



Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Volume 5 January, February, March 2018 Number 1

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

~~ Brother Fairchild's Corner ~~

B

rothers, again I want to thank those chapters that continue to look forward into the future and have become engaged in working with fathers. I love to get the calls where a Basileus or committee chairman from a chapter ask for help in developing a partnership relationship with a government agency or with fatherhood organizations.



Brother Robert W. Fairchild
Chairman, International Committee on
Fatherhood and Mentoring

Many agencies and organizations have resources and funds but don't have the manpower to execute their plans to work with fathers. This is especially important in areas where they are working to get the fathers involved in the lives of their children. Our support makes a significant difference in the outcome.

For fathers who fall in the age group 16 to 24, our **Future Dad's Program** is ideal. Reaching out to this group (*whether on campus or in the community*) with assistance and advice is beneficial to insuring their success as fathers. Our efforts working with them can significantly help them navigate through the minefields of being a new father.

As fathers, many of us have experienced many of the issues they will encounter as they grow into manhood. We can be helpful with advice and coaching or we can refer these young men to experts who can assist them.

Another topic of great importance is, **developing the data-base and collection process** for Fatherhood and Mentoring. We want to capture information about what we are doing. I get an increasing amount of feedback on the efforts of chapters *around the world*. The Fraternity continues to be recognized for the work we are doing. If you are in a chapter that has not become engaged in fatherhood and mentoring work, please get engaged. If you need help, call your District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman. **If you can't get them call me, 703.899.0111 or email: rfairchild@msn.com.**

Bro Fairchild

About the Newsletter: The goal is: to include information from each District each quarter about Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives. District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairmen should submit at least one Fatherhood Activity and at least one Mentoring Activity from their District each quarter to: Brother Dr. George D. Taylor: geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net. Next Quarterly deadlines: December 15, March 15, June 15, and September 15.

Volume 5

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"... looking forward ... embracing change ... developing and collecting data ..." www.omegafandm.org ©

Pasadena, CA: Rose Bowl Ques (Zeta Tau Chapter) Collaborate to Celebrate African American History and Bring Uplift to Youth and Parents in the San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire



Gerald Freeny, First African American President of the Venerable Tournament of Roses for 2019 and Kristina Smith, First African American Rose Bowl Queen for 1985.

Pasadena, CA – February 17, 2018 – Men of the “*Illustrious*” Zeta Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., joined local organizations, civic groups and dignitaries February 17, 2018 to participate in the City of Pasadena’s annual Black History Month parade. Among the many dignitaries riding in the parade were Pasadena *Icons* **Gerald Freeny** newly-elected President of the Tournament of Roses and **Kristina Smith**, Rose Bowl Queen, 1985.

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International Representative Brother Thabiti Boone and NBA in Los Angeles: NBA All-Stars Tickets Together Program, A Big Hit in L.A.

By George D. Taylor, EdD and Thabiti Boone

Los Angeles, CA – Friday, February 16th thru Sunday, February 18th, Los Angeles played host to the NBA Allstar weekend of fun, activities and the big game. In addition to the game, the NBA hosted a Father/Son and/or Mentor/Mentee NBA Allstar weekend.



L to R: Brother Thabiti Boone, Deion, and Brother Paul Turner

Brother Thabiti Boone, International Representative to the Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and NBA Representative, welcomed guests of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., as part of the NBA Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative's **Tickets Together Program (TTP)**. Brother Boone said, the program, "supports the importance of Father/Son, Mentor/Mentee relationships. The NBA prides itself on the important role fathers and mentors play in the lives of children, families and communities."

In particular, five fathers and sons of Omega Psi Phi were invited to be special guest at the NBA All-Star's biggest event – All-Star Saturday night. Activities included: Skills Competition, 3-Point Shootout, Slam Dunk Contest and other events. The most enjoyable aspect of the TTP for guest was meeting players.

One such guest and mentor, Brother Paul Turner, Tau Tau Chapter, was extremely appreciative of the opportunity to invite his mentee to the **Tickets Together Program**. In a written note, Brother Turner

expressed his and his mentee's appreciation to Brother Boone and the NBA, "Thanks again for all you did for our Mentee and myself during the 2018 NBA All-Star Weekend here in Los Angeles. The Tickets Together Program made it possible for one of our mentees to have the NBA experience of his young life."

Brother Turner said the **Tickets Together Program** provided an opportunity for his mentee, Deion, to realize that "hard work and good behavior pays off positively" and has its rewards.

He added, "I must admit that thanks to the Tickets Together program, I had a very satisfying day and evening watching, meeting and speaking with some of my favorite sports stars, heroes and legends as well as having the opportunity to represent the Omega Educational Foundation and Tau Tau Chapter's mentoring Program at the NBA's Most Celebrated event; The 2018 NBA All-Star Weekend."

Deion was chosen from among 200 young men for his educational achievements; improving his grade point average, being named to his school's honor roll, and improving his behavior at school and home. Deion has become a role model that other boys are watching. "This young man was just incredible," said Brother Boone. "He was well spoken and the players enjoyed meeting him." Brother Raphael Irving and his son, pictured above, were also in attendance at the NBA weekend of Father/Son activity with NBA player Nate Robinson. //



Brother Raphael Irving (R) and his son with NBA Player Nate Robinson

Our Undergraduate Leadership – Future Dad’s Program



Brother Rev. Melvin Williams, 6th District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman, Ministering to a young Brother

2018 International Undergraduate Summit

By Brother Melvin Williams, 6th District Fatherhood Chairman

Atlanta, Ga. – In January, the Mighty 6th District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman attended the International Undergraduate Summit (IUG). He joined the International Committee in making a presentation about the **Future Dads Program**.

The 6th District will be rolling out a district-wide **Future Dads Program** in the fall of 2018 **on every campus** in the district.

After the session in Atlanta, 6th District First-Vice DR Brother Melvin Mitchell, was encouraged and wanted to have more discussion around having

a retreat this summer with all the undergraduate advisors in the 6th District to prepare for this fall. The planning meeting will take place during the District’s 3rd council meeting.

The Brothers of the 6th District have taken on the challenge to lead our great fraternity with this much needed program initiative.

At one point in his presentation brother Williams reported, “This young Brother was telling his story about being a young father, college student and coping with everyday life and broke down in front of all his Brothers. I asked him how I can help and what he needed from me. His response was ‘*I need you to Hug Me.*’ “ “Brothers there are many others that need our hugs, so let’s answer the call,” said Brother Rev. Melvin Williams.

At the conclusion of the program, a survey was administered to those in attendance. Survey data gathered in Houston at the 2017 IUG summit showed that the fraternity was touching undergraduates even before they become Brothers and Fathers at an alarming rate along with other males on their campuses. Of the 152 surveys returned, the results showed:

85% - participated in an Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., mentoring program as a youth.

92% - said they were a father or Chapter brother.

89% - knew of other young men on their campus that were fathers.

80% - wanted a **Future Dads Program** on their campuses.



Brother Cody Charles, 2nd Vice Grand Basileus



Brothers, I hope your first quarter of the year has gone well for each of you. When we concluded the last column, we were going to discuss strategies to help Non-Custodial Parents (NCP) better deal with **the management of child support orders** issued by the court. Let us continue!



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
14th Circuit Court
Family Division
Muskegon County
State of Michigan

The most critical point in the entire child support process is probably **before the support order is issued** by the court. It is logical that *the more you do to get a fair and manageable order established from the outset, the less effort is required to get a bad order modified.*

Due Process requires that NCP be notified of all proceedings and be afforded the opportunity to be heard and to participate in those proceedings. It would

**"And if all else fails or you are
denied modification ... pay what
you can, as regularly as you can.
Some of something is far better than
all of nothing."**

absolutely shock you to know how many support orders are entered by default (which simply means NCP failed to attend any of the proceedings leading up to the issuance of the order). So, the first order of business is to **simply show up!**

When NCP shows up, NCP must bring the requested income and personal financial information, plus, **ALL INFORMATION YOU BELIEVE HELPS YOU TO BETTER EXPLAIN YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.** That info may or may not be admissible, but you don't know that. Do not assume that information isn't important or admissible. Leave that decision to the Court; you could be pleasantly surprised at what will be considered. **It is guaranteed to NOT be considered if you don't present it!**

Spend time thinking about and preparing what you want the Court personnel to know about your situation. People spend more time considering what to order at McDonalds than they do prepping for Court. This process includes giving consideration to how you look, how you sound and the attitude you give off during these encounters. First impressions never get a do-over!

Pay attention to what you believe the Custodial Parent (CP) is really looking for from you. Many times, CP will agree to accept less money in return for more help with parenting time or child care. Sometimes it can be as petty as CP despising your new love interest. If you keep your new "boo-thang" in a lower profile roll, disagreements about court orders can become doable.

Keep good records of what you spend on your child outside of the court ordered support that is paid. Not to "hit CP over the head with", but because it helps you to possibly get a break when your compliance with the order becomes faulty, which happens from time to time.

When NCP does hit some lean times, make CP and the Court aware as soon as possible. Get in front of the difficulty as quickly as possible. You very well may qualify for a temporary or even permanent modification that inures to your favor. And if all else fails or you are denied modification ... pay what you can, as regularly as you can. Some of something is far better than all of nothing. More often than not the Court will adopt that attitude,

which could make all of the difference in NCP avoiding a contempt of court finding and time in jail as a result thereof.

I will end this short column as I usually do. A cordial relationship with CP is always the best means by which to avoid the “horrors” of “being put on child support”. The Courts, where possible, will ALMOST ALWAYS defer to agreements that the two parents have worked out or want to enter into. Be reasonable, understand that the child’s needs require money, no way around it, and try your best to find some point of compromise.

In Friendship...

The Honorable Brother Gregory C. Pittman, Esq.*
Presiding Judge, 14th Circuit Court
Family Division
Muskegon County, Michigan

**Brother Pittman is Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman for the 10th District*

About This Newsletter:

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THE DISTRICTS

1st District - Brother Anthony Lilly, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman

Brunch and Ball – Iota Chi Chapter

Boston, MA - Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., was the first African American fraternity founded on the campus of a historically black college. It is home to three chapters in the city of Boston: Gamma - founded in 1916 in Roxbury, Eta Phi - founded in 1925 in Dorchester and Iota Chi - founded in 1955 in Cambridge. For the men of Iota Chi Chapter, its signature event for over 6 years has been the youth mentoring program at the Dorchester YMCA.

On the third Sunday of each month there is a workshop varying different topics about life issues as an African American male, such as career advancement opportunities, goals and achievements for young males ages 13 - 18 or 9th- 12th grade.

During this month’s event guest speaker Lenward Gattison, an Athletic Director and member of Gamma Chapter, talked about the importance of community service and how it can be displayed in many ways regardless of how big or small the gesture may be. Ways to be involved can include: joining or being part of a board committee at your local school, volunteering to shovel your neighbor’s driveway during the winter months, mentoring the grade below you so that one may get a head start on their future or even donating your old clothes or non-perishable food. After the discussion the event is concluded with an organized basketball game with all participants.



Bridge Builders Mentoring Program: Tau Iota Chapter provides Mentoring to Hartford Area Youth

Hartford, CT - During the summer of 2017, Brother Greg Jones, the Founder of the Legacy Foundation of Hartford, Inc., brought together brothers from the Tau Iota Chapter in Hartford to discuss being more involved with the young men that participate in the Legacy Foundation programs. Brother Jones felt the brothers in the chapter were well positioned to reach the youth and provide the support and guidance they needed as they navigated through the ups and downs of their teenage years. He also felt that this initiative would strengthen the chapter's connection with the program and young men who participate.

The idea was hatched, the brothers picked up the mantle and launched a Friday night mentoring session for the young men. The purpose of the program is to mentor the youth in a fun and relaxed environment in a positive and effective manner. This approach allows the young men to be themselves and discuss issues that are not raised during the daytime Legacy Sessions which are more geared towards academic preparedness. Topics discussed have included: Cyber Bullying, The Future Effect of Your Decisions Today, The Character of a Man, and, Not Letting Your Environment Determine Your Future.

The program also provides the youth the opportunity to express themselves and have a safe place to come on a Friday night. We begin each session with a meal where each mentee can let us know what is going on in their life and how their week progressed. We then come together for a discussion on the topic of the day. After the discussion, the young men socialize over chess, basketball, and video games and allow. This offers brothers an opportunity to have one-on-one discussion with the participants.

The programs future goals are to: enhance the development of the young men's social skills, improve their self-esteem, increase cultural awareness, and, make sure they are achieving their academic goals. Since 2014, Tau Iota has supported the Legacy Foundation's programs and their youth. This program formalized that relationship and solidified our commitment to the young men in the program.

Granville Academy: Omega Psi Phi provides Mentoring to Waterbury Area Youth

Waterbury, CT - Granville Academy of Waterbury was founded in 1992 by brothers Earnest Mosley – Lambda Rho Chapter and his brother Judge Maurice Mosley. The Academy was designed to give students in grades 6th through 12th an introductory knowledge of business and STEM.

Granville Academy is open to students within the Waterbury School District and outside the city of Waterbury. Lambda Rho Chapter has been mentoring students from Granville since its inception. Class size varies from 20 to 40 students. Ninety-five per cent (95%) of Granville graduates enroll in a college or university including, but not limited to, Yale, University of Connecticut, Howard University, and North Carolina A & T.

Ω Fatherhood and Mentoring Tools and Tips website: www.omegafandm.org

2nd District - Fatherhood Initiative: Brother David Williams, II, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chair

Project S.T.R.I.D.E. (Supervising, Training, Relating Ideals, Developing Excellence)

Rochester, New York - For twenty-five years, Brothers of Theta Omicron Chapter in partnership with the Theta Omicron Scholarship Foundation have worked with the staff of School #4 in Rochester to enable youth development. The program emphasizes the importance of home, community, and school engaging in a collaborative effort to augment students' skill sets. In recent years, the program has evolved from its strengths in academic enrichment to include social and behavioral skill development. Under the leadership of Brother Joel Cummings and Brother Robert Mitchell, Project S.T.R.I.D.E. has stood the test of time, emblematic of the organization's sustained commitment to Rochester Community's youth.



WBGR PODCAST RADIO INITIATIVE: A NEW FRONTIER

Expanding the Message Via Social Media



Brothers at top (L-R): Shaun Ratliff, Mu Nu Social Action Chairman, Jeffery Diggs, Mu Rho Basileus, WBGR host Stacey Jordan, Donald Williams II, 2nd District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman and Basileus Mu Nu Chapter, 35th District Representative, 2nd District, Sherman L. Charles and Robert W. Fairchild, Chairman, International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

The Difference Dads Make is Immeasurable!

By David Williams, II

Lanham, MD – Thursday, December 21, 2017, Brother Robert W. Fairchild, Chairman of the International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Brother Sherman L. Charles, 35th District Representative of the 2nd District were featured on the Podcast WBGR Internet Talk Show. This Initiative allows the 2nd District to expand and connect the Fatherhood and Mentoring message to a new generation of listeners. The podcast connects approximately 400,000 listeners using internet social media outlets to engage the community in conversations about the important role of Fathers in their children's lives.

These distinguished Omega Leaders comments were centered on raising the awareness of the importance of the father's role in the healthy development of their children. The conversation via podcast sought to encourage

dads to play a more active role in their children's life. Topics covered included ways Dads can help their children grow and develop, such as: by visiting their children's school, reading books to them, taking pictures with them and attending their sporting events and co-curricular school activities. The bottom line is, as mentioned by Brothers Fairchild and Sherman, *"every child wants their Dad in their lives!"*

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has engaged communities for a very long time with meaningful parenting and mentoring programs across the Nation. The Fraternity's experience working with dads show that engaging fathers in the well-being of their children is vital. Dads makes a tremendous difference in the growth and development of their children and that difference significantly impacts the entire family!

We want the community to know there is a local Chapter in their community that seeks "teaming partners" with local organizations such as Social Services, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Human Health Services, Housing Commission and like-minded organizations to make a greater impact. The Fraternity's mission is intentional about helping DADS "to help their children grow and develop into healthy young adults" – which ultimately contributes to building stronger families. CALL – N – Number 301.429.9247. Or contact us at:

www.facebook.com/realhusbandsoflargo or download WBGR app www.wbgronline.com

3rd District, Brother Raymond Bell, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman,

Prince William County's Fatherhood Initiative: Father and Daughter Dance 2018 (PLL serves the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, and Stafford County)



A Father enjoying the night out with his Queen during the Prince William County, Virginia, Father & Daughter Dance on Saturday, February 24, 2018

Prince William County, VA February 24, 2018 – The Brothers of Pi Lambda Lambda (PLL) Chapter, participated in the Father & Daughter Dance on Saturday, February 24, 2018, in partnership with the Prince William County (PWC) Social Services Program. Young ladies ages five to sixteen dressed in elegant, colorful dresses and were escorted by their handsome fathers and father figures who were equally dressed to impress.

The Theme for this year's dance was "Safari Swirl". Brothers volunteered their time serving as surrogate fathers and event volunteers serving in various capacities. The Brothers ushered guests to their seats, manned the coat check-in desk, and did other duties as assigned. Vice Basileus, Vernon Campbell, Brothers Al Woods, Warren Simmons, Anthony White, Derwin Babineaux, and other PLL Brothers actively participated in all aspects of the dance. Other Brothers registered and brought their daughters or granddaughters to the event including PLL's Basileus Brother Raymond Bell.

Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter partner's annually with the County's Social Services Office and members of the PWC's Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity to represent positive male role models for the young girls. Activities included a special Daddy-Daughter choreographed dance, candy shop, make-up station, and dinner. Professional photographers including Brother Bryant, captured the fathers and daughters dancing and enjoying the festivities. Each father & daughter couple received an individual photograph at the end of the night to highlight the event.

Brother Derwin Babineaux, PLL's Fatherhood Initiative Chairman, led PLL's coordination and participation working closely with the PWC Fatherhood Initiative's Family Services' Program Chairman. Brother Babineaux serves as the chapter's liaison on the county's FI Committee working year-round with the staff supporting various outreach programs in the community.

The Prince William County Social Services Office designed the Fatherhood Initiative as a program to help build and strengthen father-child relationships for biological fathers sharing a co-parenting relationship with mothers of their children. The program helps:

- Fathers build increased contact with their children;
- Servicemen who have been separated from their children due to deployment;
- Incarcerated or formerly incarcerated fathers rebuild strong bonds with their children; and
- Non-custodial fathers providing financial support for their children.

PLL will continue to support the Fatherhood Initiative as part of its full engagement with the community through social action. The Brothers of PLL make a difference and provide positive, consistent role modeling for fathers and their children. PLL is a graduate chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., an international nonprofit social and civic service organization that has more than 700 chapters with 100,000 members in 14 countries worldwide.

Since the Chapter's founding in Dumfries, Va., in January 2004, PLL has supported public and community events across the region, benefiting scholarship, health promotion, youth mentorship, citizenship and social action. PLL was previously named the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated International Chapter of the Year. This recognition marks the third time since the Chapter's founding in 2004 that PLL was honored with the most prestigious honor bestowed by the Fraternity. For additional information or requests for interviews, please contact the Chapter Editor, Brother Eddie A. Stephens, Jr. • 803.447.4733 • editorpllqpp@gmail.com

Lambda Lambda's OMEGA U 2nd Annual Black History Program **By Bro. Derwin Babineaux, Fatherhood Initiative Chairman**



Omega U students, mentors, parents, and brothers of Pi Lambda Lambda take at the Omega U 2nd Annual Black History Program at Potomac Senior High School in Dumfries Virginia on February 24, 2018

Dumfries, VA – February 28, 2018 – Students, parents, mentors, and brothers of Pi Lambda Lambda attended a student led Black History Program at Potomac Senior High (PSH) School in Dumfries on February 24, 2018.

The event attracted an audience of over 100 participants. PSH Students performed all event planning and coordination, public speaking, and provided leadership to their fellow Omega U students from participating Prince William County campuses and surrounding areas. Omega U has over 115 students that participates in community, STEM, and team building activities while partnering with Prince William County Schools, parents, and teachers in mentoring students from 3rd grade to graduating seniors in high school.



Omega U students from Potomac Senior High School sponsored and led the Omega U 2nd Annual Black History Program at Potomac Senior High School in Dumfries Virginia on February 24, 2018

The audience listened to an engaging and thought-provoking oration from Donald Jones, Jr. (DJ). DJ is currently a student at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. earning a Master's Degree in Physiology in May 2018. DJ earned a Certificate in Advanced Biomedical Sciences from George Mason University in 2017, a Bachelor's in Health Sciences from James Madison University in 2016 and is a proud graduate of C.D. Hylton High School in 2012. DJ was the top scholarship recipient of the George M. Hampton Foundation Scholarship in 2012 and was freshman and sophomore Student of the Year at James Madison University for his work and dedication in the community for service and uplift. DJ currently works part-time at the Hylton Boy's and Girl's Club in Dale City Virginia while finishing his master's degree with aspirations to become a Pediatrician.



(L-R) Bro. Michael Frazier, Omega U Director, Mr. Donald Jones, Jr., Guest Speaker, and Bro. Raymond Bell, Pi Lambda Lambda Basileus are shown at the Omega U 2nd Annual Black History Program at Potomac Senior High School in Dumfries Virginia on February 24, 2018

Submitted by Bro. Eddie A. Stephens, Jr., Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter Editor

The Great Question

What Ought Fraternities or Fraternity Men Be Doing to Uplift Their Communities?

Answer: ???

For examples: See the Website:

www.omegafandm.org

4th District, Brother Jerry Leftwich, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman

Beta Iota Fathers Show Up Strong for Daddy Daughter Dinner Dance



Cincinnati, OH – January 27, 2018 – The Brothers of Beta Iota Chapter have a tradition of showing up in force with daughters in hand for the Cincinnati Herald's Daddy Daughter Dinner Dance. This was the 16th year for this annual event, and once again Omega Psi Phi was in the house. The event was held at The Duke Energy Convention Center in downtown Cincinnati. Daughters put on dresses and dads put on suit and tie for a night to remember. The night was filled with dancing, dining, smiling, and laughing. This popular event was sold out with 1200 fathers and their daughters in attendance, over 30 of them due to Omega. It's a great time where fathers get to build lifelong memories with their daughters while showing them how a gentleman escorts a young lady on a date.



(L): Daniel Shepard with goddaughter Amirah (L) and daughter Laila (R) are ready for the night



Brothers of Beta Iota and their daughters

Ω Fatherhood and Mentoring Tools and Tips website: www.omegafandm.org

Black History Program, Xi Alpha Chapter

By Bobby L. Robinson

Institute, WV, March 15, 2018 – Xi Alpha Chapter annually host a Black History Program for the community. Since Brother Dr. Carter G. Woodson had strong roots in West Virginia and was an academic dean at West Virginia State University, it is fitting that Xi Alpha Chapter play a leading role in sponsoring this event. The Chapter provides a platform for young people to demonstrate their understanding of Black History through artistic demonstration, dramatic interpretation, speeches, quotations, singing, dancing, and various intellectual presentations of the amazing contributions Black Americans have made to the world.

The event “Black History is World History,” and the Partnership of African American Churches, Martin Luther King Chorus, Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Xinos and Brother Kenny Hale (Psi Beta Beta) were some of the participants for this packed auditorium event.

Throughout the years our Social Action Committee structures activities to best impact the needs of our community. Xi Alpha has always participated in multiple mentoring programs to encourage and assist many young minds to display their gifts and intellect. These worthwhile endeavors align with the Fatherhood/Mentoring Initiatives of the Fraternity. Brothers of Xi Alpha and Theta Psi are father figures, role models, coaches and mentors to many youths in the Kanawha Valley. These men regularly read to elementary school aged children, mentor high school students and on February 17, 2018, sponsored 100 youth to watch the movie Black Panther.

Xi Alpha Brothers esteem others (especially youth) more highly than they do themselves “as we demonstrate our cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. This demonstration of service is what our beloved Fraternity stands for and Xi Alpha loves the privilege to serve others,” the Chapter said.



6th District, Brother Melvin Williams, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman

Mighty 6th District Fatherhood and Mentoring Program By Brother Melvin Williams

Cary, NC - The Mighty 6th District Iota Iota Chapter in conjunction with the Triangle Uplift Foundation and the Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr., Committee hosted its inaugural Youth Innovation Summit targeting middle and high school students in the Triangle area. This event was held Saturday, January 13th at Cary Academy in Cary, NC. The Summit provided a rich, collaborative environment exposing students to innovative ideas and programming that will ignite their interests and help them see pathways to a successful future in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) careers.

History tells that during the last years of Dr. King's life, his focus evolved from just racial justice to include economic justice. Expanding access to equal economic and educational opportunities was and still remains a critical civil rights challenge today. Through the leadership of Brother Victor Brinton and board of directors of the Triangle Uplift Foundation Brothers of the 6th District were compelled to initiate the Youth Innovation Summit. Careers in the STEAM field provide the benefits of job security and competitive pay.

The goal is to reach minority, female, and other underrepresented students by providing an opportunity to increase students' confidence and identity, and to inspire them to pursue study in STEAM-related fields of study. Bringing different cultures, backgrounds, and personalities to the table creates "diversity of thought"

that can boost innovation and creativity. In addition, to ensure a stable and competitive economy, the U.S. must invest in STEAM-related talent to compete and remain a global innovation leader.

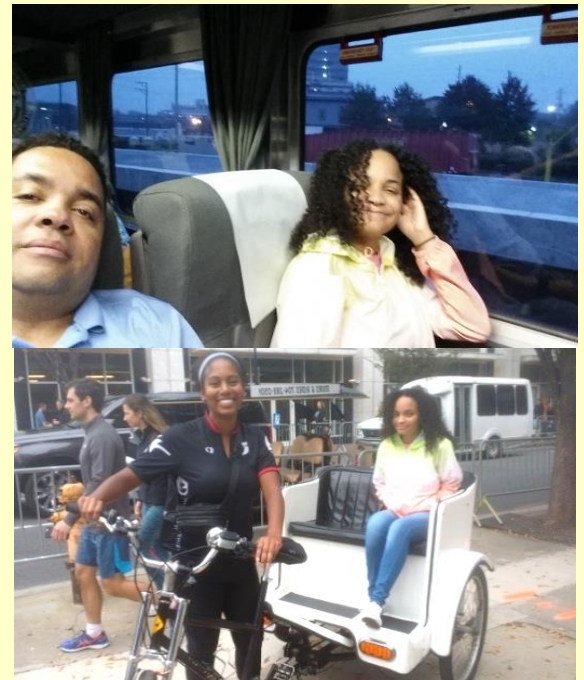
Over 300 youth participated in the summit learning and engaging about STEAM opportunities. The youth heard from **Brother Attorney Benjamin Crump** and **Associate Justice of North Carolina Supreme Court Brother Mike Morgan**. Our **40th Grand Basileus Antonio Knox, Sr.** was also in attendance and shared his aspirations for them with the students.



6th District Father Child Prayer Breakfast in Raleigh, North Carolina - The Brothers of Beta Phi, Iota Iota and Xi Mu Mu Chapters along with their community partner Proud Fathers, Inc. hosted their annual Father Child Breakfast at Martin Street Baptist Church where Brother Dr. Rev. Shawn Jerome Singleton serves as the Senior Pastor. These chapters have been hosting this event for the last seven years; this event has become one of the signature events for fathers and children in these communities.

Each year this event attracts an average of 10-15 new fathers attending. The second Saturday in February has become the Father Child prayers for the triangle area. The date may not be known to the community but on the second Saturday of February we can count on the men of Omega from these three chapters bringing men and their children together to give honor and be honored for being great fathers and men in the triangle community.

Over the last seven years these chapters have touched over five hundred fathers and their children at this event. Since, the beginnings of this event we have seen seven men who were without a church home join a church. Living up to our great fraternity roots of being a Christian organization still stands true.



Brother Tyrone Fisher, 2017-18 Xi Mu Mu Chapter Father of the Year. He and his daughter Lauryn enjoyed a weekend in Charlotte. The winner is named in April during the annual Fatherhood Conference.

6th District Father of the Year

Raleigh, NC - The partnership between the 6th District, Proud Fathers, Inc., Iota Iota Chapter, Amtrak and Carolina Panthers has been in place for five years now. The winning father receives two tickets to a Panthers game, roundtrip on Amtrak, \$125 spending money for food and ground transportation.

Ω Fatherhood and Mentoring Tools and Tips website:
www.omegafandm.org

7th District, Brother Jonathan Gaines, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman



Omega Lamplighters Birmingham Chapter, AL – The Omega Lamplighters received a history lesson at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama. “Knowing your past is valuable in helping you to grow and develop.” Omega Lamplighters is a Youth Leadership Development Program for young men ages 12-18 in the Birmingham-metropolitan area.



Omega Lamplighters of Chi Omega Chapter – Florida - Omega Lamplighters Youth Group of Tallahassee, Florida enjoyed a Black Panther Premier Movie Night Out with Omega Brothers and Parents. Omega Lamplighters dressed in African clothing and attire to be in character with the Block Buster Movie.

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Just, Love, Cooper & Coleman Mentoring Program of Eta Omicron Chapter

Albany, GA - Saturday, February 24, 2018 members of the Just, Love, Cooper, Coleman Mentoring Program purchased, prepared, and delivered food to the gray line and Albany Rescue Mission. The food which consisted of smoked & seasoned chicken, rice, seasoned green beans and bread was free and donated by the JLCC Mentoring Program. The rice and beans were prepared by Tay's Wings, 202 East Oakridge, Albany, Ga 31705, Bailey Christopher.

Food drives such as these have become a staple for the Just, Love, Cooper, Coleman Mentoring Program. Food drives along with other acts of charity are norms that the JLCC Mentoring Program considered fruits of the spirit. Our motto is "helping young men embrace every aspect of manhood". Help us encourage, motivate, and influence thru example these young men to become extraordinary adults who don't consider mediocrity an option. God bless each parent and each part of their support team that contribute to the success of these young men.



Omega Sparks Youth Mentor Group of Sigma Phi Chapter – Montgomery, AL – The Omega Sparks Mentoring Youth Group in the company of Bro. Robert L. Thomas attended the Youth Conference sponsored by Montgomery Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Young men and women in attendance were able to receive guidance in area health, academics, life decisions, college education testing and selection.

Ω Fatherhood and Mentoring Tools and Tips website:
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*Walk togedder, chillen,
Dontcha git weary . . .
The strong men keep a-comin' on
The strong men git stronger.
The strong men keep a-comin' on
Gittin' stronger, stronger* ...*

(*From the poem “Strong Men” by the late Howard University Professor Brother Sterling A. Brown)

A-TEAAM Ambassadors

Jackson, Mississippi - The Brothers of the Beta Alpha and Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter serves as an A-TEAAM (Ambassadors of The Evers Academy for African-American Males) Mentor Partner with the Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute and JSD (Juanita Sims Doty) Foundation in the Great State of Mississippi. The A-TEAAM inspires young males of color in middle school and beyond to honor the life and live the legacy of Medgar Evers as they interact with a “village” of role models and mentors. This ‘village’ of mentors provides support and one-on-one guidance utilizing a meaningful curriculum to empower these young men as they matriculate through middle school.

The objective of the A-TEAAM is to assist the young males (called Ambassadors in the program) in making internal changes with an outcome of increased positive self-esteem and overall improvement in the way they view the world. In 2018, the A-TEAAM will celebrate its 5th Year Anniversary with an A-TEAAM National Youth Leadership Summit held June 8-10, 2018 in Jackson, MS. Ambassadors, parents and mentors will converge in Jackson to engage in youth-led sessions and to tour the home/Museum of Medgar and Myrlie Evers and the new Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. This Summit will also celebrate the life and legacy of Medgar Evers and commemorate the 55th Anniversary of his assassination.

12th District, Brother George D. Taylor, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman

Inland Valley Uplift Foundation/Zeta Tau Chapter Youth Leadership and Parent Conference University of La Verne

By George D. Taylor, EdD, Zeta Tau Chapter, Editor to the Oracle

La Verne, CA – Saturday March 3, 2017 – Inland Valley Uplift Foundation and Zeta Tau Chapter hosted their 9th Youth Leadership and Parent (YLP) conference on the campus of the University of La Verne. The conference targeted male youths in grades 5th – 12th. The Conference coordinator was Brother James Wilson who also is the Zeta Tau Chapter Fatherhood Chairman and President of the Inland Valley Uplift Foundation.

Wilson said that parents were invited to be part of the conference out of a belief that parental involvement in the lives of their children is deeply important in the healthy growth and development of the child. “We believe that the more the parent remains connected to their child and provide them the social and emotional support they need at an early age, the better the chance that the child will develop habits of good health, and sustainability,” said Wilson. And, the better his chances are for success.

The **youth’s conference** emphasized what one need to do to prepare for college, and to set goals and follow through with them. The Conference introduced students to opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

In science students were exposed to many exciting possibilities and new knowledge by the coordinator of the youths’ curriculum, Michael Haynes, Compliance Engineer for South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) including the science related to the identification of genetically modified vegetables verses hybrid vegetables.

They were shown examples of new career fields such as: 3-D printing, hazardous materials identification and disposal, genetics, cloning, aviation and transportation management and drone technology. Two lucky students interested in aviation, computer technology and transportation got to take home their very own drones as a result of their participation in the conference.

The **mother’s conference** was led by Retired LAPD Detective Ronnie Walker. Its curriculum consisted of five topics: Trifling Kids come from Trifling Parents; A Key to Success; The Blind Stigma, Mental Health in the Black Community; College Preparation; and, Fund-Raising. The **father’s conference**, led by Dr. George D. Taylor was divided into five modules: A Study of Values--Personal, Family, Job; The Process of Effective



Communication; Admission Requirements for the California State University; Fathers' Rights and Responsibilities in Child Custody Matters; The Law and What to Tell Your Son.

In addition to the Zeta Tau Chapter other southern California Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., were in attendance: Lambda Omicron, Mu Alpha Alpha, Omicron Mu, Phi Beta Beta, Pi Rho, Psi Gamma Gamma, Rho Iota Iota, Sigma Iota Iota, Tau Tau and Zeta Rho. These Chapters represented an area from Oceanside to Lancaster, California. The Sorors of the Pomona Valley Alumna Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority managed the registration and spoke to the mothers.

The Conference was opened by Donald Mahoney, School Board Administrator at Capistrano Unified School District followed by Invocation by Rev. Steve L. Lorry, Senior Pastor, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Pomona. Dr. Kyle Cazares, Dean of Admissions, University of La Verne welcomed the conference and gave a strong pitch to the students and parents to consider the University of La Verne. For information about future Youth and Parent Leadership Conferences, please contact: James Wilson at: inland.ivuf@yahoo.com.

Southern California Ques Mentoring in Moreno Valley, CA

By George D. Taylor, EdD



Brother Ricky Lewis, Tau Tau Chapter, talking to Moreno Valley High School Students about “Perceptions” with students seated in a “talking circle”

Moreno Valley, CA – Friday March 16, 2018 – Three years ago, the Omega Educational Foundation, Inc., in conjunction with members of Phi Beta Beta, Tau Tau and Zeta Tau Chapters set out to make a difference. They wanted to do their part with their talent to mentor youth of southern California. They developed a partnership with the Moreno Valley Unified School District to mentor male students.

The District wanted help with three major issues; reducing the number of: expulsions, suspensions and tardiness. The men of Omega accepted the challenge from Moreno Valley High School and since the 2015 – 2016 school year, these men have consistently travel from the Los Angeles/Pasadena area to work with the young men every 3rd Friday and when necessary meetings in between the monthly visits.

During the third year of the program 2017 – 2018, Brother Ricky Lewis, Executive Director of the Omega Educational Foundation, ask the young men to develop a list of topics they wanted to talk about. In September 2017, the group came up with a list of topics that included: Respect for Women; Personal responsibility – “Do What You Say You are Going to Do!”; Financial Preparation for College, Retirement and Family; How to avoid Problems with the Law; Black on Black Violence – Violence in General; DUI’s for Young Drivers; Peer Pressure; Leadership Skills; Perception; How to Remain Motivated; Closed Mouths Don’t Get Fed; Developing Binding Relationships; Power, Authority, Role and Responsibility; Independence and Coping Skills.



Brother Rodney Jones, Tau Tau Chapter, discuss “Coping Skills” with students seated in a “talking circle”

In his discussion on Coping Skills, Brother Rodney Jones listed several definitions of coping skills and engaged the students in a conversation of what it means to deal with difficult or unpleasant situations. The discussion also dealt with how to handle personal responsibilities, problems or difficulties, successfully in a calm or adequate manner. The students, seated in a talking circle, engaged in a discussion of various dos and don’ts when coping with adversity.

When asked if they are making a difference by being present in the lives of these young men, Brother Lewis replied, “Of course we are, just our presence and our attire has made a difference.” Brother Lewis noted that, “We attend every session suited and booted. We promised the young men 3 years ago that we would not miss a mentoring session.” And to date, the men of Omega have not missed a session. “We have had 100% attendance” by the men of Omega.

And what about the young men? “We have tracked their attendance and we have seen a substantial decline in expulsions, suspensions and tardiness,” he said. “We believe that in order for the young men to learn and grow and graduate, they have to be in class and be on time and attentive,” said Brother Lewis.

Brother Lewis explained that the men of Omega continue to assist the young men with preparing for college and “provide follow up assistance with those who have gone to college by connecting them with other Omega men” at the college or University they choose to attend. “We are excited about the future for these young men at Moreno Valley High School.” With two sessions remaining, the Omega men are preparing to wrap-up this year’s effort by preparing Certificates of Achievement for the youth and making the presentation to them at a school ceremony to which their parents and school officials are invited. ///

In Northern California, College Prep Students Pose at Google



Thanks to Brother Dr. Joseph Marshall, Jr.



Our College Prep Class recently had the opportunity to visit Google and listen to 5 panelists share their career experiences and paths towards working at Google. Serving as good role models and offering great advice, their words of wisdom were in alignment with the lessons taught here at the Alive & Free Leadership Academy.

Here's what the panelists said...

"People who you are around will determine where you end up" ~ Lawrence

"You need a plan, guidance, and support. Ask questions and find support." ~ Quincy

"You must be willing to grow, learn, and transform yourself." ~ Kathleen

"Just because you're not there now doesn't mean you won't get there. Embrace change and challenge yourself." ~ Ryan

"Put your best foot forward, because someone is always watching." ~ Phifer

Thank you, Lawrence, Quincy, Kathleen, Ryan and Phifer! Your courage to share your very personal stories gave our kids the courage to trust. From experience, we know that if we only reach their heads and not their hearts, change won't reach their feet. This year thanks to this special panel of Google employees, 25 hearts were reached! Listen to our podcast anytime! Street Soldiers Radio episodes have been used as discussion pieces in classrooms and saved people from those hours in traffic. Tune in now to hear our students chat with Brother Dr. Joseph Marshall, Jr., about Women's Her-story month.

**13th District, Brother Michael Robinson, Fatherhood and Mentoring and Social Action
Chairman**

Communicating with Dad
By Brother Michael Robinson

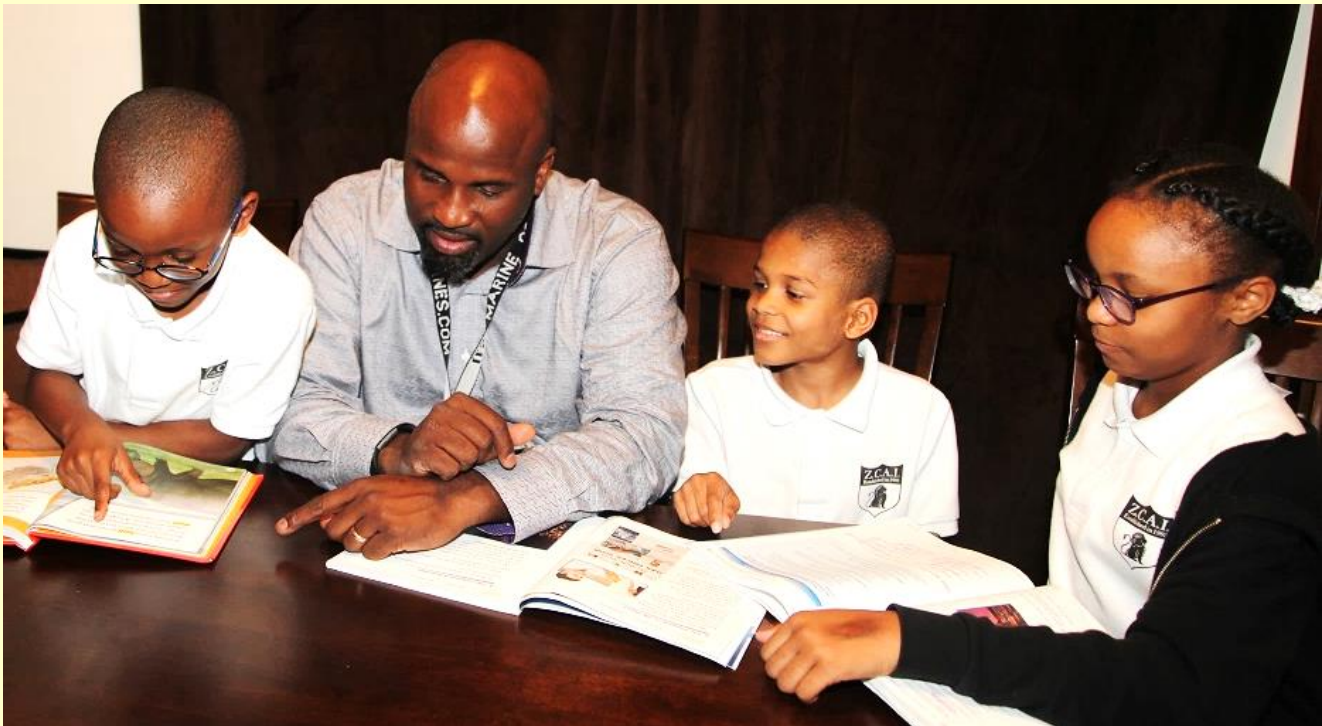


**Basileus of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter Cortez Pree and his wife Michelle communicating
the facts of life with their daughter Cortiah**

Okinawa, Japan – A very important step in everything we do is communication. This is evident when it comes to our families. Understanding and knowing what our loved ones are expressing in words and actions can lead to a happy family and healthy relationship. Communication is the key to solving many problems and issues that arise in our daily activities. Ensuring everyone is on the same accord will eliminate unnecessary confusion.

About This Newsletter:

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Basileus of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter Cortez Pree communicates the importance of reading and comprehension with his children: Brandon (age 7), Cortez, Jr. (age 8) and Cortiah (age 11)

The National Fatherhood Initiative pointed out how communication can be a challenge for couples, and *especially* for those who are separated, such as mothers and fathers serving in the military and those who are co-parenting. Listed are 10 tips with ways to better communicate for the benefit of the children.

1. Remember that working together will help your child.
2. Create a calm environment to talk.
3. Ask yourself, "What do I really want from this talk?"
4. Write down expectations and let them go.
5. Ask for the other partner's view first, then share yours.
6. Focus on facts, not on what you want to be true.
7. Don't interrupt, ignore or insult the other partner.
8. To keep communication open: apologize when needed, and don't criticize.
9. Be ready to walk away if either of you become angry.
10. Understand it may take more than one talk to solve the difference.

According to a recent article "A Lack of Communication in the Family" by Ms. Michelle Blood from <https://www.livestrong.com/> states: "A family lacking healthy communication is like a ship without a rudder. It will flounder even in calm waters and will become dangerously out of control in a storm. To avoid a 'person overboard' tragedy, it is vital to understand barriers to quality family communication. For healthy communication in the family, ensure that every member is heard, understood and valued."

Ω Fatherhood and Mentoring Tools and Tips website:
www.omegafandm.org

SGG Volunteers at Kadena Elementary School for Dads of Great Students Event in Honor of

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

By

Bro. Michael Robinson

Okinawa, Japan – The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. volunteered to share information about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with 21 third grade students at Kadena Elementary School in Okinawa, Japan on Friday January 12, 2018. Brother Michael Robinson provided open remarks and divided the class into three groups describing the following items to the students:

Activity One – “Let Freedom Ring” – Basileus Cortez Pree

Activity Two – “If I Met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” – Bro. Michael Robinson

Activity Three – Remember! Celebrate! Act! “A Day On, Not A Day Off” Bro. Elvis Jackson

After five minutes each group rotated until all topics were covered. Upon completion of the presentations, Basileus Cortez Pree, Bro. Michael Robinson and Brother Elvis Jackson thanked the students and teacher Ms. Thanh Soroka for the opportunity to visit their class.

Later, the Principal of Kadena Elementary School Ms. Gail E. Wiley presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in recognition for their contributions to Kadena Elementary School’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. presentation. She stated: “Research shows that when the community and families are involved with the schools, children benefit and there is a direct positive impact on student achievement. We appreciate your help and support to our school. Together we can make a difference.”

The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter continue to be active with the Dads of Great Students program since it was launched at Kadena Elementary School by Assistant Principal Ms. Lorri Vallone on April 13, 2017.



(L) – Basileus Cortez Pree explains MLK activity
“Let Freedom Ring” to students

(R) – Bro. Michael Robinson leads students in MLK activity
“If I Were Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”

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(L) – Bro. Elvis Jackson covers national theme Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday “A Day On, Not A Day Off” with students

(R) – Group photo of 3rd grade students with the Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter at Kadena Elementary School

Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter Participates in Youth Prayer Breakfast By Bro. Michael Robinson

Okinawa, Japan – On Saturday January 27, 2018, Bro. Michael Robinson participated in the Annual Youth Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the **Okinawa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** The event was held at the Officers’ Club on Kadena Air Base. This year’s theme was “Something Is Bound to Happen When You Pray”.



Brother Michael Robinson with participants of the Youth Prayer Breakfast and the Beautiful Sisters of the Okinawa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The program featured praise dance performances, gospel music, motivational speakers from the community and powerful prayers. Everyone in attendance left with uplifted spirits filled with joy. Representatives from various organizations in the community presented scholarship information for college bound high school students.

Bro. Robinson spoke on the topic “Wisdom, Gifts and Talents for Our Youth”. He pointed out that God has blessed every soul with a special talent and gift. We must not take this for granted but use it to help someone on our journey through life for the glory of the Lord. Proverbs, Chapter 8, tells that wisdom is better than silver, gold, rubies and all the things desired are not to be compared.

Lambda Beta Beta Project Aspiration

By
Bro. Edward Brown



Mentees participating in Project Aspiration receive briefing from the Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta Chapter and participate in a team building exercise called "The Party"

Honolulu, Hawaii - On Saturday March 3, the Men of Lambda Beta Beta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., hosted an open house to launch their annual **Project Aspiration** program. The instructors lead the way with a detailed overview of each topic in this year's program. After explaining the curriculum, the mentees participated in an Ice Breaker exercise.

As an Ice Breaker, mentees were paired and given a list of questions. This exercise allowed them to ask fun questions to learn a lot about each other in a short period of time. The Ice Breaker provided levity and humor to our first meeting and also allowed them to get to know each other.

We also conducted a Team Building exercise called **The Party**. The mentees wrote their strengths on small slips of paper, put them into balloons, and blew up the balloons. One by one the balloons were popped to reveal what each person brings to the party. As they learned about the unique talents each had to offer, the information was transferred onto a large white banner so everyone could see all of their strengths together.

The Party helped set the tone for positive team dynamics. It also showed the mentees what they contribute and how the group can work together to use their strengths to form a cohesive team. The simplicity of this activity allowed us to use it with all mentees ranging in age from 9 to 17. It also allowed our Teen Mentors an opportunity to mentor the younger mentees. ///

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