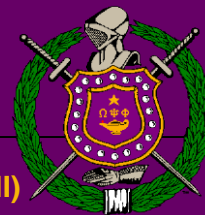




# Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

International Committee - Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives (ICFMI)



Volume 3

July – August – September 2016

Number 3

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

## ~Brother Fairchild's Corner~

**B**rothers, during our 80<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave we had the opportunity to communicate on fatherhood and mentoring activities engaged in by your Chapters. These activities included: hosting forums and panels discussing issues of fathers and young men; partnering with city and county social services agencies; sponsoring fatherhood and youth leadership fairs; partnering with church men's programs discussing father issues; working with court ordered father programs; going into prisons and working with prisoners - many of whom are fathers; just to name a few. I point out these initiatives to note that there is no one way of engaging in and bringing awareness to important issues in fatherhood and mentoring.

Our reaching out and working in communities is having a real impact! It makes my day when I receive a call from a Basileus or brother saying that they want to get their chapter involved and asking how to get started and what can they do. I say,

*"write your*

*Congressman...sign petitions"*

look at the needs of your community. One thing for sure, you can start a conversation in the Chapter on fathering and you will be amazed at where that conversation will lead. Many of us as fathers have issues. Talking about them can surface some very interesting conversation. Many times our male pride keeps us from discussing our own issues and problems. Having these conversations internally will help us relate to how we can help fathers and young men externally. We ask that you add fatherhood issues to your mentoring programs. In many cases you will find that fathers need (and are looking for) help, but that macho thing prevents it from happening. Our reaching out to them helps to bridge the gap.

One last point, we made presentations at the Conclave on the pending **Criminal Justice Reform Bill** aimed at reducing mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders and curbing recidivism. While at the Conclave we made a visit to a prison. Many of the prisoners were fathers. They expressed their sincere appreciation for our reaching out to them. I have had a personal experience with a family member who was early released from prison. He is a father who noted that he made a mistake when he was young and never intends to travel that road again because he wants to be around for his children. I talked with him about our efforts and visits. He was emotional and said that he was grateful for what we are doing because many in prison feel like they are alone and no one cares. Therefore, we ask that you *write your Congressman and sign petitions* to get them to pass this bill which has a big impact on us as a people.



In Friendship Brothers,

*Bro. Robert W. Fairchild*

Chairman International Committee, Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives

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*"... write your Congressman ..." [www.omegafandm.org](http://www.omegafandm.org) ©*

1

## National News Items: Omega Men “Building Bridges Back to Society”



Brothers Antonio Knox, 40th Grand Basileus of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Dr. David Marion, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus joined Brothers Dr. Leary Adams, Thabiti Boone, Senior Executive Warden Anthony H. Stewart (Michigan Depart of Corrections), Miguel Sanchez, Dr. George D. Taylor, Rev. Dr. Earl Smith, Rev. Dr. Bishop Carter, Al White, Travis Kennon, Randy Bacon and Clarence Longley who were guest of (Warden) Brother Brian Williams and inmates at the Southern Desert Correctional Center facility in Indian Springs, NV, during the 80<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave. (Photos by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Official Photographer Brother James Witherspoon.)

(See related stories pages 3 and 13)



## The 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus:

**President Obama** has given more second chances than any other President in history by commuting Sentences. Please see the chart. We must now do our part and get behind the Criminal Justice Reform Bill. We discussed this at the 80th Grand Conclave and will have information at the CBC, but now it's time for action. Look for the email to sign the petition, make calls, and write our representatives. The time is now, let's make it happen and get this bill passed.

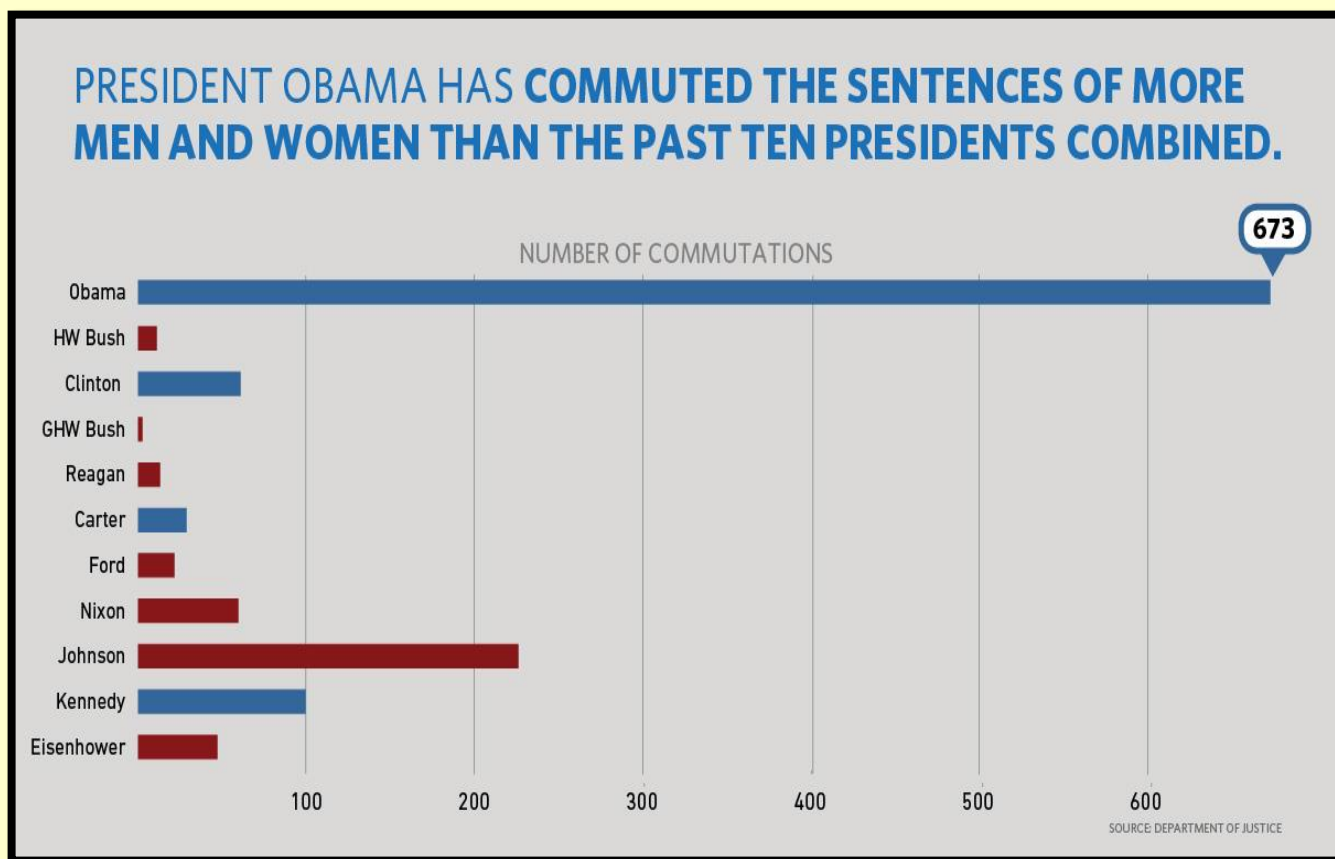
At the same time, we must band together with the Divine 9 and others that believe in equality and Justice for all and make this the largest voter turnout ever! We are One!

Fraternally,

Bro. Antonio Knox, 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

By the Numbers: President Obama's Record on Commutations



<https://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/clemency>

### Other Stories:

Dads Matter, Fathers/Community Leaders Engaged

Page 6

Fatherhood Symposium, Little Rock

Page 9

Nu Epsilon Chapter Donate \$100,000.00 to 'Bama A&M

Page 10

Alcorn State University Attends OEF - Tau Tau Chapter Youth Leadership Conference, Los Angeles

Page 14



**FROM WHERE I SIT: “Let’s pick up where we left off.”** Last time **Paternity** was established in our discussion. Now we discuss:

**C**hild Custody...We are all familiar with the usage of this term in one context or another. In its most basic sense child custody refers to who has responsibility for the care of a minor (a person under the age of 18 years). In actuality the legal concept of the term *child custody* has very significant and far- reaching ramifications, as it is applied from scenario to scenario.



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

For this child **custody** discussion, I should define some basic terms:

**Physical custody:** The party with whom the child resides.

**Legal custody:** The party who has the authority and responsibility to make important decisions that concern the child.

**Joint custody:** Shared on an equal basis.

**Primary custody:** The party with the majority position.

Here, we have a situation where the legal mother and father are *estranged* (i.e. not living together). The child born to them (aka Lil’ Dude or LD for short), according to general legal principles, must have a “home” and that home is legally presumed to be with one of, or under the appropriately established conditions, both legal parents.

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**“... the deck is not completely  
stacked against men as it  
relates to their children.”**

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The law presumes and proceeds from the general perspective that each parent has an equal right to the custody of LD. If mom and dad agree to share, on an equal

basis, the *Physical Custody* and the *Legal Custody* of LD, the parties have what is considered *Joint Legal* and *Joint Physical Custody*; then, the issue of *Custody* is resolved and the parties move on with their lives. Unfortunately, this particular scenario does not occur as often as it should; there are probably a number of Brothers who have first-hand knowledge of this fact.

The courts begin to move custody away from joint legal/joint physical as the circumstances of each case present themselves. Influences like distance, disparities in material resources, living conditions, parenting styles and skills, and the level of cooperation between the parties have

impact on custody decisions. This list is among the most common but in no way is it exhaustive of things that the courts can and will take into account. By way of example, the person that you get involved with as a wife or significant other can legitimately be factored into the court’s determination regarding the issue of custody.

The most common iteration of custody is joint legal custody to both and primary physical custody to one of the parents. Practically speaking, this means both parents share decision-making responsibilities, but

one parent has the child residing primarily with them. This then results in a schedule of Parenting Time to the “non-custodial parent”. (*We will deal with the issue of Parenting Time extensively, in upcoming editions!*)

Another iteration of custody is the most extreme, but not uncommon, *sole legal/sole physical custody* to one parent. As the phrase implies, one parent has been granted the authority/responsibility to make ALL decisions about the child, as well as, retains the physical custody of the child, subject to only allowing some award of parenting time to the other parent. This type of custody usually comes about as a result of MIA (missing in action) type parents or a parent who is so neglectful or derelict in their treatment of their child that the court is left with no choice but to effectively legislate away/diminish the continued presence of that parent.

Just to close this loop, sole legal/joint physical custody is basically never awarded. Let’s end this discussion with some general considerations:

1. First, changes to custody generally happens as a result of one of the parents seeking some change in how custody is currently configured. Courts rarely initiate custody changes on their own. Only when one of the parents makes it an issue does it become an issue. This is known as “the Custody Battle”.
2. A change in custody ONLY occurs when it can first be proven to the court that there has been a “significant change in circumstance” relative to the best interest of the child. That’s a lot of legal talk to basically say that custody changes have to be based on more than one of the parents being “pissed off” for the court to get involved in such a significant way. Situations like abuse, educational neglect, introduction of a significant other into the custodial home are the types of changes that will support such a cause of action. It is up to the court to determine if such a standard has been met by the parent seeking the custody change. If such “Prima Facie” standard is met the custody case continues; if not, case is dismissed.
3. No grandparent, aunt/uncle, boyfriend/girlfriend, tight-man/home girl, play cousin, godparent or anybody else can initiate a custody case. Custody remains the sole province of the two legal parents. Not even the child in question can bring such a cause of action. (*There are exceptions, but none applicable to 99.5% of the population.*)
4. A word about the child. It is not enough to prevail in a custody battle that the subject child “wants to move in with daddy”. The child’s wishes will be considered, and obviously the more articulate and decisive the child is in expressing an opinion, the more weight it carries. But the child’s desire, alone, is usually not enough to even keep the court from dismissing the case.

I leave you with this. As a practical matter, contrary to the popular and erroneous notion that prevails amongst men, the deck is not completely stacked against men as it relates to their children. The law has evolved. Real talk...women still maintain the favored position, but the general condition of the law is such that men can and do prevail in ways that 20 years ago would have been unimaginable. As with all things of importance and consequence however, knowledge is power and perseverance is crucial to your success. More importantly, the true beneficiary of a well-conceived and executed case presentation will be your child!

Because Custody is such a pivotal determination that has implications on other aspects of the legal rights and responsibilities of parents, **I will continue this discussion in the next edition of this writing.**

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

## In Atlanta ...



Photo Courtesy of Wild2cemia

## ... DADS Matter: Fathers/Community Leaders Engaged

**Atlanta, GA - Metro Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.,** and the State of Georgia joined the Omega International Headquarters Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative as it reached out to youth and parents during a two-day conference held August 26-27<sup>th</sup> at the Omega World Center.

**“Dads Matter – Cultivating Future Fathers”** was the call-to-action at the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Project Friendship, Inc., Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiatives Youth Leadership Conference. The free two-day conference educated male youth seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) through twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grades and provided their noncustodial and single parents with life skills - tools designed to inspire young men to be productive citizens and positive future fathers. The conference was held at the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., International Headquarters, 3951 Snapfinger Parkway Decatur, Georgia.





## Fatherhood and Mentoring activity from around the Districts:

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

#### **Mu Rho Chapter/Anne Arundel County, Dept. of Social Services:**

##### **National Dialogue on Fatherhood**

**Anne Arundel County, Mu Rho Chapter:** Saturday, June 25, 2016, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative Sherman Charles, Whitehouse and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Liaison Brother Thabiti Boone, and Mu Rho Basileus Jeffery Diggs kicked-off a new initiative under the Fatherhood and Mentoring Program.

Men of Mu Rho Chapter are excited to announce the partnership with Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services (DSS) to promote fatherhood and family support to strengthen communities in the county.

Mu Rho teaming efforts will promote and facilitate the socio-economic well-being of African American residents by assessing individual and family needs and linking people to services. Mu Rho will work with the DSS as part of a sustained effort to provide county residents access to an array of health and human services such, individual and group counseling, literacy, assessment of reading levels, employment opportunities, and one-on-one tutoring and family management counseling for children, teens, adults and families.

2<sup>nd</sup> District is excited about this initiative. It supports the

strategic direction for teaming "Omega efforts" with other organizations to reach young fathers to uplift them and support mentoring programs that inspire our young people who are growing up without fathers in their homes. (Article by Brother Eric Johnson, Mu Rho Fatherhood Chair.)

##### **Father's Day Weekend**

**Prince George County:** Saturday, June 18, 2016, 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was represented by Donald Williams II, the new Chairman for the Fatherhood and Mentoring Program.

This was the first significant event for the National Fatherhood Initiative Advisory Committee supporting the Prince George's County Dialogue on Fatherhood sponsored by 9<sup>th</sup> District County Councilman, Mel Franklin and Reid Temple A.M.E. Church in Glenn Dale, MD.

The Prince George's County Dialogue on Fatherhood was attended by approximately 200 men, women and basketball teams.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> District objective under the Fatherhood and Mentoring program is to become a teaming

partner in what is sure to become a premier annual event that focused on uplifting men, strengthening fatherhood in the county.

2<sup>nd</sup> District across the five states wants to team our efforts with other like-minded organizations to reach young fathers to uplift them and continue programs that inspire our young people who are growing up without fathers in their homes.

Former Wizards player Etan Thomas who retired from professional basketball after spending 11 seasons in the NBA, (8 season with the Wizard), moderated a workshop led by nationally-renowned panelist on Saturday, June 18 to kick-off the Father's Day weekend from 1 to 4 p.m.

The primary objective of our Fatherhood and Mentoring program is to finding teaming partners that will assist in uplifting young fathers and continue the mentoring programs that inspire young males who are growing up without fathers in their homes. (By Donald Williams, II)



**Zeta Iota Iota Chapter: Saving Lives One Youth at a Time!**

## Zeta Iota Iota Chapter Mentorship Program

**Philadelphia, PA:** Saturday, June 25, 2016, Zeta Iota Iota Bridge Builders Mentorship Program was created to empower young African-American males in our community to reach their personal and career oriented goals.

Our focus was on providing guidance and positive direction that will assist our youth in improving their self-esteem, social competence and avoid high-risk behaviors. Youth were engaged in relationships with caring, professional adults who worked to help them reach their full potential.

The Brothers of Zeta Iota Iota Chapter served as positive role-models for our young Bridge Builders. This Male Youth Leadership Summit was an exciting day for youth from ages 8 – 18 to participate in various interactive workshops facilitated by very knowledgeable and experienced individuals addressing community and social issues that affect their educational and social development.

The theme for the summit was: “Educating and Empowering Our Future Leaders of Tomorrow”. The event was held at the Harambee Institute of Science & Technology Charter School.

**Saturday July 9**, approximately 25 young males participated in a day of interactive workshops facilitated by the Brothers of Zeta Iota Iota Chapter focusing on Conflict Resolution, Civic and Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, and Interacting with Law Enforcement.

There was positive dialogue on Community and Police Relationships, Creating and Establishing Businesses, Mentoring Support and Making Wise Life Changing Decisions. (Brother Donald Williams 89', 2nd District,

Chairman Fatherhood and Mentoring Program.)

## Mu Nu Chapter, Host 2<sup>nd</sup> District's 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

**Montgomery County, MD** – From April 28 to May 1, 2016, the Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., hosted its 68th District Conference in North Bethesda, MD. The Second District Conference is the annual business meeting for the five states that comprise the District – Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> District's Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) was conducted at Thomas Wootton High School Saturday, April 30, 2016. The theme for this year's conference was “Life Principles to Life by: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.



The YLC was organized to mirror the Fraternity's four Cardinal Principles. The young male students enjoyed interactive sessions designed to enhance our young males in the areas of academics, social interaction, civics and leadership.

The focus on our Cardinal Principles was to broaden understand of what it takes to be a successful young man in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The conference served to place a spot light on characteristics needed to be leaders in society.

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

### Passport to Manhood

By Mattie Ford, Staff Writer  
Brownsville Press

**Brownville, TN** - For twenty-five young men at Haywood Middle School, Tuesdays were a grand occasion this school year. They prepared the night before. They dressed dapper, roaming the halls in a white button down, purple tie and khakis. They met as a group after school to participate in programs their coordinator arranged for them, being sure to arrive prepared, with purpose. These young men made up HMS's Passport to Manhood program, and Dwight Jones was responsible for paving the journey.

The program was born in Virginia where Jones started it with an Omega Psi Phi fraternity brother. It has been set in motion at Haywood Middle School for about a year and a half, and so far, it has seen nothing but success. “I'm so grateful Dwight came to us,” explains Haywood Middle School's principal Yvette Blue. “It really was a need. I'm excited about the progress of the program, the progress of the boys. They appreciate what the program is giving them.”

“My peers look up to me as a leader; they want to be doing the same things I'm doing,” explains Jonathan Forrest, an upcoming seventh grader who is part of this program and is planning on playing in the NFL or becoming a professor. “If someone



needs help, they come to me or they come to us. Because I'm part of Passport to Manhood, I have to be a leader. It makes me feel good."

This program is responsible for giving HMS's young men confidence, character, knowledge and the opportunity to be molded into productive, civil-minded, responsible adults no matter their background. These were the objectives Dwight Jones kept in mind while creating the curriculum for Passport to Manhood.

"In the journey from childhood to adulthood, adolescence can be a particularly trying time," acknowledges Jones, the program's coordinator and young men's mentor. "At this critical juncture in our social history, it's more important than ever that boys be given appropriate guidance in the time of their lives when society is providing them with conflicting and confusing messages about what manhood is."

This school year, the young men have met with the mayors, visited the Megasite, spoken to local entrepreneurs, attended a Memphis Grizzlies game, learned the differences in city and county governments and much more. The funds that make all this possible are acquired from Principal Blue, Mr. Jones's Rotary Club chapter, the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and from Jones's own pocket.

Those already in the program recommend young men to "P2M," as they call it. Even so, Mr. Jones and Principal Blue are bombarded with requests for participation by young men wanting to get in on Passport to Manhood.

Independence, critical thinking and leadership are all qualities Jones is trying to instill in his young men. But, of course, they are only teenagers. "I try to show them that they're going to

make mistakes and that's okay. Just try to not make the same mistakes continually," explains Jones.

The bottom line is that this program is trying to benefit kids in a difficult part of life. "I'm trying to give back," says Jones. "I'm not saying I'm God's gift, I'm not saying I've done no wrong; I'm just trying to do something right."

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

### **DADS Matter: Fathers/Community Leaders Are Engaged**

**Decatur, GA - Sep 2, 2016** - The free event exploded with intense dialogue and demonstrations that empowered students and parents with skills to enrich family development.

The first day highlighted a business expo where entrepreneurs and local community colleges exposed students to the art of starting and succeeding in business. Meyuna Shepherd, Atlanta Metropolitan College representative and Georgia Piedmont College administrator Charles Brown informed students and parents of academic programs that lead to business ownership and career opportunities that produce incomes with life changing economic affects.

**Next Submittal Date:  
December 15, for  
Publication January 1**



Courtney Pogue, Director, Clayton County Economic Development shared the importance and impact that creating small businesses have on the Atlanta metro economy. Michael Randall, Owner of Safeguard Security Solutions, LLC., a new upstart security company, energized and encouraged the students to be persistent in their efforts to create their own company regardless of the obstacles.

### **Single Parents Challenges, Both Parents Matter: Voting Impact on Youth Justice, 24 Hour DAD**

**Atlanta, GA** – On day two of the conference, powerful parental and youth sessions focused on educating and presenting solutions to solve social ills that affect family development. Chief Judge Cynthia Haynes, DeKalb County Juvenile Court, opened the sessions stressing to the youth to take the high road to success. Judge Haynes illustrated how current negative circumstances don't dictate positive future outcomes.



The dialogue between parents and family advocacy professionals increased awareness on how laws affect family prosperity.

Community leaders from Judge DeNorris Heard, Cynthia Corsing, Clayton County Board of Health, Attorney Oscar Prioleau to mediator Dr. Torri Evans-Barton, Executive Director, of the Fatherless Generation, Inc., conversed with parents on subjects of Both Parents Matter and Single Parent Challenges.

Kenneth Braswell, CEO, Fatherhood Inc., author of the video "Angry Father" sparked the session with emotional ties that led to commitments from both parents to make children the priority even when parents don't agree on court decisions. Atlanta City Council President Ceasar Mitchell and Dewey McClain, Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council, informed the parents how politics and voting impact youth justice.

Congressman Hank Johnson, (D-GA) inspired the youth to succeed despite the barriers that life presents. Youth sessions on Law Enforcement & Youth Relations; Finding a Job-Resume/Writing and Starting Your Own Business laid foundations for the young men to follow patterns of success.

The conference ended with Heavenly Body, Inc., owner, Sir Marcadoo presenting students with a

business plan, using successful marketing principles and an opportunity to start their own business in the incant and body care product line.

The conference theme Dads Matters will have a lasting impact as students were encouraged to be positive citizen today and change agents for future families.

The program's ultimate goals were: (1.) To increase fathers' involvement in their children lives, (2.) To provide both parents and students with life skills that will help the students to be better citizens and, (3). To become productive future fathers. (Written and Submitted by Brother S. Earl Wilson, Conference Organizer.)

### **A SPECIAL TRIBUTE:**

#### **Nu Epsilon Chapter Donate \$100,000.00 to 'Bama A&M**

Normal, AL - The Nu Epsilon chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. gave a \$100,000 donation to the Alabama A&M University Foundation.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., became the first Greek-letter organization in the school's 140-year history to endow a scholarship and the first to donate \$100,000.00. The brothers worked against a deadline to reach their goal by homecoming.

Bro. Jamal Ali who led the effort. Several brothers made donations over and over again to reach the goal. The core leadership group that help the effort alive were: Bros. Albert Benifield, Ralph Redrick, Robert Holmes, Herman Stubbs, Thomas Taylor, Xavier Newby, Stanford Westin, Howard Tatum, Ed Booker and Broderick Kirksey. Story by Bro. Jamal Ali.

## **More Than, Summer Trip**

By Jordan Bailey

**Tallahassee, FL** - The 500 Miles of Freedom College & Civil Rights tour is an annual trip for the Tallahassee Omega Lamplighters, a youth leadership program for young men ages 12-17. The trip is sponsored by the Tallahassee chapters of Omega Psi Phi & the Chi Omega Social Action Scholarship Foundation.

The program was founded here in the Capital city by Brother Royle King, Brother Simeon Nelson, Brother Bryan Freeman and the Tallahassee Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Founded on the principles: Leadership, Academics, Maturity, Perseverance, the lamplighters and their mentors exude compassion for their community through service.

"The purpose is to expose & educate. We want our young men to see historical sites prevalent to our history and what we had to endure as a people. It's one thing to hear about an event, totally different experience and understand when you stand where it happens and relive it for yourself," said Brother Royle King, one of the program's founders here in Tallahassee and Executive Director.

Forty (40) Lamplighters from Quincy, Tallahassee, and Wakulla attended the third annual year of the trip where they visited Baton Rouge and New Orleans, LA & Mobile, AL.

When asked which stop was most memorable, it was a unanimous decision amongst the lamplighters and their chaperones that Baton Rouge, where 37-year-old Alton Sterling was murdered on July 5, 2016, had the biggest impact on them.

Aside from the graphic video showing Sterling's death that evening in front of the convenience store one of the most tear-jerking moments of



the tragedy was the press conference with his family where his son, 15-year-old Cameron Sterling broke down in tears on live TV.

The Lamplighters made sure to visit Sterling in Baton Rouge where they partnered with the Baton Rouge Omega Psi Phi & Omega Lamplighters chapters to host a luncheon for him to meet the young men. They made him an honorary member and have vowed to keep in touch until he graduates high school.

The Lamplighters presented Sterling with several gifts such as: letters and several items from FAMU President Dr. Elmira Mangum, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, an autographed football from FSU football team, and an autographed jersey from FAMU's football players.

"Not only are we trying to change lives in Tallahassee but we want to raise up a nation of young men who are well rounded and understand the value in giving back and helping others," said King. Traveling and impacting lives in cities outside of Tallahassee is what the program is all about.

The Lamplighters visited HBCU's, toured civil rights sites and before their trip held a workshop on #BlackLivesMatter and police brutality to inform and educate the young men. Shawn Hallaway, a Lamplighter who has participated in more than one trip with the organization said, "What I want people to take away is that we are a youth group, interested in our education, and that we pay attention to world news".

To get in contact with Royle King to find out more or get involved with the Tallahassee Chapter of the Omega Lamplighters see their website <http://www.omegalamplighters.com/>

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

### Chi Phi Chapter and Holmes Omega Scholarship Foundation Omega Leadership Academy

**Denver, CO** – Omega Leadership Academy (OLA) is off to a great start for the new academic year. September 11, 2016 OLA Adopt-a-Spot Program cleaned the rapidly changing Downing Street corridor as they do once a quarter but this time more as in store for the young men.



The Brothers of Chi Phi Chapter decided to play basketball with the young men at Whittier Elementary Park and discuss the importance of physical activity. The Brothers also took the young men out for a golf lesson earlier during this summer.

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The program also assists the community by making sure city parks are clean and safe for families to enjoy. This is just one of many programs that Xi Pi use to reinforce the importance of family, fatherhood, and fellowship.

### Beta Omega Family Cook out

**Kansas City, MO** - The Brothers of Beta Omega had their annual family cookout, August 22, 2016, which included games, fellowship, and most importantly family time. Beta Omega truly believe that we must model fatherhood and positive family interactions in order to build strong communities.



Beta Omega was chartered on Oct 1, 1922 making it the second chapter



in the Eighth District which also means this chapter has been modeling family, fatherhood, and serving the community for ninety-four years. Beta Omega's mission is simple "Men who are ready to uplift the local community through bridge building activities". Keep up the good work Beta Omega!

## Omicron Sigma

**St. Louis, MO - July 16<sup>th</sup> 2016** Brothers of Omicron Sigma along with family members and community organizers participated in the St. Louis County police department's first Autism walk!



The Brothers and family members assisted with registration, working water stations, and some participated in the actual walk. This was an important event to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community. Cheers to Omicron Sigma for leading the charge!

## 9<sup>th</sup> District

### Fatherhood Symposium

**Little Rock June 18, 2016** - The Arkansas Chapters of Omega Psi Phi have partnered with a local Fatherhood Initiative founded by Brother Michael Williams, Vice

Basileus of Pi Omicron and Founder/Executive Director of Foundation Fatherhood Incorporated to assist in the effort to bridge the gap between noncustodial fathers and their biological children.



**Bro Mike Williams, Vice Basileus**

Foundation Fatherhood is a non-profit focused on raising the awareness level on the disparity in the system as it relates to determining who is better served as custodial parents.

The Brothers of Pi Omicron Chapter are signature sponsors and have participated in the (3) three symposiums consisting of panel discussions on these various subjects: Fatherless Children: Why so Many? Fatherless Children: The Consequences, and the most recent "Dad, your child's life matter".



**Harold Bailly, KF and Bro. S. Lewis**

In addition to the members of our Fraternity, the following individuals are active participants bring and added value to this worthy cause; Clergy, Law Enforcement, Judges, State Senators, Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Physician, Social Worker, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Attorneys, Single Mothers, Noncustodial Fathers, Sons & Daughters raised in single parent homes.

In addition to the symposiums, there is a four phase training program (P.O.P.S.) that aligns with the direction of the focus. The final Symposium of the year will be held on December 3rd with our own Brother Thabiti Boone as a key participant. This event will be sponsored by the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus. We are our Brothers Keepers!

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

### Nu Chi Chapter, Project Manhood Program

**Cahokia, IL - Nu Chi Chapter- E. St. Louis, Illinois -**



On Saturday, August 13, 2016, the Project Manhood program in conjunction with the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 64 (EAA 64) hosted its 3rd Aviation Day at the St. Louis Downtown Airport, located at 2300 Victor Dr., Cahokia, Illinois. The event started at 8am sharp and conclude at 1pm. This outing is for ages 8 - 18.

As a core goal of the Project Manhood program, we want to motivate and empower our youth to pursue educational opportunities in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – and flight also. The members of EAA 64, pilots will be donating their aircraft, fuel, time, and valuable knowledge base to expose mentees and provided hands-on flight experience.

They will be given the opportunity to fly in various Cessna aircraft, particularly the C172 and C152 airplane, learning how to take-off/land and given the opportunity to take control of the aircraft during flight. Additionally, they will receive a thorough briefing about opportunities in Airport Rescue and Firefighting and given access to look at the St. Louis Downtown Airport Fire Truck and firefighting equipment.

They will explore and receive briefings on the history of Flying in The Greater St. Louis Air and Space

Museum that will include information on the Wright Brothers, Amelia Earhart, and St. Louis Downtown Airport being the foundation of all airports in the Midwestern United States.

They will also tour the Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Control Tower and have the opportunity to witness air traffic controllers sequence and separate aircraft land and take off.

Thank you for being a part of Project Manhood! Will Robinson, Project Manhood Chairman; Joel Borders, Project Manhood Co-Chairman; Justin Jackson, Project Manhood Co-Chairman.

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

### Las Vegas Prison Visitation



**L-R: Brothers Thabiti Boone, Brian Williams (Warden) and Dr. Leary Adams, Chairman of the Building Bridges Back to Society - Photo taken at visit to the Southern Desert Correctional Center Facility, Indian Springs, NV**

**Las Vegas, NV July 28, 2016** – Under the able leadership of Brother Dr. Leary Adams, several Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., visited the Southern Desert Correctional Center Facility (SDCCF) just north of Las Vegas on I-95 during the 80th Grand Conclave of the Omega Psi Phi

Fraternity, Inc., held in Las Vegas, August 24 - 28.

The visitation was part of the Building Bridges Back to Society (BBBS) planned by the Social Action Committee of the Fraternity to engage with the inmates and bring awareness to President Barack Obama's Criminal Justice Legislation.

Brother Thabiti Boone was among the men of the Fraternity, Inc., who visited the SDCCF. He gave a rousing and highly motivating talk to the inmates reminding them of why we were there. "You are going home and we want you back in your communities. Your children need you – your families need you," he said.

Brother Boone outlined key areas under President Obama's Criminal Justice Reform proposal. President Obama's leadership and efforts pushing for across the board Criminal Justice Reform, he said, "has been on point, particularly its severe devastating impact on Blacks and the African American Community."

Boone shared with the group that the President had not forgotten them and that he had setup several initiatives through his criminal justice legislation to assist with their transition back into the community including: Signing the Fair Sentencing Act -- a bill that reduced the 100-1 sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine, and eliminating the mandatory minimum sentence for simple possession of crack cocaine.

The Justice Department's "Smart on Crime" initiative, in which federal prosecutors are refocusing efforts on the worst offenders, and pursuing mandatory minimum sentences 20% less often than they did the previous year. Nearly all of these people would have already finished serving their time if they had been convicted today of the same crime.



A July 15, 2015 report by David Hudson at the web site: <https://goo.gl/8N4NNQ> outlines President Obama's prison reform initiative which he talked about in Philadelphia at the NAACP's 106th national convention.

The President laid out reasons we need to reform America's criminal justice system, and our need to invest in our communities and expand opportunity for all Americans. Submitted by Bro. Dr. Leary B. Adams, Jr.

**Next Submittal Date:**  
**December 15, for**  
**Publication January 1**

## Los Angeles: The 23<sup>rd</sup> Consecutive Youth Leadership Conference



L-R: Brother Ricky Lewis and Other Brothers listen up as Brother Paul Turner gives YLC update!

## Planning, Planning, Planning!!

**Los Angeles, CA** – Planning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Omega Educational Foundation and Tau Tau Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Youth Leadership Conference is in full force at the home of Conference founder and coordinator Brother Ricky L. Lewis.

The conference will be Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 8:00am – 2:00pm, at the University of Southern California (USC). This year 700 youth between the ages of 8 and 18 will attend. This will be the largest group of youth to receive helpful information from men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and their guest that can be life changing for the participants.

In addition to the 700 youth, conference planners are inviting 250 fathers and 250 mothers to be in attendance. Already, more than 700 youth have signed up.

This year's Theme is: **Your Image**. Lewis said, "We will be encouraging young Black men to be aware of how they look, how they carry themselves, and how the first impression one gets of them, can be life changing."

Having touched the lives of over 6100 young men over the last 22 years, this special conference is designed to focus on pertinent issues facing young /men of color, including self-esteem, health and wellness, college preparation, discipline, conflict resolution, as well as social, economic and personal responsibility.

**From Lorman, Natchez and  
Vicksburg, Mississippi -  
"Where Knowledge and  
Character Matter" -  
To Los Angeles, California**

**Los Angeles, CA** – Aside from the obvious, what do these famous folk have in common - Medger Evers (slain civil rights leader), Myrlie Evers-Williams (former wife of slain leader Medger Evers and International Civic Leader), Michael Clarke Duncan (Actor), Alex Haley (Author of "Roots" and "Autobiography of Malcolm X"), Kimberly Morgan (former Miss Mississippi) and Steve McNair (former Professional Football Player)? They are graduates of a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) – **Alcorn State University (ASU)**.

Is this great information? Yes, for the first time in its 23-year history, the Omega Educational Foundation, Inc., Tau Tau Chapter Youth Leadership Conference will be visited by a HBCU.

At the request of local alumni and fraternity brothers Derrick Delany and Eugene Spencer, **Alcorn State University** is sending its Chief Academic and Executive Officer, Dr. Donzell Lee, to represent. This is another "first" for the pathfinding Youth Mentoring Conference born out of what seemed to have been conflagration here in Los Angeles 24 years ago.

Dr. Lee is the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. "I am both, delighted and excited about the 23<sup>rd</sup> Youth Leadership Conference of the Omega Educational Foundation and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in Los Angeles," said Dr. Lee.

"I recall how important mentoring was to me as a young African American male growing up in southeast Arkansas, and I am obliged to do the same whenever there is an opportunity to do so."

Dr. Lee commented about his own experience growing up in southeast



Arkansas and how important it was to him that strong “Men of character and high achievement who looked like me inspired me to be the best that I could be. They showed unselfish concern for me. I must do the same,” he said unapologetically.

Dr. Lee will share information with young men and their parents about HBCUs in general, and specifically about **Alcorn State University**. Brother Ricky Lewis, Conference Coordinator said that this initial visit by Alcorn State University (ASU) is just the beginning of visits to the annual conference by other HBCUs.

“We are pleased to have Alcorn State University join us at the University of Southern California, October 29<sup>th</sup>. ASU is not only the 1<sup>st</sup> public Land Grant HBCU in the United States, but it is also the first HBCU to reach out to us and go a step further by joining us here in Los Angeles as we continue to ‘trod the road ... felt in the days when hope unborn had died,’” Lewis insisted, paraphrasing the words of the famous poet James Weldon Johnson.

HBCUs have produced thousands of outstanding graduates who have lived and are living the American dream. Dr. Lee affirmed that highly successful HBCU graduates “have played important roles in this nation – from the Supreme Court to the corporate board room, from the entertainment industry to the halls of education – we have been there.”

When asked why Alcorn State University would travel to Los Angeles to attend the Youth Conference, Dr. Lee said, Young African American males need to hear the stories of these graduates and outstanding citizens. They need to understand what motivated successful men and women of color.

“HBCUs have a wonderful story to tell. I envision the Youth Leadership Conference as an opportunity to share with and, hopefully, motivate young folks to continue an outstanding legacy,” he said. And after all, it is at Alcorn State University “where knowledge and character matter.”

Alcorn State University is the oldest public HBCU land-grant institution in the USA and, second-oldest state-supported college/university in Mississippi. It was founded in 1871 and is situated in Claiborne County, seven miles west of Lorman, 80 miles south of Jackson, 45 miles south of Vicksburg, and 40 miles north of Natchez. ///gdt

## Real Talk in Vegas

**Las Vegas, NV** – Brother Randy Bacon and Brother Larry Clarke participated in a program known as *Real Talk*. The program was created and is directed by Sheree Corniel, a retired federal probations officer.

Real Talk is a nonprofit that hosts a monthly program designed to prevent youth from being involved in the juvenile justice system. The program uses presenters that volunteer their time to talk about how their activities got them incarcerated. These are real stories that are told to get the participants to think about the consequences of illegal behavior.

The youth are challenged to be respectful and focus on the message during the program. When a youth commits to engage in the program for three months, the program gives them a small sum of money to pay to be involved in an outside activity of their choice.

To contrast the negative messages, a guest speaker addresses the group and talks about their profession and how they became successful in their field. It allows the youth to compare

and contrast by having more information so that they can make a better choice.

Brother Bacon and myself are working with this group to develop a partnership to mentor, to direct to helpful community resources, to overcome issues and to help fund raise in the future. (Submitted by Brother Larry Clarke, Beta Mu Mu).

## NorCal Proving Uplift!

**Stockton, Tracy and Modesto CA** – Project UPLIFT is youth mentoring program in the Northern California Central Valley where the brothers of Delta Iota Iota (DII) serve as mentors for young men from the cities of Stockton, Tracy and Modesto.

At this year's Conclave in Las Vegas, Project UPLIFT took eight young men who participated in the Youth Leadership Conference. They also worked side by side with Omega men at the community service project cleaning containers and bagging vegetables at Three Squares which provides meals for those in need.

August 16-18, Delta Iota Iota hosted the Northern California Camping trip at Lake Camanche which included young men from the mentoring program of the following chapters: Delta Iota Iota (Stockton, Tracy and Modesto), PI Chi (San Francisco), Sigma Iota (Oakland), Theta PI (Vallejo), Alpha Rho (Berkeley), Epsilon Xi (Sacramento). 38 young men and 14 Omega Men participated.

After camping, Brother John Ervin III took the young men from Project UPLIFT to the San Francisco 49ers football game. It was a full and exciting weekend. (Submitted by Shawn L. Jenkins, MS, ATC, CSCS).

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

## Sigma Gamma Gamma: Back to School Community Event

**Okinawa, Japan** - The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Sisters of Electa Chapter No. 25 Order of the Eastern Stars hosted a free Back to School Bash on Saturday August 27, 2016 at the Community Center located on Camp Foster Marine Base in Okinawa, Japan. 132 participants came out to enjoy free food, school supply giveaways, games, and prizes.

There were free haircuts/trims given to all hair type by licensed professionals. In addition, simple braids hairstyles and natural/extensions were given to the young school age girls of the community. The Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Sisters of the Order of Eastern Stars sent the children back to school in style.



The Sisters of Electa Chapter No. 25 of the Order of Eastern Stars present raffle drawing winner Dakara Seals of Kadena Elementary School in Okinawa, Japan with Back to School Back Pack filled with school supplies.



Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. present raffle drawing winner Matthew Louis of Killin Elementary School in Okinawa, Japan with Back to School Back Pack filled with school supplies.

## Fathers Celebrate Memories

**Okinawa, Japan** - Could some of your most fond memories be of a birthday party from your childhood? If yes, you probably remember the colorful cake, birthday candles and the grand finale, making a wish. Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is taking a moment to give a shout out to two fathers that have took the extra steps to make sure their children have memories to last a life time.

Brother John Smith and Brother Keith Rascoe celebrated birthdays in the month of August for their little loved ones. The Smith family celebrated their son Caleb's seventh birthday party on the 27th of August 2016 with friends and family at Torii Station U.S. Army Base in Okinawa, Japan. While on the 15th of August the Rascoe family celebrated their daughter Kennedy's birthday at their family home on Camp Lester Marine Base with a giant water slide, family and friends.



**Brother John Smith with his sons Caleb and Adam**

**Next Submittal Date:**  
**December 15, for**  
**Publication January 1**

## Brothers Celebrated the 2016 High School Graduation



Brother Rascoe's daughter Kennedy with friends and Basileus Michael Robinson of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in the background.

**Okinawa, Japan** - During the month of June 2016, six fathers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. felt proud of their children's accomplishments as they watch them walk across the stage and receive high school diplomas during the graduation ceremony:

Brother Dureil Farnell's daughter – Takara, Brother Marcus Baker's son – Marcus, Brother Roosevelt Sander's son – RJ, Brother Fred White's daughter - Brenda Brother Daniel Thompson's daughter - Alecea Brother Damien Seals son – Damien.

The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter provided each graduate with a card and small cash donation for their hard work and dedication.

Basileus Michael Robinson stated to the high school graduates: "We are proud of you and your achievements. Now as you proceed to your next step in life, you will face many challenges and opportunities. Remember the Bible scripture Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



KF Brother Damien Seals with his son at High School Graduation

### About This Newsletter:

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

**Submittal:** 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. Dr. George D. Taylor:**  
[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.**