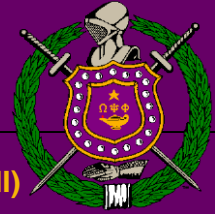




# Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

International Committee - Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives (ICFMI)



Volume 3      October - November – December 2016      Number 4

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

~~ Brother Fairchild's Corner ~~

**B**rothers, more than at any time in our recent history we must stand tall to the challenge. What we are doing in the Fatherhood and Mentoring effort, has caught people's attention. With this recent election, our

**"The problems and issues facing fathers and young men will not stop because President Obama is going out of office ... pull back the throttle, get engaged, press on, do more."**



**Robert W. Fairchild**  
Chairman

efforts are needed now more than ever. Some have asked, *"Now that President Obama is going out of office what are we going to do?"* We have already done it! His ask, when he came into office, got us started on this journey of working with fathers and young men. We were already working with the young men. Adding the critical element of the fathers makes the effort complete. The answer to the questions of what are we going to do is, *"keep going!"* The problems and issues that are facing fathers and young men will not stop because President Obama is going out of office. If anything, they are going to increase, they will need us now more than ever. So, brothers, I ask you pull back the throttle, get engaged, press on and do more. In many areas, we have done tremendous work. In others, we need to get engaged.

We seem to feel very comfortable working with the young men. However, some individuals think that having a conversation with a father can be a challenge. Let me assure you fathers want assistance and need it. They have more respect for you than you know. An easy way to break the ice in talking with men is to start in your Chapter. Surprise! Most of us are fathers too. We have issues too! Some people call them barbershop sessions, locker room sessions and some other names. These sessions can be very powerful in getting out our concerns about fatherhood issues. It helps us get past that macho thing: *"I can handle this by myself."* Many solutions to issues have come out of these sessions because we started talking to each other about our problems. Once you do this a couple times you feel more comfortable talking to men outside the Fraternity.

As you work with these sessions make yourselves aware of the outside resources, individuals and agencies that can help address the serious problems that may be identified. Brothers, we can be and are the key to the door of helping to mold our future as a people. If you aren't already, please get engaged!

**In Friendship Brothers,**

**Chairman, International Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives**

**Happy New Year!!**

Volume 3      October – November – December 2016

Number 4      1

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

*"... pull back the throttle, get engaged, press on ... do more..."* [www.omegafandm.org](http://www.omegafandm.org) ©

## National Item: A Special Tribute to Mothers

By Brother Thabiti Boone  
International Representative to the White House

**O**ur country has been in the midst of an alarming challenge around the question of the “place” of fathers in the lives of our children, families and communities. This challenge is hardest hit in the African American community, particularly among our young boys.



Brother Boone and his Mother at the White House-2016

The impact of father absence in the lives of young boys has been thoroughly researched, documented and even brought to public attention by the most prominent leader and institution in the world, the President of the United States and the White House. The pitfalls young boys face when fathers, mentors and male figures are not present in their lives can be devastating. Social indicators tell us that boys will likely drop out of school, be subjected to the Criminal Justice System, struggle academically and emotionally, and many will fall short of reaching their full potential in life.

Ensuring that fathers are in the lives of their children is merited and extremely important. That's why the work of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., with fathers is vital. We need our fathers!

But there is something incredibly special about our mothers. The mothers who stand in the gap when fathers are absent, mothers who mentor when there are no male figures available, the mothers who have to love their sons when love is not present, the mothers who pray for their sons to somehow become men, the mothers who bear the burden and pain and holds on by the edge of their emotional

lives, hoping their sons don't lose their way in a world that rejects them, the mothers who live everyday reciting the poem *Mother-to-Son*, reminding her son that life has never been a crystal stair for her.

I was raised by a mother who lived a life that was (no crystal stair...it had tacks in it, and splinters and boards torn up).

My mother that gave birth to a son at 13 years old. Not knowing how she would make it through, she tried to leave that son by jumping off the 6-story rooftop of the housing building they lived in, the 12-year-old son watched as his mother leaped to what should have been her death, but the will of God and the strength of a mother saw otherwise. The mother survives, the son pushes on, becomes an athlete, a

father, college graduate, an inspirational public figure, a member of one of the most prominent Fraternal organizations, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and a representative and Champion for the President of the United States.

Mothers gives birth to the potential in Boys. Fathers and mentors shape boys' potential into men - *manhood*. Mothers are the reflection of sons becoming men and fathers. Mothers are the beneficiaries of our son's manhood.

My mother joined me at the President's last White House Holiday Reception. It was more than fulfilling her dream to visit the White House and meet the President; it was the joy of rewarding her for the man, father and leader to whom she gave birth. I watched how she graced the White House, drew the warm embrace of the President.

It took a son to make this dream possible. But It took a mother to make the son possible. Somehow all along she knew our story could not end that day on the roof of a building when a 12-year-old son and mother faced death. She knew a President would be waiting to meet her.

Only a Mother's Wisdom to her son can make the impossible, possible.

“I’ve been a-climbin’ on,  
And reachin’ landin’s,  
And turnin’ corners,  
And sometimes goin’ in the dark  
Where there ain’t been no light.  
So boy, don’t you turn back.  
Don’t you set down on the steps  
'Cause you finds it’s kinder hard.  
Don’t you fall now—  
For I’ve still goin’, honey,  
I’ve still climbin’,  
And life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.  
By Brother Langston Hughes

As Fathers, Men and Sons we can create lives of Crystal Stairs for our Mothers, Children and Families.

Brother Thabiti Boone

**OMEGA MEN, SAVING LIVES ... ONE HANDSHAKE AT A TIME!**

Submittal dates:  
**March 15 for publication**  
April 1, 2017  
Send Information to:  
[geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net)

**FROM WHERE I SIT:** We left off in the last edition discussing the issue of **Child Custody** and some of the basic concepts involved with that subject. **We also said that**, because **Custody** is such a pivotal determination that has implications on other aspects of the legal rights and responsibilities of parents, **I said I would continue that discussion in this edition. So, let's get to it!**

**C**ustody: I reiterate, the discussion that takes place here is very general in its scope. Every state has statutes that govern how these issues are adjudicated. It is my strongest recommendation that you consult legal counsel in your particular jurisdiction so that you have the most specific and applicable evaluation as to how your case should proceed.

So...**Lil' Dude's (LD)** mother and father are estranged, whether by divorce, no longer living together, or never having been in the same household. Whatever the case may be, mom and dad are at odds and there is a child(ren) who they share custody. As the issue of custody is litigated, it is important for dad to appreciate some practical considerations that should be helpful in reaching some resolution that serves the best interest of **LD**.

I continue to refer to the phrase "*best interest of the child*". As a general proposition, this concept serves as the overarching principle that guides the court's decision making process and ultimately the actual decision that is reached. Often the parents, understandably, act based on what they believe should be the best outcome. And too often, regrettably, mom and dad "want to win!"

**Child Custody disputes are difficult and emotional ...**

The court's analysis is far removed from trying to decide "winners and losers" when it comes to matters of custody. When parents get caught up in beating the other parent in court that is when those parents are most at risk of diminishing their own opportunity for meaningful relationship with **LD**. The court looks at objective factors that guide the court toward its decision.

Listed below, are the **12 Best Interest Factors** that **must** be analyzed by the courts, in custody disputes here in the State of Michigan. I would imagine each state has something similar as part of its approach to deciding custody cases. If you are anticipating a custody case, you serve yourself well to educate yourself about these type factors. The more of these best interest factors that favor you the better your chances of having an outcome that favors your position.

That leads me into another practical consideration for your thought. As with anything else in life, you need to have a clear understanding of what you hope to accomplish because of litigating your child's custody. And you need to realize that, for the most part, you won't get everything you want...so what can you live with as a resolution? I feel this is an important aspect because it prepares you to be efficient with the amount of time and money you spend in court, and strategically it helps you to seize the tactical advantage of being the "reasonable one" in court.

Often...far too often...parents show up in court with the unspoken, but primary goal of beating up on the other parent. And they use the child as the instrument to inflict that beating. The parent who



**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**

presents as focused and reasonable in their concerns has a much, much better outcome. Judges are human. Therefore, keep it real and express yourself. But keep it professional and **utilize that Discretion and Humility with Dignity** that you have learned, as you navigate the court proceedings. It's not easy but I guarantee it will pay off for you!

Let's end with a few "tips":

1. Always be timely as it relates to everything involving your child. Teacher conference, court dates, birthday parties, pick-up/drop-off etc.... If you are having custody issues, the clock is always ticking and the record does not go away, so be on point!
2. When you have court, look neat and together. Be as pleasant as possible with everybody you encounter. People who you are unaware of are watching and WILL let others know their impression of you. It helps to have people speak well of you. It might not be legally admissible evidence, but I guarantee you it gets heard!
3. Bring as few people as possible to court with you. Obviously, your witnesses should be present. Your new woman/wife might be more helpful away from the courthouse. Aunt Cookie, your siblings, the Bruhs, etc. ... ("We ain't like her from the first day you brought her by the crib!) should sit this one out.
4. Documentation is very important, so have it to present to the court as needed and requested. However, when you are before the Judge, listen to what's being said and PLEASE respond to what is asked of you as succinctly, directly, and reasonably as possible. You always want to be the "reasonable one". The court wants to have answers to its questions, not listen to prepared speeches or expressions of agendas that obfuscate and attenuate the proceedings.
5. Don't exaggerate how bad she is. Don't overdo how good you are. The words **always** and **never** should be used sparingly, if at all. (She is always late picking **LD** up; I never have trouble getting **LD** to do his homework) Credibility is always a major consideration in any litigation. Be vigilant in safeguarding your credibility...avoid hyperbole)
6. **Never, never, never** involve your child(ren) in discussions of the court case. Once it begins, explain to them that the adults will work it out, their opinion (if they have expressed one) has been given to the Judge, and that Mom and Dad both want what's best for them. Then stand on that. Don't denigrate the other parent, don't question them about what goes on at Mom's house, don't try to influence them.
7. Never lose sight of the fact that each parent has the right to custody. Mothers do not have the power to "grant" some measure of custodial right to the father, as if doing Dad, a solid. Dad, you have the right to custody...by law! I spend a fair amount of time disabusing couples of the misconception that one parent has an inherent priority over the other in this regard. The facts of the case will drive the decision.

Child Custody disputes are difficult and emotional. The better prepared you are, and the more reasonable you can be, will improve the chances for a good resolution. Next time we will discuss the second major component involving the legal status of parents and their children, **Parenting Time/Visitation.** ///

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

## **“What you know, Bruh?”**

By  
**Brother Rev. Oliver Williams\***  
[www.hc-grace.org](http://www.hc-grace.org)

**“Man, I don’t know...**I’m hurting friend. My guy and four of his partners got arrested. It’s crazy. They may be in jail for at least 5-10 years in prison or life with a felony sex offender charge. Bruh, what happened? Do you know what consensual sex is? Do you know what it takes for a woman to consent to have sex with you? Many believe if she says ‘yes,’ that’s all. This is true in some but not in all cases. My friends thought the same thing.”

“They were at a party off campus. We all saw her with them having a great time. She was drunk as all get out. But, the fellows were too. After the party, they went back to the house and they put her up on the house. ‘Huh?’ I’m sorry. All 6 of them had sex with her. ‘Really? Isn’t that her fault? She was drunk? She was an adult? She shouldn’t get drunk if she couldn’t handle her liquor!’ See there. I knew it!!!”

Consensual<sup>1</sup> sex is when people in a sexual event agree to it and at any time either person can decide to not to do it. If there is liquor or drugs involved and someone is high or drunk, they cannot give consent because they are not mentally capable of making a sound decision due to the potential of an altered mental status. As Lil Wayne<sup>2</sup> says, “if *she on that Molly and you on that Mary...*,” this could be a recipe for trouble.

You know what is often misunderstood, coercion<sup>3</sup>. This happens when you encourage, force, or make a person do something. Many calls it game or some type of *swagger* to manipulate to accomplish the goal for the night. However, I submit from this small space. Coercion<sup>4</sup> and threat are forms of domestic violence. This attitude becomes a virus if not updated with true information about healthy relationships.

In situations like these, no one wins. The guys have a scar that may never be erased called felony, sex offender or rapist. However, the young lady has a scar that cannot be paroled, easily forgotten nor expunged. This moment is tattooed in her experience for eternity damaging hopes, choking dreams, and becoming a cancer to optimistic wishes. No one wins.

Several contemporary occurrences are being published by media outlets via TV, radio or internet. How many careers are ruined because of one night? How many people need psychiatric support due to this kind of trauma? How many lives are in suspense trying to overcome a night of “just having fun?”



**Brother Rev. Oliver Williams**

**“What you know, Bruh”** is designed to stimulate conversation about what often occurs but never talked about within a context of prevention. “What you know, Bruh,” aims to promote healthy relationships and reduce senseless acts of violence toward women in our communities. “What you know, Bruh?”

\*Brother Oliver Williams is Executive Director of The Hope Center @ Grace, 982 Meagher Street, Memphis, TN 38108

**Sources:** (Information used in this article can be found in)

<sup>1</sup>DAIP ([www.theduluthmodel.org](http://www.theduluthmodel.org))

<sup>2</sup>Lil Wayne from the song “*B!@#\$es and Bottles, (Let’s Get It Started)*”. DJ Khaled Feat Future, Lil Wayne & T I, from the album, Kiss the Ring, We the Best Music Group, Cash Money Records and Universal Republic Records, 2012

<sup>3</sup>Blueprint for Safety ([www.bwjp.org](http://www.bwjp.org))

<sup>4</sup>Nonviolent Institute material ([www.hc-grace.org](http://www.hc-grace.org))

**IN FLORIDA ...**



**~~ Bethune Cookman University Black Male Explores Youth Mentorship Programs ~~**  
**Centered Left – Brother Leslie Gamble, 7th District Representative and Centered Right Brother Johnathan Gaines, 7th District Chairman Fatherhood Initiative**

**Tallahassee, FL. November 17, 2016** - The Florida A&M University Rattlers and Bethune Cookman University Wildcats met in Orlando, Florida for the 2016 Florida Football Classic. The Florida Classic draws FAMU & BCU Alumni, Parents and Youth Mentor Groups throughout the State of Florida and from across country.

The Men of Omega from various local chapters throughout the State of Florida provided youths a great opportunity to experience a college environment and join thousands of Florida's best and brightest students, from nearly 30 area high schools for a recruitment fair that includes a meet-and-greet with deans, alumni, and university and student leaders. During the recruitment fair, students participate in presentations about student life and degree programs. (Written & Submitted by: Brother Jonathan Gaines – Chairman 7th District Fatherhood Initiative & Mentorship Committee)

**... HIGHER LEARNING MATTERS!**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!**

**Let's Continue to Save Lives, One handshake at a time!**

**[www.omegafandm.org](http://www.omegafandm.org)**



**Seen Above: Omicron Beta Beta Graduate Chapter- Fort Mayer, Florida & Sigma Alpha Graduate Chapter - Miami, Florida & Chi Omega Graduate Chapter – Tallahassee, Florida. Centered Left – Bro. Jonathan Gaines, Centered Right – Bro. Fred Killings & Far Right – Bro. Royal King**



**Maryland, Dads Dine and Dance with Their Daughters. Mu Nu says, “Fathers are important and special in the healthy development of children.” See story below. Photo by Glenn Grayer**

## Fatherhood and Mentoring activity from around the Districts:

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

#### Mu Nu Chapter Father Daughter Dinner Dance

Montgomery County, MD, December 2, 2016 – "Mighty" Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., engages in four significant initiatives in Montgomery County to help raise the awareness about importance of responsible fatherhood, parenting, and celebrating fathers who are engaged in their children's lives.

Those initiatives are the Saturday School - George B. Thomas Learning Academy, Dads take your Child to School Day, Game Changer Conference for Young Males, and the Father Daughter Dinner Dance.

On Friday, December 2, 2016, the Men of Mu Nu Chapter hosted our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Father Daughter Dinner Dance partnering with Ivy Vine Charities, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

The young girls were escorted by their fathers, grandfather, godfather, uncle, mentors, or special male family friend who has a positive impact on her life. The night was all about spending one-on-one quality time with your daughter or daughters to create a wonderful positive memory.

Young girls were dressed in their special outfit, hair styled, matching accessories, jewelry, and the all-important crown. Dads also looked their best in their tuxedos, former military attire or special suit. Mu Nu contributed with 45 tickets for the event for our guests and other Omega Men from other chapters. Together we created 150 collective hours of positive memories for all involved.

Our key message to Fathers is: *Fathers are important and special*



**L-R Brothers Matthew Stevens, Phi Upsilon, Darrell Edmonds, Upsilon Alpha, Aula Sumbry, Delta Upsilon, Donald Williams II, FM Chairman, Jeffery Diggs, Mu Rho Basileus; Shaun Ratliff, Mu Nu; Thabiti Boone, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity International Representative**

*in the healthy development of children. We want to encourage dads to play a more active role in their child's life and development.*

"Mighty" Mu Nu has promoted this event the last five years to other Omega Chapters and men in the metropolitan region. We invite you to join us next year in showcasing this positive relationship between Fathers and Daughters. (Submitted by Stacey B. Herring, Photos by Glenn Grayer.)

**New Brunswick, NJ** - On Wednesday, December 7, 2016, the 2<sup>nd</sup> District's Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee members attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Fatherhood Summit in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

The conference theme this year was *"Celebrating Fatherhood! The Difference a Dad Makes –*

*Incorporating Second Generational Approaches."*

*Celebrating Fatherhood* was a FREE event featuring speakers, workshops and resources aimed at engaging fathers in the well-being of their children and show that dads make a tremendous difference in the growth and development of their children which significantly impacts the entire family!

Attendees of the summit obtained information on best practices for developing programs to strengthen families across the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. The summit was directed to fathers, mothers, families, human services providers and anyone interested in celebrating and supporting fathers and families. It also connected like-minded community organizations, agencies, and institutions that support fatherhood and mentoring activities.

Brothers and participants returned to their communities inspired,

uplifted, and motivated to help men help their children grow into healthy young adults. The aim is to achieve a result that produces stronger families across the 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

One of the exciting presentations was given by Brother Matt Stevens, from Phi Upsilon in Neptune, New Jersey. His interactive and informative workshop entitled “Fathers Make a Difference in School.” He taught how fathers how to develop activities that engage fathers in improving quality time with their children and the correlation it has with student achievement at school. This was just one of the many outstanding sessions of the summit. If you couldn’t attend this year, make sure you don’t miss out next year!

I am grateful to Brother Thabiti Boone for connecting 2<sup>nd</sup> District to the annual New Jersey Statewide Fatherhood Conference and for all he does on a National level to encourage all Brothers to continue this purpose driven work to strengthening families.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has engaged communities for a decade with incredible programs across the Nation under a robust Fatherhood and Mentoring Programs that’s been intentional, meaningful and impactful in young male lives. Armed with new best practices, the 2<sup>nd</sup> District (NY, NJ, PA, DE, and MD) will encourage Chapters to be intentional about developing programs working with men to become better Fathers, strengthening the entire family. **A Difference Dads Make** is immeasurable! (By Donald Williams II, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee.)

### “Manhood 101”

**Springdale, MD** - For the last five years, Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter has established a life-

changing Manhood 101 Program. The male mentoring program was created five years ago, at Charles H. Flower High School in Springdale.

The visionaries were Brothers Gorman Brown and Bleu Colquitt. Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter adopted the **Manhood 101** program as part of its Assault on Illiteracy Program approximately three (3) years ago.



**Brothers Gorman Brown and Bleu Colquitt, visionaries, “Seeing it Through”**

Currently, over 35 boys attend weekly after school mentoring sessions, which provide the basic skills of Manhood. The Manhood 101 program is an interactive mentoring program designed to enhance young men in the areas of academics, social interaction, civics, and leadership.

When the program initially started, the average GPA was 1.97 on a 4.0 scale. This year’s participant’s GPA’s are averaging 3.25 on a 4.0 scale with many of the seniors preparing to attend a four (4) year university. The mentors have high expectations for our mentees in the program and the young men have

performed well when provided an opportunity.

Each week we have guest speakers who are successful business pioneers and successful working men from the community come speak and interact with our young men (mentees). Our guest speakers provide real life experiences that encourage our mentees to work hard, remain determined, and seek high goals.

The presentations are eye opening and inspirational. Each session ranges from our Black Heritage to today’s most pivotal social and economic topics that are affecting our communities. For our mentees to see Black Men in a different light than what is presented in mainstream media is rewarding.

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
**March 15, for publication**  
**April 1, 2017**



Our mentees can regain a sense of hope after hearing about some of the true challenges and being able to ask pertinent questions regarding those challenges and what it took to overcome them. Some of our mentees have been fortunate enough to attend our National Youth Leadership Conference, hosted by OPPF, Inc.

Our program continues to grow and our mentees are becoming successful Black men and leaders in our communities, schools, and society.

This past November 2016, Members of the Manhood 101 Mentoring Program participated in the 16th annual LGG/GP Chapter Windsor Crossing Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Basket give away. They provided 100 Thanksgiving baskets to lower income senior citizens residing at the senior citizen complex in Suitland, MD. By Benson Macon

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



**Manassas, Manassas Park, and Stafford County, VA** – Omega U students received a lecture and hands on experience on the art of music and being a Disk Jockey (DJ). DJ SO-N-SO (Brother Corey Davis, PLL 2015) and Brother Dwight Rayford (Psi Alpha 2009) from Gold Boot Entertainment. The Omega Men gave a riveting lecture on DJ'ing and the history of R&B & Hip Hop with demonstrations and tutorials for Omega U students on December 3, 2016 at Potomac Middle School.

Students were given an opportunity to showcase their DJ skills in the areas of beat breaks, crab scratching, song transition/blending, and proportional reasoning for music cutting techniques on 70s, 80s, and present day music selections from R&B, Rock, and Hip Hop genre.

Subject matter included such topics as entrepreneurial management, marketing, contracts, and the importance of practice, preparation, and hard work. Brother Davis is a professional DJ in addition to being a full time civilian employee of a Defense sector company.

This event occurred as part of recurring monthly first Saturday PLL Omega U scheduled activities. Omega U is the youth mentorship program of

Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Since the Chapter's founding in Dumfries, Virginia in January 2004, PLL has supported public and community events across the region benefiting scholarship, health promotion, youth mentorship, citizenship, and social action.

**Pi Lambda Lambda (PLL)** was recently named the **International Chapter of the Year**. This recognition marks the third time since the Chapter's founding that it was honored with the most prestigious honor bestowed by the Fraternity. Pi Lambda Lambda serves Prince William County, the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, and Stafford County.

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

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Favorite Fathers Celebration

**Memphis, TN, December 2016** - Favorite Fathers Celebration is a fatherhood promotion to encourage responsible fatherhood in 5 categories.

This is a charity awareness builder to support the current programs of the Hope Center @ Grace in partnership with Aspera, Inc., local chapters within Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc, and partners. The promotion has five category winners and one of those five will be the grand prize winner.

We are currently seeking candidates for this year contest. This is not a live pageant, but a drive to recognize the fathering of normal everyday men while celebrating, uplifting and encouraging them for the work they do. Each participant will have a photo and write-up. However, we encourage and accept contributions toward the promotion of fatherhood within our communities.

An anonymous committee will select the winner in each category. Parents, relatives, friends, coworkers, and neighbors are all encouraged to nominate a father. Mail all correspondence to; The Hope Center @ Grace, Attn: Favorite Fathers Celebration, P.O. Box 9171, **Memphis, TN 38190**. Nominations can be emailed to [Oliver@hc-grace.org](mailto:Oliver@hc-grace.org).

Proceeds will support “**Hope Collaborative**” our mid-south community collaborative addressing social disparities with emphasis to end domestic violence and promote responsible fatherhood.

**Promotion will kick off, December 21<sup>st</sup> and run until February 15th. The fathers will be awarded at the 2017 Favorite Father Celebration Breakfast at the Hollywood Community Center, 1560 North Hollywood, Memphis, TN 38108, on February 29, 2017 at 9 AM.**

**The award ceremony will designate the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual National Partnership for Community Leadership International Fatherhood Conference nominee for “2017 National Father of the Year.”**

**Favorite Father** “nominees” must be an active member of a fatherhood program, PTA, mentoring, or unit promoting responsible parenting within their community.

A recent picture, no larger than 1MB must be submitted. There will be one winner per category. Nominees can **ONLY** win in one of the five categories. Voting will begin December 21<sup>st</sup>. Voting will end February 15<sup>th</sup>. The winners will be announced at the 2017 Favorite Father Celebration Breakfast. All nominees

will be presented and introduced with their families.

**If you have any questions, please feel free to call: Oliver Williams at (901) 323-3900.**

**Memphis** -- On Saturday, October 22, 2016 the Epsilon Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. inducted the 2016 class of the Memphis Omega Lamplighters group.

The Omega Lamplighters group was established as a mentoring program the metropolitan Memphis area. This program offers support, mentorship, guidance and assistance with leadership skills.



The intrinsic value is to successfully transition adolescence boys to manhood. The overall goal of the mentoring program is to provide personal hands-on support in the process. As a member of the Omega Lamplighters, the young men are to perform projects that will predispose them to mastering the art of planning, consummation of assigned task and reporting concepts and ideas.

All sessions and programs are modeled around the following four phases; Leadership, Academics, Maturity and Perseverance.

Some of the benefits of the Omega Lamplighters include: numerous hours

of community service and planning for college matriculation with success. The Lamplighters will be tutored in the art of research for merit and need based college grants and scholarship requirements.

Omega Lamplighters are also eligible for five thousand dollars in scholarship and partnership with Epsilon Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

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

### HIGHER LEARNING

**Tallahassee, FL. November 17, 2016**

- The Florida A&M University Rattlers and Bethune Cookman University Wildcats met in Orlando, Florida for the 2016 Florida Football Classic. The Florida Classic draws FAMU & BCU Alumni, Parents and Youth Mentor Groups throughout the State of Florida and from across country.

The Men of Omega from various local chapters throughout the State of Florida provided youths a great opportunity to experience a college environment and join thousands of Florida’s best and brightest students, from nearly 30 area high schools for a recruitment fair that includes a meet-and-greet with deans, alumni, and university and student leaders.

During the recruitment fair, students participate in presentations about student life and degree programs. (Written & Submitted by: Brother Jonathan Gaines – Chairman 7th District Fatherhood Initiative & Mentorship Committee)

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

### Chi Phi Chapter Omega Leadership Academy)

**Denver, CO – Nov. 5 2016** Law Enforcement Workshop featured a

panel discussion made up of men from different experiences, paths and perspectives as it relates to the justice system.



All opinions were honest and from the heart which is ultimately the best thing we can present to our youth in OLA. Thanks to Brother Gary L. Armstead, Gerald Wright, Keith Burnette, and Aurora Police Department Commander, Brother Marcus Dudley for participating.



The discussion covered everything from your rights when you are stopped to a police officer's rights to search or detain you for probable cause. The OLA participants shared their concerns and fear when they are in the presence of law enforcement. The discussion helped the young men to properly engage law enforcement officers.

## Omega Man Son Honored at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Jack n Jill Inc. Beautillion

**Denver, CO – December 18, 2016,** The Denver Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., announced that the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Beautillion honored twenty-three young men.



**Brother Omar Montgomery, his son Evan Edmondson, his wife Regina Edmondson**

The gala took place on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at the Denver Marriott City Center. The event captured the essence of the theme "Persevering to Make a Global Impact".

This year's Beautillion was a true game changer as city officials and the community came out to honor these exceptional young men.

Evan Edmondson, son of Bro. Omar Montgomery (Chi Phi Chapter) was one of the participants and had the opportunity to share with the audience how his future educational goals will assist in eradicating poverty and hate.

The twenty-three young men honored have excelled in leadership, academics, athletics, and community service. They will follow in the footsteps of over 800 Beautillion alumni who have excelled in their perspective career.

**St. Louis, MO.** – On November 15, 2016, Brothers of Upsilon Omega Chapter Saint Louis Missouri held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual College Scholarship Workshop.

During the workshop, the men of Upsilon Omega Chapter helped over 95 high school students prepare for college.



This was done by assisting students and their parents with how to apply for college scholarships, grants, editing college essays, financial aid, and many other critical college entry requirements.

An engaging panel was held on "What's your expectations for the first year in college?". The participants were high engaged and shared that the panel assisted in reducing their anxiety about attending college.

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

**Las Vegas, NV – December, 2016 -** The Las Vegas Ques continued their Prisoner re-entry and Fatherhood Initiative by supporting the Angel Tree Program sponsored by the church of one of their members.



**L-R: Beta Mu Mu Brothers Larry Clarke, Vice Basileus, Charles Walden, KRS, Randy Bacon, Basileus and Brother Leary Adams KRS Kappa XI.**

Angel Tree is a program of prison fellowship that connects parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. This program is very important because it allows the incarcerated father or mother to stay connected with their child which in turn makes for a smoother transition to family life upon re-entry into the community.

The brothers, along with their families and friends, collected toys, blankets, clothing, gift cards and wrapping paper that were delivered to the church. These gifts were wrapped and presented to the children in the name of their incarcerated parents.

Angel Tree Christmas begins when a church member registers their church for the program with the support of their pastor or other church leaders. In the fall, Angel Tree coordinators will receive the name, caregiver and contact information of children who were signed-up by their mom or dad in prison.

Angel Tree tags (cut out like angels) are completed with the name of these children identifying gift suggestions, and are hung on a Christmas Tree for members to select or given to members to purchase the gift.

The Las Vegas Ques would like to challenge the 12<sup>th</sup> District and all chapters around the country to place this community activity on your calendar for next year. The joy you will bring to a child at Christmas and the bonds you will help secure with incarcerated parents will no doubt make transition back into the family much easier. "We are ONE"

---

***... Las Vegas Ques ... challenge the 12<sup>th</sup> District and all chapters around the country to place this community activity on your calendar for next year.***

---

You can call 1-800-55-ANGEL for more information. (submitted by Bro. Dr. Leary Adams, Jr., Beta MU MU & Kappa XI Chapters, Las Vegas, NV)

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Consecutive YLC – Tau Tau Chapter**

**Los Angeles, CA, October 29, 2016** – They came from across the country and other states to observe and participate in the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Youth Leadership Conference held here in Los Angeles.

"It was another major success! After 23 years, we have impacted and transformed the lives of 6,700 young men," said Ricky Lewis, organizer of the Youth Leadership Conference, Executive Director of the Omega Educational Foundation and member of the Omega

Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Tau Tau Chapter.

An estimated 200 men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Omega Educational Foundation, Inc., greeted 640 young men ages 8 to 18 on the campus of the University of Southern California (USC). Another 140+ mothers attended the mothers conference and 100+ fathers attended the Fatherhood Initiative. This model, which includes mothers and fathers of the young men, has worked well in the 12<sup>th</sup> District as the fraternity seeks to bring uplift to the community.



**L-R: Brothers Ricky Lewis, YLC Coordinator; Antonio Knox, 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus; James Walker, 12<sup>th</sup> DR**

Antonio F. Knox, Sr., 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus of the Fraternity, flew in from Raleigh, North Carolina with other members of the Supreme Council to greet the youth and the parents. He said of the program, "This is what we do. We are about the business of saving lives." In attendance, also, was brother James Walker, 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative, who brought greeting to the parents and young men.

The program was conceived 24 years ago, following the acquittal of the LAPD police officers in the beating case of motorist Rodney King,

in 1992. None of the youth participants in the conference were born at the time of the riots that gave birth to this conference. Yet, the program grows each year. Calls come in from schools, churches, civic organizations, sororities, other men's organizations – all helping to get out the word and wanting to contribute in some way to the conference.



**Pictured Right, Brother Dr. Jeffery S. Upperman, MD, Trauma Program Director, PDRTC, with residents from Keck Medical School and Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles**

Children's Hospital of Los Angeles came on board last year, October 2015, and has been one of the biggest hands-on supporters of the conference. Through the efforts of Dr. Bianca R. Edison, MD, MS, FAAP and Brother Dr. Jeffery S. Upperman, MD, Trauma Program Director, PDRTC, seventeen (17) Doctors showed up to engage the youth and parents in conversation about health and wellness.

## **FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE 2016 BETA MU MU**

**Las Vegas, NV** – Beta Mu Mu chapter has pursued its Fatherhood Initiative by partnering with two existing community programs. One, the chapter is providing support for a program being implemented by Dr. Douglas Garner, a Project Facilitator for the Clark County School District.

Dr. Garner is running a program that aims to help at risk students stay in school. Brother Robert Taylor is spearheading the Chapter's effort to work with Dr. Garner. Brother Taylor has been invited into the schools by Dr. Garner to talk to the students about different career opportunities.



**Joseph Gantley, Esq. with Student and Ms. Shree Corniel**

Brother Taylor talks about skill professions like plumbing and electrical apprenticeship programs for students that are not interested in going to college. In future sessions, chapter brothers will meet and discuss how to write a resume, job interviewing tips, and proper dress for job interviews.

Our second effort is with Real Talk – a program created and 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.



**Brother Robert Taylor**

When youth commit to being involved in the program for three months, the program gives them a small sum of money to pay for involvement in a co-curricular activity of their choice. Ms. Corniel is a firm believer that participating in outside classroom activities is beneficial in learning qualities like commitment and discipline, important attributes to succeed in life.

To contrast negative messages, quest speakers address the group and talk about their profession and how they became successful in their field.

In December, the quest speaker was Joseph Ganley, an attorney, who told his story and how he became a lawyer.

Youth are exposed to life stories that can encourage them to work hard. Our chapter effort has been to participate as speakers to demonstrate how going to school and doing the right thing can pay off by enabling you to achieve some level of success in life. (Submitted by Brother Larry Clarke.)



**Brother Gantt and his family.**

Bro. Gantt, stationed in Okinawa,



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

#### **Daddy's Home**

**Okinawa, Japan** - Imagine tiny footsteps running to the door and a loud scream, "Daddy's Home".

Brother Captain Anthony Gantt - Marine Air Control Group Detachment Officer in Charge, Marine Medium Tiltrotor 262 (REIN), 31<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan, United States Marine Corps - experienced just that moment when he returned home from sea.

boarded USS Bonhomme Richard on 20 August 2016 and sailed around the Celebes Seas, Sea of Japan, East China Sea, and the South China Seas; training on tropical islands like Guam, Tinian, Saipan, Philippines with visits to Hong Kong and Singapore before returning home to his family on 28 October 2016.

He joined his wife, Novia, and six children. Bro. Gantt's time training offer him new and challenging experiences that are sure to help him succeed as a Marine officer but despite all the invaluable lessons learned nothing can be done to replace time spent with the family. To mitigate those missed times the family stayed in touch via email, facetime and phone calls. The deployment always take a toll on everyone.

Novia, his wife was relieved to get the extra support when Bro. Gantt arrived home. The Gantt family have very solid roots spiritually and are committed to educational excellence. Brother Gantt serve as a positive role model for his family and community and is known as an irreplaceable asset at Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan.

**An Involved Father: Important Okinawa, Japan** - The fathers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter realize time is precious. They are constantly faced with the challenges of spending as much time as possible with their children. Research has shown how important the presence of a dad is to his children's physical, mental and emotional health.

The U.S. Census Bureau asserts that 24 million children in America-1 out of 3 - live without their biological father in the home. Without a father in the household, children have a higher risk of committing a crime, falling into poverty and dropping out of school.

#### **College Fair / Career Night**

**Okinawa, Japan** - On Thursday November 3, 2016 Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter setup an information booth at Kadena High School located on Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa. They provided answers to questions from over 1,200 college bound high school students about scholarships, attending colleges of their choice and various career fields.



### **A Strong Partnership of Greek Lettered Organizations**

During this event, Brothers highlighted educational requirements and job outlook for the top 30 fastest-growing jobs in the year 2016, e.g.



network systems and data communications analyst, personal and home care aides, and computer applications software.

Basileus Michael Robinson stated the college fair and career night was a success for both the students and brothers that attended. "We came together to help further student ambitions and aspirations."

### **Cyber -Bullying for Middle School Students**

**Okinawa, Japan** – Brothers Damien Seals, Daniel Thompson, Cortez Pree and Michael Robinson conducted two cyber- bullying presentations to over 200 middle school students at Ryukyu Middle School on Kadena Air Force Base Thursday November 3, 2016.

Sister Kaprece James, Illustrious Commandress for Obelisk Court No. 170 discussed a short video about Cyber Bullying taking place in Middle Schools. After the video, Brother Damien Seals and Brother Cortez Pree gave examples of how children of all ages are facing the growing concerns of cyber-bullying in the nation.

The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter concluded the presentation with the following tips for students:

- Don't Be a Cyberbully!
- Think before you hit send.
- Can the message or post hurt another person?
- Never forward things that could be hurtful.
- Don't join in on teasing or harassing others.
- If you are angry, take time to cool off before you respond.
- Don't insult people (online or offline) – it invites revenge.
- Cyber-bullying hurts everyone!

### **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.**