



Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

International Committee - Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives (ICFMI)



Volume 3

Jan - Feb - Mar 2016

Number 1

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

~Brother Fairchild's Corner~

First, I want to thank all who are actively involved in working with programs and conducting Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives. I encourage those who have not yet engaged, please do so as soon as possible. You will find that working to help young men through mentorship and helping fathers to be better prepared to be involved in the lives of their children is truly rewarding. You cannot come out of the experience without being affected and touched.

Tell our Story - Brothers, there is nothing like getting the word out. I know how modest we can be about the great things that we do. In the

**"... we have
allowed others to
tell our story ..."**

Fatherhood and Mentoring area, we have conducted outstanding programs that are significantly impacting our communities. We have received positive feedback and numerous thank you notes from mothers

and fathers expressing sincere appreciation for the work that we are doing.

However, we have not been good at telling our own story. I have visited some outstanding programs that are working with fathers and young men in the mentoring area that have never been publicized. The only people that were aware of the activity were the brothers in the chapter and the participants in the program. On occasions I will find out about a program by someone mentioning it in a casual conversation. This we have to change. It has been said that "It's a poor dog that won't wag his own tail."

Too often we have allowed others to tell our story and that story has not always been accurate nor reflective of the outstanding work that has been done. We must take the time and the opportunity to keep the record straight by telling our own story. This said, I am asking brothers and chapters that are doing work in Fatherhood and Mentoring to take pictures and do one or two paragraphs describing the activity and **send them to me or Bro. George Taylor**. We will put the information in the Newsletter or on the **soon to be released website**. Let us know what you are doing and we will share it with the world. Help us develop and **Tell Our Story** about the outstanding work that we are doing.



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

Bro. Robert W. Fairchild

Chairman International Committee, Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives,

NOTICE, ICFMI WEBSITE COMING SOON!!! COMING SOON!!!

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"... Tell Our Story ..."©

National News Items:

A VIEW FROM 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

Washington, DC – Students and staff of Washington, DC's Richard Wright Charter School attended President Obama's last White House Black History Month Tour. Richard Wright Charter School was founded by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Brother Dr. Marco Clark who also is the Principal of the school.

The students, who have never been inside the White House enjoyed seeing all the Black History artifacts and photos and learning about the importance of Black History Month. They clearly understood how Blessed they were to have had the rare opportunity to tour the White House and be a part of the President's last Black History Month celebration.



Brothers Thabiti Boone, Marco Clark and Richard Wright Charter School Students

Brother Clark is heavily involved with the Fraternity. He and his students attended several of the Fraternity's Congressional Black Caucus Forums. He runs a highly regarded school based community initiative called **MAN THE BLOCK**, which, through the support of male organizations and volunteers, provide a safe environment for students after school. The Men patrol the school area and neighborhood, creating a safe passage for students to walk home safely.

Brother Fairchild, 3rd District Representative Zeke Dennison, Alpha Omega Chapter and Area Brothers have been supporting Brother Dr. Clark and the school. This was another historic moment for the Fraternity and its White House partnership with the President. (Submitted by Bro. Thabiti Boone.)

About This Newsletter:

The goal is to include information from each District each quarter about your District 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. Mentor primarily young African American men, focusing on helping them to live a life of aspiration, hope and life sustaining productivity.

Submittal Process: District Fatherhood 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

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.**

FROM WHERE I SIT:

This column and the next will deal with **foundational legalities** with the status of **being a father**. Let's start at the beginning.

How Did I Get Here? The obvious answer is that you (a man) were successful in impregnating a woman, who in turn successfully delivered into the world a new life...your child. The birth of that child does not, however, automatically confer upon you the legal status of father, as we presume and refer.

In fact there is a "duality" involved in being the father of a child. Biological fatherhood means you are the *natural father*. The other aspect is as *legal fatherhood*, which confers both responsibilities and rights cognizable and actionable at law.

"Biologically you may or may not be the father of the child."

We have all heard the colloquialism "Mother's baby...father's maybe." There is legal significance to that phrase. Clearly, there exists direct, demonstrative evidence that the child in question is the biological reproduction from mother. Accordingly, the status of "legal" mother is an irrefutable presumption/conclusion. Father, on the other hand, is far from being a resolved issue at the time of birth.

Biologically you may or may not be the father of the child. Biology is best and most reliably established by means of DNA testing. Brothers, if there is any question in your (or the mother's) mind regarding who, biologically has created this new life, I implore you to seek DNA testing immediately... **not on Maury** 3 years and thousands of dollars in Child Support payments later! DNA testing does not identify the male as the biological father, rather it **eliminates the rest of the male population**, to a medical certainty, from being the bio dad. Once Biological results are established, the mechanism for determining legal status is now in place, for all possible scenarios.

How legal status as father is conferred:

These are general principles that are applicable in virtually every jurisdiction in the United States:

1. If the child is born during the term of a couple's marriage, the law presumes that the husband is the legal father and he is recognized as such for every situation imaginable. That presumption is however, rebuttable, meaning that through appropriate legal process it can be determined that husband is not bio, and therefore may be **adjudged** no longer legal dad. This process is fairly recent in practice and law, in many states. It can be complex, lengthy, and expensive. Hence my earlier caveat, if there is some doubt...get DNA test ASAP!
2. Children born outside of marriage (which is quickly becoming the norm with Millennials) get their legal father (i.e. **Paternity** is established) primarily in the following ways:
 - a. *Affidavit of Parentage*: This is the voluntary acknowledgement by you that you represent yourself as the bio and legal father of the child, without benefit of DNA testing. This is one of the more common ways the paternity is established. You sign the birth certificate at the hospital,



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

or at some time later, sign a binding legal document (i.e. Affidavit of Parentage in the State of Michigan) accepting the **responsibility and rights** of being the legal father.

- b. *Putative Father Proceedings*: Commonly called a “Paternity Case or Suit”. This is a civil lawsuit wherein you are identified by bio mom as the man who is bio dad (thereby known as putative) and should be determined by court order to be legal dad. (In future columns we will talk about how you can effectively navigate this legal action, for the best interest of your child and your relationship with that child.) This is a lawsuit in every sense of the term. It is not a quasi-legal, or informal type of thing. All remedies and responsibilities apply in the litigation of this type of case, and you better be ready to represent or be represented just as you would any other type of lawsuit. Anecdotally, this is where men usually begin to misunderstand and fail to avail themselves of knowledge and resources to assist them in advancing their position, whatever that may be.

For instance:

1. There is no right to court-appointed counsel, but you do have the right to be represented by counsel.
2. You have the right to request that DNA testing be conducted, and typically said test is at no cost to you. That is provided that your request for DNA is timely.
3. If you fail to appear as required, in a manner that is recognized by your jurisdiction's Court Rules, you can and will be held in default, just as in any other lawsuit. **(More on this point at the end of this column.)** That default, in paternity cases, means you are adjudged the legal father and the clock begins to tick and the adding machine cranks up on the next approximately **18 years of Child Support payments!**
4. Paternity suits may be (and should be) filed by **men who believe they are the bio dad of a child and mom is refusing the same acknowledgement.** You can bring mom to court to sue for your right to be the responsible and engaged father that you seek to be!

The above is a very cursory discussion of the broad concepts involved in how men legally rise to the all-important status of Legal Father. That status dictates other legalities such as Child Support and Visitation, which we will delve into in this space in the days ahead.

I depart with this thought, ***From Where I Sit:***

The very sad reality is that far too often incredible numbers of men are becoming fathers (in the legal sense) by default...literally. Thursday morning in my courtroom is when paternity cases are litigated and ultimately decided by me. It pains me to see the number of children who “get their father” by function of the putative dad simply failing to come to court. I do not exaggerate when I relate that on a given week more than half of the cases on my docket are decided by default. Putative dad fails to show on Thursday morning. By Friday afternoon, I have signed the order that obligates that man to that child until that child turns eighteen years of age. What a horrid way for any relationship to begin. It is unconscionable that the most honorable of relationships, father and child, begins by default.

Let's keep working to help ourselves and our communities of men to become “good fathers” by design and purpose...not by default!

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

**ICFMI WEBSITE COMING SOON!!! COMING SOON!!!**



**BROTHER STEVE HARVEY: MENTORING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG MEN**  
**By George D. Taylor, Ed.D.**



**Los Angeles, CA** – Comedian, entertainer, and TV personality Steve Harvey and crew visited Los Angeles the weekend of January 22 – 24 to engage young men ages 13 to 18 in learning lessons of Manhood 101. The event was held on the campus of the University of Southern California (USC).

Brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., were present to lend their support to the Steve Harvey Mentoring Program. Steve Harvey's twin daughters Brandi and Karli were present and in charge of the activities for the weekend.

A continuous video preview of a previous one-week camp held at the Steve Harvey Ranch near Dallas, Texas ran continuously on a big screen in the auditorium. Parents started arriving at about 4:30 p.m. Friday afternoon with their sons, sleeping bags, overnight luggage and the like. At the end of registration, approximately 100 young men had registered for the weekend mentoring program.

As students and parents entered the registration staging area, this reporter made the casual observation that mostly mothers were seen bringing their sons to the weekend program.

Mr. Nathan M. Banks, Sr., public relations director for the camp, explained that the purpose of the camp was to work with 100 youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who were from single parent households. "That's why you didn't see any fathers," he said.

Friday's registration was capped with a Welcoming Address to the parents by Karli Harvey, whose unique comedic style of presenting information gave parents an overview of what they could reasonably expect when they picked up their sons on Sunday.

After the orientation session dinner was served, parents said goodbye to their sons until Sunday, when they would be there to pick them up.

On Saturday, the young men were treated to a rigorous routine of team building exercises conducted by the United States Army and mentoring by student interns from the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).

The task given to the young men by the NSBE representatives was to build a model fuel cell race car using only the instruction provided to them that came with the fuel cell race car kit. The youth studied the instruction in their small group teams and received coaching from the NSBE interns and NSBE representatives.

As stipulated by Trina Fletcher, Senior Manager of SEEK (Summer Engineering for Kids), students were to build their fuel cell race cars using written instructions and coaching they received from NSBE members. The instructions were clear:



**Using a Fuel Cell as the primary power source, student teams design, build, and test prototype vehicles, which they must then present to an audience. The AWIM Fuel Cells Challenge requires students to explore physical science concepts such as force, friction and energy transformations as well as environmental concepts such as green design, and incorporates mathematics concepts as student teams collect, analyze and display data.**

After building their cars, the youth entered them into

a fuel cell completion which was held in the auditorium ballroom.



**BRIGADIER GENERAL SEAN A. GAINEY**  
DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL  
U.S. ARMY CADET COMMAND  
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY



In the afternoon, the young men were again engaged in team building by the United States Army. They heard from Brigadier General Sean A. Gainey, Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox, Kentucky.

General Gainey spoke briefly to the young men, and introduced a panel of several USC Army Cadets and regular United States Army Soldiers to the youth. Each panelist had the opportunity to tell their story to the young men and

engaged with them in a question and answer session.



The youth had several questions for the General and for the panel such as: Have you ever found yourself in a position where you were in conflict between your moral values and orders given to you by your superiors? How do you balance life outside the military? What have you learned in college to help you do what you want to do? The youth were encouraged by the General and the panel to, “Get out of your comfort zone! Read about different things. Other people! And, don’t hate on others – Hate can be blinding,” he said.

On Sunday morning, the students and parents heard from the man himself, Steve Harvey. According to Ricky Lewis, Executive Director of the Omega Educational Foundation and member of Tau Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Brother Harvey encouraged the youth to dream, believe in themselves, “stay focused on school, and do not disappoint your parents.”

## Fatherhood and Mentoring activity from around the Districts:

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

#### ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CONNECTICUT



**Brothers Mentoring Youth**

**Norwalk/Stamford, CT** – The Alpha Nu Chapter is focused on fatherhood and mentoring young boys so that they will grow into outstanding young men. Current activities include the Entrepreneurial Development Workshop Series (EDWS) and planning for the Fatherhood Luncheon.

EDWS is a program that teaches young men (middle school age) about the activities associated with becoming entrepreneurs and starting and running their own business. Alpha Nu members share knowledge they’ve gained in their professional work lives with a focus on the attributes and activities required to become entrepreneurs.

The young men are instructed, through a series of workshops, on Developing a Business Plan, Understanding Personalities (theirs and others), Price, Cost and Margin, Marketing and Project Management. They will participate in the production of their product – T shirts – which they design and sell.

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Fatherhood Luncheon is intended to focus on fathers who have been outstanding fathers to their own children and served as mentors and/or role models to other children.

### MY BROTHER’S KEEPER INITIATIVE

**Norwalk/Stamford, CT** - Building on existing initiatives, Alpha Nu Chapter is attempting to become active in support of President Obama’s **My Brother’s Keeper initiative (MBK)**. Brothers are seeking to partner with Mr. Guy A. Fortt, who is active in the Stamford Community and recently visited the White House to discuss the MBK Initiative.



**Mr. Guy A. Fortt – Community Activist**

“MBK is an initiative that helps young men of color succeed in school, work and in life,” said Fortt. “It seeks to improve the expected life outcome of boys and young men of color while simultaneously altering the public’s perception of them,” he added.

Fortt noted that MBK was not just for young African-American men, but also for Hispanic, Native American and many other minority groups.

The MBK initiative focuses on helping youth: 1) enter school ready to learn, 2) read at grade level by third grade, 3) graduate from high school ready for college and/or careers, 4) complete post-secondary education or training, 5) successfully enter the workforce and 6) reduce violence by providing a second chance,” said Fortt.

Fortt is on the board of the executive committee of the Stamford NAACP, board member of the Jackie Robinson Park of Fame, and a retired union firefighter. He previously served on the Stamford Youth Foundation. (Submitted by Brother Donald Thomas, Alpha Nu Chapter.)

### LIVING ABOVE THE INFLUENCE

**Cambridge, MA** – On Sunday January 31, 2016 Iota Chi Chapter's Brunch & Ball Mentoring Program gathered again at the Dorchester YMCA for another week of mentoring, but this Sunday would be different from past gatherings.



**"Brothers, Brunchers and Ballers"**

**"If the character of a people is strong enough they can rise above the negatives around them."**

In customary fashion the keynote speaker, Mr. Darius McCroey, led a discussion on *the entrepreneurial spirit*.

McCroey introduced a list of 20 millionaire Entrepreneurs under the age of 20, proving success can come at any age if you set your mind to succeeding.

The New England Cable News network was present. News Anchor Glenn Marshall and his camera crew taped the event and interviewed our guest speaker, Mr. McCroey and Bros. Lenward Gatison and Reggie Perry.

The gathering comes on the heels of a Boston Police raid of the gang MS 13 on Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup>. Iota Chi Chapter took that negative and turned it into a positive, further proving if the character of a people is strong enough they can rise above the negatives around them. Submitted by Bro Joseph E. Mann.

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

#### PLL'S FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

**Woodbridge, VA, February 06, 2016** – Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc. supported the **First Annual Prince William County Fatherhood Initiative's Father/Daughter Dance** at the A.J. Ferlazzo Government Building in Woodbridge, Virginia.

PLL was requested by the chief of county's Social Services Department, Ms. Phyllis Jennings-Holt, to help set-up and participate as surrogate fathers to daughters who don't have a male role model in the their lives.

Twelve Brothers from the Chapter volunteered their time and participated; some brought their wives and daughters, grand-daughters or nieces to the event. Brothers and their spouses or grown kids helped with registration, food service, coat service, and most important as step-in fathers to the local county kids.

The County Social Services Chief has already requested our support for future Fatherhood programs. Below are photos from the event.



**"Dancing with Daddy"**

#### MAN THE BLOCK III – THE SYMPOSIUM

**Washington, DC, – Thursday evening February 25, 2016**, Dr. Marco Clark, Founder and CEO of the Richard Wright Public Charter School (RWPCS) hosted "Man the Block III – The Symposium" that drew Government officials, community activist, and members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

The symposium was the result of the partnership Dr. Clark has established with four other Public Charter Schools and the need to expand the safe



passage model adopted by Richard Wright to other parts of the District of Columbia (DC).

As an Omega man, Dr. Clark realized that his vision for **Man the Block** was part of the 4 Cardinal Principles of our Fraternity. The invitation to partner with Richard Wright Public Charter School was extended to Third District Representative Ezekiel Dennison, Jr., who rallied Omega men throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to support this cause. The outpouring of support for Man the Block has been phenomenal.



**Thabiti Boone and Distinguished Panel**

A distinguished panel moderated by Thabiti Boone, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., White House Champion of Change for President Obama's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative, addressed a range of issues from safe passage from school, fathers absent in the home, and funding to address these issues.

The panel included DC Council members David Grosso and LaRuby May; DC U.S. Representative Franklin Garcia; Dr. Darren Woodruff, Chairman, DC Public Charter School Board; Franklyn Malone, CEO of 100 Fathers, Inc.; and Robert Warren, Immediate Past 3<sup>rd</sup> District Representative. The standing room only crowd of students, parents, educators, and community members were also witnesses to "The Voices of Safe Passage" video created and produced by RWPCS students. (Submitted by Brother Albert Woods.)

### **OMEGA'S BRIGHT LIGHT SHINES FOR FATHERHOOD IN RICHMOND**

**Richmond, VA** – Brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity provided an uplifting experience highlighting the importance of fatherhood and

mentoring during the "Annual Date with Dads" weekend in Richmond. The event was hosted by **Girls for a Change**, Founded by Ms. Angela Patton.

Date with Dads Weekend was started 9 years ago, from the request of girls in the program, who wanted a stronger relationship with their Fathers. From that desire, Date with Dads was born. Date with Dads Weekend has reached national acclaim, as one of the most impactful programs uplifting Fathers. Media coverage has included local radio, TV, print and a CNN feature story.

**"...girls in the program wanted a stronger relationship with their Fathers."**

The Weekend included a Citywide Daddy Daughter Dinner Dance, a special Date with Dads Dinner Dance inside the City of Richmond Jail Facility, Dash for Dads 5k Walk/Run, Fatherhood Focus Group Roundtable, Daddy Daughter Fun Night, which provided enjoyable fun activities bonding Dads and Daughters. There was also 2 Fatherhood documentary presentations (Daddy Don't Go, Spitin' Anger) followed by a Panel Discussion.

The Brothers of Upsilon Nu and Phi Phi were outstanding in their participation and support of the event.



**Brother Tom Joyner and Guests**

This year's special guests included Brother Tom Joyner, Actor Malik Yoba, Actor Chad Coleman and Brother Thabiti Boone. (Submitted by Thabiti Boone.)

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

**Memphis, TN, February 27, 2016** – The Fatherhood & Mentoring committee is working to build awareness of Responsible Fatherhood by partnering with social service organizations, boys and girls clubs, schools, churches, and more. We had a successful community fatherhood prayer breakfast in Union City on February 27, 2016. See Flyer below.

**Favorite Fathers of the Mid-South** promotion is currently in progress with numerous nominees. The city of Memphis has held a fatherhood event tied to the mayor's office in previous years. Sigma Lambda Lambda and its partners have taken the initiative to become the vehicle for Fatherhood recognition in Memphis and Shelby County. Several local undergraduate chapters of Omega Psi Phi are on board. Cut and paste webpage:

<http://memphisques.com/favorite-fathers-of-the-mid-south/>



**Submitted by Brother** Oliver Williams, Executive Director, The Hope Center @ Grace, 982 Meagher Street, Memphis, TN 38108.

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

**OMEGA MEN HONORED MLK WITH DAY OF SERVICE: PUSHED HEALTHCARE ENROLLMENT Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi** – In direct response from the 40th Grand Basileus Brother Antonio Knox, local Omega Chapters of the Mighty Seventh District honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a Day of Service to help increase healthcare enrollment among African American Males and Families.

Omega Chapters having already established goodwill throughout the many local communities in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and



**Brothers on the Streets in the 7<sup>th</sup> District**

Mississippi, provided ample avenues to reach local residents.

Brothers throughout the Seventh District walked their local communities and manned phone banks to personally engage local residents. The Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. were openly welcomed by local residents to receive healthcare information and help residents further understand the benefits of the Affordable Care Act.

Brothers left no stones unturned in executing a ground game to visit with residents at local laundromats, corner stores, and barbershops that were without the means to receive information through the main news and social media outlets.



**Omegas, Deltas, Health Care Workers: Saving Lives!**

Also, Brothers manned phone banks to call and speak with local residents to remind and inform them of their opportunity to become insured before the deadline of January 31, 2016. Many residents upon receiving healthcare information took the opportunity to visit the various Omega Centers that partnered with community healthcare agencies to



Speak with certified agents to see how they can become insured.

In conversation with local residents, some were simply not aware or knowledgeable about how to get health insurance. The conversations prompted Brothers to realize a more aggressive ground game is needed to reach local residents that are without access to reliable healthcare information.

In all, it was a great day of service to see a collective effort from Omega Brothers throughout the Mighty Seventh District supporting the push to increase healthcare enrollment among African American Males and Families within their local communities. (Written & Submitted by: Brother Jonathan Gaines – 7<sup>TH</sup> District Chairman Fatherhood Initiative & Mentorship Committee)

### **ATLANTA CHAPTERS HELP SIGN UP MORE THAN 5000**

**Atlanta, GA** – Atlanta Metropolitan Chapters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., circled around the President's initiative to increase the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enrollment. On Saturday, January 31, 2016, under the guidance of Brother S. Earl Wilson, Omega's Atlanta Chapters helped Clark Atlanta University sign up more than 5,000 members during its telephone campaign. As a direct result of Omega's support Clark Atlanta University won the White House ACA HBCU Phone Bank Challenge.



**Atlanta Brothers Working the Phones for ACA**

Linda Olsen, Regional Director of **Get Covered America - Georgia** applauded the Brothers for their professionalism and commitment to supporting the nationwide effort.

Omega's support throughout the nation resulted in nearly 13 million people selecting a health care plan with 42% buying plans for the first time. Since 2010 uninsured rate have been reduced to 45% and stands at its lowest ever. The President's call to action secured an increased enrollment in the African American community in particular among men and youth. (Submitted by Bro S. Earl Wilson)

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

### **2016: THE YEAR TO MENTOR YOUTH**

**Phoenix, AZ** - January, 13, 2016 - "Spend quality time with a young person and you change a life," says members of Phi Iota Chapter of Omega Phi Psi Fraternity, Inc.

To raise awareness about the proven positive impact of mentorship, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona (BBBSCAZ) has teamed up with My Brother's Keeper (MBK) to mark National Mentoring Month recognized every year in January. The viable annual effort was initiated in 2016 with a celebratory kickoff and press conference at the Phoenix, AZ City Hall on Jan. 13.

Various community based organizations including the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Iota Chapter, took part in the celebratory kickoff. The Chapter's contribution to this effort will be to sponsor a yearlong mentoring program referred to as The Omega Youth Leadership Academy (OYLA).

The benefit and positive effect of mentoring is unprecedented especially when applied to youth without an adult role model or to a young person from a disadvantaged and challenged environment. The influence of a mentor can provide the basis to change behaviors, and set a new course in life for that particular youth.

According to the Department of Education, 19% of high school students across the country did not graduate in 2012-2013, while 25% percent failed to graduate during the same time span in Arizona. Conversely, those students who spent time with a mentor are 52% less likely to miss school, or be delinquent in their studies according to a report by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona (BBBSCAZ).

The event announced the call to action for men age 18 and older in the Valley to become a mentor in 2016 with an eye toward enlisting at least 300 new volunteers in the upcoming year.



The press conference included prominent officials including president & CEO of BBBSCAZ Laura Capello, City Councilwomen Kate Gallego and Laura Pastor, clergy, local agencies, former Big Brother Victor Foggie who shared his personal experience and Mayor Greg Stanton who presented a proclamation honoring the value of mentorship programs.

According to BBBSCAZ, more than 300 youth are currently waiting to be matched and high percentage are minority males (more than 75%). Sadly, the number of Phoenix-metro area male youth in need of a mentor potentially surpasses the thousands.

To learn how you can become involved contact Satara Williams at (713) 249-4477. Commit to make a difference in the life of a young person in 2016. (Edited by Bro. D. L. White)

#### COMMUNICATION: YLC IN LA VERNE

**La Verne, CA** – March 12, 2016 – “We’ve got to help these young men,” said James Wilson who brought over 130 African American and Hispanic young men ages to the campus of the University of La Verne to engage in a deep conversation around the theme: **Communication: Don’t Let Emotions Dictate Your Actions.**

As the young men were leaving the venue following the conference, a 13 year old was asked what he had learned today. He replied that he learned that he always has a choice and that he doesn’t have to do what others are doing if he knows better.



**STEM: What Do I Need to Know to be 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Relevant?**

This was the seventh consecutive year that the Inland Valley Uplift Foundation, Inc., has sponsored a Youth Leadership Conference (YLC). The

Conference is held in conjunction with Zeta Tau Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Other participating Chapters from around the SoCal area included: Lambda Omicron, Phi Beta Beta, Pi Rho, Rho Iota Iota, Sigma Iota Iota, Tau Tau, and Zeta Rho. These Chapters represented an area from Long Beach to Victorville. Also, Sigma Iota, from Oakland, CA was present.

In addition to the Men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority helped register students for the conference. This was the largest IVUF/ZT spring youth conference. It included mothers as well as fathers, uncles and other relatives of the young men. Someone was heard to say, “It takes a Village ....”

The program curriculum for the young men was full of information about what they needed to enter college should that be their choice. Students were also treated with powerful information about career choices and examples of how to use information and knowledge to make better choices about life and its many opportunities.

The mothers’ session was the largest ever. “The room was practically filled with mothers,” said James Wilson, coordinator of the conference. “And, as I surveyed the audience, I heard from mothers and fathers that they want more of these opportunities to

have their sons hear from professional African American men who have achieved prominence in their communities.”

**“They recognize the importance of their sons being able to interact with positive role models...”**

“They recognize the importance of their sons being able to interact with positive role models who have been where they are trying to go.”

The fathers’ session consisted of four modules; Values: What do I believe and what set of principles do I live by, what do I value in my family life? And what do I value in my job or career? – conducted by Dr. George D. Taylor.





**Fathers: The Art/Science of Communication**

The second module dealt with Communication: When I speak, is anyone listening? – presented by LaShondra Q. Smith. This was an interactive session which demonstrated to the fathers that communicating the intended message is not as easy as it seems. And, often what is said is totally different from what was heard by the receiver of the message.

The two afternoon topics were: The police and your son – Ronnie Walker, LAPD. Detective Walker gave an analysis of the high profiled police involved shooting from around the country. The final presentation was “The Law as it relates to Fatherhood” by Attorney Damon E. Martin, Esq. His presentation covered the law as it relates to matters such as: custody, paternity, how fatherhood is determined by the courts and how child support is calculated.

Ms. Sharron McKinney, Director of Admissions for the University welcomed the students, parents and the Men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and thanked them for their good work getting students involved in furthering their education.

For information about future Youth and Parent Leadership Conferences in the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire, contact: James Wilson at: [inland.ivuf@yahoo.com/](mailto:inland.ivuf@yahoo.com/)

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

### BOOK READING AT

#### KINSER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Okinawa, Japan** – Brother Cortez Pree visited 3rd grade students at Kinser Elementary School on January 13, 2016 to reflect upon the life of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The children listen to Brother Pree read over Dr. King’s life

accomplishments. At the end of his presentation they participated in a question and answer session.

The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma have listed literacy as one of its top priorities in helping our students at local schools each quarter by reading. Basileus Michael Robinson stated “through years of experience and with the rapid changing pace of technology we have determined the ability to read, write, engage in critical thought, understand spoken and nonverbal communication and use dominate symbols appropriately are the keys to success for our youth.”



**Brother Cortez Pree with 3rd Grade Griffis Superstars at Kinser Elementary School**

### BECHTEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD GETS DECORATED

**Okinawa, Japan** – Brother Barian Woodward, his wife Soro Shawn Woodward, Soro Kaprece James and Brother Michael Robinson took time out of their busy schedules and volunteered to decorate the bulletin board at Betchel Elementary School in Okinawa, Japan on February 16, 2016 for Black History Month. The board displayed this year’s national theme: Hallowed Grounds. The efforts of these Brothers and Sisters assisted students from pre-kindergarten through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to see and recognize famous African American historical sites that have planted the seed for us and our future generations.



(L to R): Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter Bros. Barian Woodward, & Michael Robinson, Soros Shawn Woodward and Kaprece James, Okinawa Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

### SIGMA GAMMA GAMMA CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN STEM PROJECT AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

**Okinawa, Japan** – Brother Michael Robinson visited 23 classrooms at Ryukyu and Kande Middle Schools during the month of February presenting the following information to students:

- 1) The importance of a STEM education for the future of our country;
- 2) What inspired him to study the field of Electrical Engineering Technology?
- 3) What his job entails on a day to day basis;
- 4) What challenges he has being an African-American in a Caucasian-dominated field;

Brother Michael Robinson received a personal thank you from the STEM Project Coordinator Mrs. Jameelah Muhammad. She stated “the STEM Project was a huge success. Many teachers shared great comments about Brother Robinson’s visit and how he impacted the students”. Brother Robinson received a letter of appreciation from both schools and invitation to participate in other opportunities in the future to collaborate.

Be Alert!  
Be Alert!

Coming Soon,  
International Committee  
Fatherhood and Mentoring  
Website!



Brother Michael Robinson presenting information about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to students at Ryukyu Middle School February 26, 2016

### Sigma Gamma Gamma Hold First Art Contest for Middle and High School Students

**Okinawa, Japan** – Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter held their first Art Contest from January 15, 2016 through February 15, 2016 in honor of Black History Month. Basileus Michael Robinson coordinated the entire event. Middle and High School students in grades 6th – 12th participated in the art contest. The artwork was based upon this year’s Black History Month Theme: “Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories”.

During the award ceremony on February 27, 2016 at the Black History Program sponsored by the Okinawa Diversity Council, the Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter recognized the following winners and presented them with cash prizes totaling \$330:

- First Place Winner Middle School – Gideon Summers, Kadena Middle School \$100
- Second Place Winner Middle School – Yumi Alvarado, Lester Middle School \$50
- Third Place Winner Middle School – No entry
- First Place Winner High School – Keira Chan, from Kadena High School \$100
- Second Place Winner High School – Lauren Brown, Okinawa Christian Academy Institute \$50
- Third Place Winner High School – Adam Wickens, Okinawa Christian Academy Institute \$30.

The Art Contest was a success. Students from local Middle and High Schools in Okinawa, Japan displayed outstanding creativity and craftsmanship in their art presentations for the contest. The Brothers



of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter are looking forward to making this an annual event during Black History Month.

### **Sigma Gamma Gamma Participates in Read Across America**

**Okinawa, Japan – Read across America** is a year-round program that focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources. Brother Fred White of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter volunteered to read to students at Zukeran Elementary School in Okinawa, Japan on March 2, 2016. The school selected the following quote from Dr. Seuss to encourage students to read:

“The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you’ll go.”

-Dr. Seuss



**Brother Fred White’s participation inspired the children to be excited about reading and to become life-long readers.**

### **Fatherhood Leadership by Example**

**Okinawa, Japan –** Growing up as a child with a father in our lives, we can easily reflect back upon many occasions and see how our Dads were stepping up to the plate in the form of leadership at home, in the church, in our communities and on their jobs. Today as we look at homes throughout America, we notice a major change has occurred over the last 50 years. In many cases and situations it relates back to a small number of fathers being the center piece and anchor of the family.

Please click on the following link:

<http://www.fatherhood.org/father-absence-statistics> to read more information about statistics on the Father Absence Crisis in America. There is “Father Factor” in Our Nation’s Worst Social Problems”. Vice Basileus Daniel Thompson of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter received the Team Kadena and Partner Unit Group Awards for Senior Non Commissioned Officer of the Quarter 01 October 2015 – 31 December 2015.



**Brother Daniel Thompson and his son Marquise at U.S. Air Force award ceremony February 5, 2016, Kadena Air Force Base, 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.

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

Bro. George D. Taylor: [geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net)

#### **Submission 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.