question put to the president was: How did you become president of USC? To which he responded, he was first a faculty member, then became dean, provost and finally, some folks thought enough of him to appoint him president. He was asked what subjects does USC offer, and a revealing question was, “How much does it cost to attend USC and what does one have to do to be admitted to the University?”

President Nikias’ reply was, \$48,000 per year. He also said to the students, USC ranks number three in the country of major research universities in the number of African American students who attend similar Universities. He told the students that USC wants to attract “well rounded students” not just students with high grades; he said USC had plenty financial assistance if students needed it.



**Brother Robert Fairchild, Chairman of the International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee addresses Fathers while Brother Assistant Executive Director John Howard looks on from the left wing!**

In addition to students having the opportunity to hear from local Chapter men of Omega and the USC president, Fathers and Mothers heard from International and District Leaders of the Fraternity, Brothers Robert Fairchild, Chairman, International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee, and John Howard, Assistant Executive Director-IHQ. 12<sup>th</sup> District Officials in attendance included Brothers Dennis Martinez, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative, Ronan Hill, DKRS, Myron Reed, DDP, and Tim Melton, Southern California Area Representative.

***Editor’s Note:***

**FATHER TO SON: Teach them well, my son!**



**G. Darren Taylor and sons sorting food items for distribution to the homeless!**



**Los Angeles, CA** – Ricky L. Lewis and son, Wyatt, will enjoy a grand "father and son dinner," compliments of Ret. Colonel USAF Wilson E. Blount and wife Bobbie of Dade City, FL. They wanted to show tangible support of the Fraternity's Fatherhood Initiative.

On their own, they created the dinner as a special incentive to encourage brothers to continue this important work. "It's just a way for Bobbie and me to say, Thank you!" Bro. Blount asks all Fathers and age eligible sons to get out and vote in November! "Get those father/son teams to team up on some voter registration drives. We're gonna need em!" he added.



**Bobbie and Bro. Ret. Col. USAF Wilson E. Blount**

**(Cont. Story From page 3 - "Creating Culture ...")** a possible partnership of mutual interest - that being "saving kids' lives, one child at a time."

During the telephone call, a meeting time and date was decided and each invited their team to come to the table to discuss how best each could work together to better the lives of youth in the greater Los Angeles area.

Dr. Edison, MD, MS, FAAP, specializes in Pediatric Sports Medicine and Orthopaedics and is affiliated with the Sports Medicine and Concussion Program at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). She received her medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine, obtained residency training at UCLA and fellowship training in Primary Care Sports Medicine at CHLA. She has been in practice for nearly 4 years. Dr. Edison's husband (Robert) is a member of Tau Tau Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; she has participated before in the Fraternity's Youth Leadership Conference.

Seated at the head table of the conference room, Dr. Edison introduced her team member, Dr. Jeffery

S. Upperman, MD, Trauma Program Director, PDRTC, who joined the meeting by telephone. Brother Dr. Upperman is a graduate of the New Jersey Medical School. His specialties include: Trauma, Disaster Preparedness and Injury Prevention; he is a member of Tau Tau Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



**Brother Dr. Jeffery S. Upperman**

Dr. Edison opened the meeting with the question: "What are your needs?" During the meeting, she said Children's Hospital of Los Angeles wants to provide service to all of Los Angeles and Southern California. "Children's Hospital of Los Angeles desires to extend its reach throughout Southern

California and to be the Medical home for youth," she stressed.

The Omega Psi Phi team led by Brother Ricky Lewis included some of the YLC leadership: Brothers Stephen Butler, Esq., YLC Coordinator of Roles and Responsibilities; Paul Turner, Coordinator of the young men's portion of the YLC; Robert Edison, Coordinator of the Mothers Conference; Ronnie Walker; Kwa King, Coordinator of Public Relations; and Dr. George D. Taylor, Coordinator of Command Center.

The agenda was full. The group resolved to continue meeting by developing a finite list of topics for future YLCs as well as presentations directed to parents of youth and future parents. They agreed that there was a mutual interest in creating and sustaining a culture of good health and happiness among large populations of urban youth and parents.

The most recent Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) was held on the campus of USC October 10, 2015 and featured Dr. Max Nikias, president of USC. The next YLC is scheduled for fall 2016. To see and hear president Nikias speaking to Youth at the October 10, 2015 YLC cut and paste the URL: <http://www.omegaeducationalfoundation.org>

### **Zeta Tau Chapter Pays it Forward**

**Pasadena, CA** – As part of its Fatherhood Initiative, Zeta Tau Chapter Brothers made donations of clothing to Union Station for distribution. The



donation in women's and men's apparel was significant and substantive. James Wilson, Chapter Fatherhood Chairman, said, "This is one of many Fatherhood programs the Chapter is happy to be engaged in."



**L-R: Zeta Tau Brothers Arthur "Bud" Coleman, Raphael Briscoe (V. Basileus), Johnie Drawn (Basileus), Thrift Personnel, George D. Taylor, Chapter Editor to the Oracle. (Photo by Jim Wilson)**

### **Beta Mu Mu Fatherhood Initiative**

**Las Vegas, NV** – Beta Mu Mu Chapter recognized students at its Founders Day breakfast. The students from Cheyenne High School were selected by their teachers based upon their academic performance.



**L-R: Brothers Dale Scott, Ronald Martin, Larry Clarke (Vice Basileus), E. Randy Bacon (Basileus) and Charles Walden (Photo by Marty Frierson)**

Dr. Zachary Robbins, the high school's principal, is currently the Basileus of Kappa XI Chapter. Brother Charles Walden formerly taught at Cheyenne High and has continued to maintain his connection to teachers that were colleagues. Teachers and other supporters, including Chapter Brothers, sponsored the students by covering the cost of their attendance.

The students heard Brothers explain the meaning of our Cardinal Principles, and how these Principles are applicable in our everyday lives. Brother Randy Bacon has been very active in tutoring high school youth in learning how to make math easy to absorb. He uses common daily activities to help students understand math principles.



**Cheyenne High Students Honored By Omega Fathers (Photo by Marty Frierson)**

Brother Larry Clarke operates a behavioral health company. It provides services to youth with behavioral issues in a school setting. On a positive note the agency has not lost a youth to the juvenile system in seven (7) years of operation. "By exposing students to men of high character, we are supporting the Fatherhood Initiative ... in our chapter," said Bro. Clarke. (Submitted by Brother Larry Clarke.)



**Delta Pi Chapter Begins Passport to Manhood**

### **Delta Pi's Passport to Manhood Program**

**Tacoma, WA** – Brothers of Delta Pi Chapter kicked off its fourth Passport to Manhood Program at the Al Davies Boys and Girls Club in Tacoma, WA. The program is designed to guide the boys on their



journey to manhood; it encourages and supports them as they face specific challenges related to becoming an adult man.

The goal of the journey is for each boy to become aware of his unique gifts, to seek ways to contribute to his family, and to learn to become a valuable member of the community.

During the kick off of the program, Brothers presented each boy with a back pack and school supplies. At the conclusion, the boys will be presented a stamped passport indicating their journey through the fun-filled and insightful 14-session program.

### **(OYLA) Mentorship Initiative**

**Phoenix, AZ** – On Saturday, December 5, 2015, the brothers of Phi Iota chapter and Omega Youth Leadership Academy mentees held a Financial Literacy seminar entitled Act Your Wage on the campus of Sierra Linda High School.



**A Broad Partnership**

The workshop was in partnership with *Take Charge America*, a leader in consumer credit counseling, and covered budgeting, savings, and fiscal management. The youth worked on budget spreadsheets and real life scenarios. Each Omega man shared personal strategies on how to be financially fit in college and later in life.

In concert was a quarterly **Parent Action Network** workshop hosted by Brother Dr. Bill Smith. The topic was “*Eight Conversations Every Parent Must Have with Their Son*”. Bro Smith kept the parents engaged and allowed shared group insight to the challenges black males face today.

OYLA ([www.oyla-usa.org](http://www.oyla-usa.org)) is a Phi Iota Chapter youth mentorship initiative that empowers and educates males 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade through field study trips, workshops, and college tours on how to live a healthy life while successfully pursuing and obtaining higher education.

On Saturday, November 4, 2015 the brothers of Phi Iota and Omega Youth Leadership Academy mentees held a workshop on the campus of Sierra Linda High School.



**Brother Mark Colclough Presents**

Brother Mark Colclough presented a powerful workshop entitled “**7 Keys to Leadership**”. Youth were challenged to take their education and personal development to the next level. Also, Brother Jay Williams introduced the OYLA MVP College Pathway Project. This intense initiative pairs seniors with Omega mentors to help guide them through their higher education search and matriculation.



**Brother Jay Williams: College Pathway**



Brother Jay Williams introducing the *MVP College Pathway Project* to the OYLA mentees. He will be leading the Class of 2016 seniors help matriculate through their college search process.



**Brother Thomas Perry: Know the company you keep!**

Brother Thomas Perry discusses with OYLA Mentees the importance of surrounding themselves with positive people and to take their education serious.

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

### The USMC: Getting it Done!

**Okinawa, Japan** - Often when the general conversation of fatherhood and mentoring is discussed, much focus is directed to teaching some sort of life skills or personal/professional development.

During this quarter Brother Troy Smith of **Sigma Gamma Gamma** redirected some of this focus. Bro. Smith, who is currently serving in the United States Marine Corps, has attended several military balls of all different services. These military balls honor the establishment, contributions, and traditions of their branches of service. Normally the events are attended by military members, their spouses, and selected guests of honor. This year was no different except with a special addition. Bro Smith attended a daddy-daughter military ball specifically designed to strengthen a key factor of fatherhood...maximizing quality time with your children.



**Brother Troy Smith and his Little Princess, Nylah.**  
*"I'm going to dance with my daddy!"*

This ball was held at Camp Kinser, Marine Corps Base, Okinawa, Japan on 24 October 2015. Instead of the military spouses getting the delight of experiencing a military ball, this theme had parents and children spending quality time together. Members of the military often get called away for duty away from home and miss special moments such as this.

Bro. Smith mentioned he was glad to be escorted by his little princess to an event normally attended by adults. He said, "The menu items, dance songs, and fun games made the evening truly enjoyable." Since Bro. Smith made sure this event would be memorable he challenged the other Brothers in the Chapter to join him at next year's event. A challenge all the Brothers quickly accepted. (Respectfully submitted, Bro. Frederick White)

### Sigma Gamma Gamma at College Fair

**Okinawa, Japan, November 5, 2015** -Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter volunteered their time effort and comment to the youth in the community of Okinawa by participating in the College Fair for High School students on Thursday November 5, 2015 at Kubasaki High School on Camp Foster Marine Base in Okinawa, Japan. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. If that is so, then it must also take a community to educate a child and an individual to inspire a child.



Sigma Gamma Gamma Basileus Michael Robinson with high school seniors attending the college fair.

The display table provided by Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma was used to help educate students about future choices in the fields of nursing, engineering and technology. The Brothers inspired the high school seniors attending the college fair by sharing their knowledge, enthusiasm and experience from Alma Maters. Scholarship package information was also presented to students and parents.

Mr. David Young, Counselor of Kubasaki High School, for the Okinawa District College Fair committee, extended his thanks to the Chapter for participating in the college fair.



L to R: Brothers Aaron Cooper, Bruce Byrd, Damien Seals, Chapter Advisor John Smith, Garry Miles and Basileus Michael Robinson.

The Brothers of SGG continued their anti-bullying campaign, from September 26, 2015 during the Que-Nic at Ryukyu Middle School on Kadena Air Force Base. Students from all ages attended the event which was combined with a large pep rally and opening games for the Middle School Football League. A total of over 1,700 students attended the event.



Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma with students attending Anti-Bullying Event at Kadena Middle School on Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan.

#### 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 at least 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.**