



Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



SPECIAL GRAND CONCLAVE EDITION - 2018

Volume 5 April, May, June, 2018 Number 2

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

~~ Brother Fairchild's Corner ~~

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rothers, as we leave this Father's Day season we want to take time and say thanks to and celebrate the many fathers who are unsung heroes. Fathers who put their heart and soul into taking care of their family. They don't seek recognition but take seriously their responsibility. Also, we recognize and thank the many brothers who have worked with fathers and who have mentored young men; in many cases standing in the gap of father absence. We have been recognized in many communities and thanked for making a difference through the work that we have done.



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

As we prepare for a change in administration at our Grand Conclave in New Orleans, we would like to thank the Fraternity leadership for its support of the efforts of this critical work in our communities. Some of the programs we have implemented or worked with include: **Brother You're on My Mind, The Future Dads Program, Criminal Justice Reform, Violence Prevention**, and currently the **100,000 Father Voters' Pledge Initiative**. Because of what we have done many organizations have made request to partner with us in our efforts. These organizations and agencies are: HUD,

American Psychological Association, the National Institutes of Health, Black Women for Positive Change, National Healthy Start and Fathers and Families Coalition – to name a few.

Brothers, on behalf of the International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee we say thank you to every engaged Chapter for the work that you have done and the work that you will do in the future. If your Chapter has not engaged in this effort please do so as soon as possible. If you need help, do not hesitate to contact us. Call your District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman.

If you can't get them call me, 703.899.0111 or email: rfairchild@msn.com. We are making a difference!

Brother 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.



Founders: Frank Coleman, Oscar J. Cooper, Ernest E. Just, Edgar A. Love

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Tony Knox, 40th Grand Basileus

Fr: The Desk of the 40th Grand Basileus

100,000 Father Voters' Pledge Campaign

TO: Brother Steve Harvey
Brother Benjamin Crump, Esq.

DATE: April 13, 2018

Subject: 100,000 Father Voters' Pledge Campaign

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative call to action is to increase father's participation in the 2018 Mid-term elections. Even more important, we are asking you to solicit men to pledge to "take their sons, grandsons, and or mentees to the voting polls with them". This nationwide initiative will allow fathers to teach young men about their civic responsibility to participate in the voting process.

In addition, we are asking male mentoring groups, church youth groups, Greeks, and organizations like the Boys & Girls Club, and the YMCA to take their mentees to the voting polls as well. The pledge campaign will take a two-fold approach by allowing fathers/men to complete pledge cards during voter registration drives or other fraternity sponsored civic activities.

Secondly, pledges can be completed by fathers signing up on the fraternity's website, www.oppf.org. As confirmation of the father's participation, we are asking fathers to take photos of their visits to the poll and forward them to the fraternity's website.

Also districts and chapters can ask the fathers in their region to forward their photos to their Fatherhood & Mentoring Committee Chairmen for posting on their websites to reflect regional participation. IHQ will provide the pledge cards to the district Fatherhood & Mentoring Committee Chairmen for distribution to the chapters.

We are also asking all Brothers who have positive public relations and social media platforms to join us as champions in this endeavor. The campaign count will be measured through the demographics obtained from IHQ and the collection of the pledge cards. The attached pledge card can be posted on your chapter and district websites. The campaign will run through the 2018 Mid-Term Election in November.

If you have questions don't hesitate to contact your district chairman, of the Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative Committee. Also, Brother Robert Fairchild, at rfairchi@msn.com, (703) 899-0111 or S. Earl Wilson, at undenied16@aol.com, (404) 219-6624 are available to address your concerns.

Brothers, let's continue to be the positive difference makers for our communities and nation.

Fraternally,

Brother Antonio F. Knox



weVOTE!

100,000 Father Voters' Pledge Campaign

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.



I PLEDGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please check all boxes that apply:

I am a ... ☐ Father ☐ Grandfather ☐ Mentor
 My age is ... ☐ 60+ ☐ 50 + ☐ 40+ ☐ 30 + ☐ 18 +
 I am ... ☐ Married ☐ Single ☐ Divorce
 My state is... _____

Confirm your vote at www.oppf.org
 by sending a photo of you at the poll



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
 Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative
omegafandm.org

Your sons will follow your lead.



What the Pledge Card Looks Like!

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What to look for in future issues:

1. Survey of Results to Close the Gap of Father Absence in the lives of their Children and Family
2. Flow of Information Across Districts regarding Mentoring Initiatives
3. Use of Technology to Facilitate Program Success



100,000 FATHERS' PLEDGE

I, _____
 pledge to vote during the November 2018
 Mid-Term Elections and will take my son,
 grandson and or mentee with me to the
 voting poll.

Why Vote?

- Ω Criminal Justice Reform
- Ω Health Care
- Ω Gun Control
- Ω Gerrymandering
- Ω Education
- Ω Shared Parenting
- Ω Increase Minimum Wage
- Ω Employment/Jobs




Confirm your vote at oppf.org

International Representative Brother Thabiti Boone



Brother Thabiti Boone teaching a young brother to tie a tie

New Jersey, May 3, 2018 – As a Fraternity we have always taken pride in Omega, about the difference we make and the impact we continue to have in the lives of people and communities across the country and abroad. Our greatest pride and joy that brings light and life to our cardinal principles are the moments when we can impact young Black men, giving them purpose and hope.

Brother Darrell Edmonds, the visionary Founder of **Friday Is Tie Day Mentoring Initiative**, continues the tradition of Omega Men creating powerful programs uplifting Black Boys in his New Jersey hometown. Tuesday, he held his annual mentoring initiative *College Signing Day Tie Ceremony and Gala*. The program is extremely unique; it combines

the importance of tying a tie to character development, academic achievement, community service and manhood. The program ensures HS Seniors graduate with an opportunity to attend college or pursue a professional trade.

The Gala was a standing room audience with over 400 plus in attendance including parents, elected officials, dignitaries, community leaders and career professionals. During the event, Brother Edmonds had a tie tying ceremony, where the men in the audience helped the young men learn how to tie a tie. He also had the Seniors announce their college of choice as part of the National College Signing Day Initiative spearheaded by former 1st Lady Michelle Obama.

I was honored to be the guest speaker for the program and was impressed with the young men.

Seattle, WA – Brothers, I received the note below from my good Friend Stephen Powell, National Executive Director, for Susan Taylor's National Cares Mentoring Movement Initiative.

As you are aware Susan Taylor is a prominent National figure, former Editor of Essence Magazine and Founder of National Cares Mentoring Movement campaign. Susan had reached out last December to get Seattle Omega Brothers to attend her Seattle Cares Mentoring Townhall program, which included the Mayor, distinguished leaders and organizations like Omega. The event went well and Omega continued to work with the Seattle Mentoring program to help recruit mentors for Black Boys.



Seattle Brothers of Omega

Stephen Powell text Statement! "Thank you for your leadership, Thabiti! Your bruhz came through for our Seattle CARES affiliate big time. For the love of our children. Blessings."

Thanks Brothers

Brother Thabiti Boone

To Do Thy Duty to Omega: “As the Bloodline of Our Fraternity”

by

Brother Cody Charles
2nd Vice Grand Basileus

(Excerpts From 2018 Speech to Omega Psi Phi Brotherhood)

Greetings Brothers: Giving praise and thanks to the Highest! Also, thanks to District Representatives and 2nd Vice District Representatives for providing me the opportunity to have a conversation with the brotherhood at your District Meetings.

Fellow Undergraduates: On November 17, 1911 our beloved fraternity was founded by three undergraduates with the help of a faculty advisor **Professor Ernest Everett Just**. Brothers **Edgar Amos Love**, **Oscar James Cooper** and **Frank Charles Coleman** were young men of distinction that laid out a blueprint by which we would surely succeed – as long as we didn’t deviate.

As the bloodline of our fraternity, we are filled with Enthusiasm and tenacity – accompanied by so much more. That said, I ask that we, as undergraduates, be honest with ourselves.



Brother Cody Charles

- 1.) Does our nobility and/or respect for self and other brothers reflect our Founders’ vision?
- 2.) Has the process of our becoming an Omega man helped us uphold its traditions?
- 3.) Have we as an undergraduate body placed our “Tenacity” in the proper places?

TAKE A SECOND TO THINK ABOUT THE QUESTIONS POSED!!! As you all think about the questions, I will proceed with the following remarks:

My mother taught me that **“You make time for the things that you want to do and EXCUSES for what you don’t!”**

My Fellow Undergraduate Brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., we are what will keep this Fraternity running for another 100 plus years. To continue to accept mediocrity and operate in a form or fashion that our Founders did not envision is unacceptable.

We must rise up and thrive, setting the tone for Brothers who will come after us. We must show that we are not just a post on social media, but that we stand at a post ready to serve. We must be the Bruhz of Omega and also the Men of OMEGA. We must be ready to answer the call, for one day it will be time for the torch to be passed on to us. As I begin to conclude this message, I direct my focus to each Graduate Brother in the audience.

Will every graduate brother in the room please stand? On November 17, 1911 our beloved fraternity was founded by 3 Undergraduates with the help of a faculty advisor, **Professor Ernest Everett Just**. Brother **Just** was a man of not only wisdom, but of **TIME, AFFECTION** & importantly **PATIENCE**. The love he had for three young men who aspired to change the world could not be measured. Although this may not apply to everyone I must ask the Graduate Brothers in the room – *Where has the Love gone?*

When an Undergraduates Brother messes up I often hear the Question: *“What would the Founders have done or how would they have behaved?”*

My Question to every graduate brother is: Would **JUST** have done that?

- Would **JUST** criticize, dictate and critique or would he UPLIFT, STRENGTHEN and MOTIVATE?
- Would **JUST** have turned his back or would he have Persevered with the Founders throughout any endeavor?
- Would **JUST** have DIVESTED or would he have INVESTED in Undergraduates?
- Would **JUST** have disregarded the voice of the Founders or would he have had an open ear to listen?
- Would **JUST** have negated or would he have included Undergraduates in every aspect of the fraternity including business?
- Would **JUST** have made decisions without the Founders at the table or without their opinions?
- Would **JUST** have used the Founders for their services and not recognized their efforts by accepting the same amount of credit or splitting profits earned 50/50?
- Oh, by the way, who held **JUST** accountable?
- In conclusion, would **JUST** have chosen being Political over being Brotherly?

Friends, it takes a village to raise a child, but once you turn your back, or negate your responsibilities to guide, empower, strengthen, motivate and invest in another younger brother, you open the door for that bruh to be raised by the wilderness (*in our words, the BLOODY/ROGUE or NON-FINANCIAL BROTHERS*).

It is said that a leader must do the things that others will not. In our words “The timid man fails and the resolute man prevails.” My favorite saying is “TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN MUCH IS REQUIRED.” Brother **JUST** understood the task he was given and chose to keep his head and place no barriers in front of these three young men.

Brothers, **WE ARE ONE** body with multiple moving parts and no bar divides us. We are the epitome of what elite not only is but what it looks like. We must operate in such manner and not deviate but instead continue to inspire, empower, exceed, and excel. And in doing so, we will continue to do thy duty to uplift Omega and serve the community.

Thank you, my Brothers!

A Reminder!!

“Believing that men of like attainment and of the same ideals of fellowship, scholarship and highest manhood should bind themselves together in order to approach these ideals, we have banded ourselves together under the names, Omega Psi Phi upon the ideals of the Fraternity.” *

~~ Bishop Edgar A. Love – on the Purpose of Omega ~~

**A Quote Taken from the Book, 50+ Omega Inspired Years: Tracing an Omega Legacy to 1931,
By Brother Rohulamin Quander, who quoted from the original Constitution*

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... Child Support ...

Men of Omega, as we gather for the 81st Grand Conclave, the time is right to rededicate ourselves to the proposition that Manhood, as our first Cardinal Principle, MUST recognize, as a central tenet, Fatherhood, by extension, Mentoring.



**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**

From the moment a child is conceived, the father of that child is pivotal in the trajectory of that child's life. The question becomes *"what will be the direction of that trajectory...upward to a life of great promise or downward to an unfulfilled and lacking existence?"*

The immutable truth is, children need their fathers to be engaged, informed, concerned, capable, sane, and sober. And they need their fathers to always have at the forefront of their thoughts, the best interests of their lives.

To the idea of being informed, fathers need to have a working knowledge of their rights and responsibilities, under the law.

Knowledge gets fathers closer to positive results versus nullifying frustration. Accordingly, our children benefit, our families thrive, our communities grow, and our world becomes a better place to live. This column has been and will continue to be dedicated to providing insight into the legal aspects of effective Fatherhood. The simple truth is that such knowledge is vital, in the 21st century, to helping men be engaged and available fathers.

All over this country, and throughout the world, Omega continues to make its mark, in every field of endeavor. Omega has rightly assumed a leadership role as an advocate for effective Fathering and Mentoring. Let us redouble our efforts to be better men and fathers for the children of our communities. Their lives depend on our doing so!

~~~ FIETTS ~~~

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**"children need their  
fathers to be engaged,  
informed, concerned,  
capable, sane, and sober."**

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### **And now, back to our discussion of Child Custody!!! April 2018**

**Brothers**, I hope your first quarter of the year has gone well for 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 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 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!**

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**“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.”**

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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 role, disagreements about court orders can become doable.

Keep good records of what you spend on your child outside of the court ordered support. 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.\***

*\*Brother Pittman is Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman for the 10<sup>th</sup> District*

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**1. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; 3. As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing,  
even life for evermore.**

**Psalm 133:1-3**

**Ω See the website for Tools and Tips: [www.omegafandm.org](http://www.omegafandm.org) Ω**



## **Study Confirms: Experience of Black Male Doctoral Students Show Need to Increase Diversity in STEM Fields**

**Salt Lake City, UT, April 12, 2018** – The danger and risk of riding out a storm is symbolic of the decision black men make to pursue a graduate degree in engineering. They do so knowing they will face challenges, but the barriers described by black men who shared their experiences as part of a six-year study show how race was a greater obstacle than they expected.

Brian Burt lead author and an assistant professor in Iowa State University's School of Education and co-authors Krystal Williams, University of Alabama and **William Smith**, University of Utah, interviewed 21 black men pursuing engineering graduate degrees at a research university.

Several common themes detailed structural racism within the university, which led to unfair treatment, unwelcoming environments or isolation and unnecessary strain on black graduate students. These factors significantly affect a student's ability to succeed, Burt said.



**Bro. Dr. William Smith, Basileus, Iota Iota Iota Chapter, University of Utah**

**"As a black man in engineering ... I am forced to ... look outside of my comfort zone ... to find people who I can study with ..."**

"There's an assumption that students drop out of an engineering program because they couldn't cut it. That the problem is an individual flaw," Burt said. "Our research shows the main challenges these students faced were beyond their control. They were systemic, structural, historic and rooted in a legacy of science that is counterproductive for broadening student participation in STEM."

Students in the study were strong academically as evidenced by collective high school (3.66) and college (3.58) GPAs. Black male graduate enrollment across the university was less than 2 percent during the study. A majority of the study participants had parents who went to college, including four with mothers and three with fathers who had doctorates.

The paper, published in the American Educational Research Journal, includes portions of student interviews that describe what it meant to be one of a few or the only black student in class.

"People are naturally going to want to be around people who look like them," Marcus, a third-year Ph.D. candidate in mechanical engineering, told researchers. "As a black man in engineering, I don't have that camaraderie. So, I am forced to immediately look outside of my comfort zone in order to find people who I can study with, talk with and have overall support."

Some students told researchers they considered leaving their program because of the negativity they faced. Many said they received discouraging messages from their advisers that ranged from passive-aggressive to explicit challenges regarding their ability to perform doctoral-level work. The ripple effect of these actions can affect generations, said Williams.

"If negative experiences cause black men to leave doctoral engineering programs, that hurts national efforts to broaden participation in these fields," Williams said. "It limits the number of black faculty who will train the next generation of engineers and diversify the future pool of researchers and scientists. It also has implications for national security, innovation and technological advancements because different perspectives may be excluded." **See full report at:** <https://stem.utah.gov/2018/04/13/study-experience-of-black-doctoral-students-shows-need-to-increase-diversity-in-stem-fields/>

## THE DISTRICTS



Brother Dr. Carter G. Woodson

**“If we can finally succeed in translating the idea of leadership into that of service, we may soon find it possible to lift the Negro to a higher level.**

**“Under leadership we have come into the ghetto; by service within the ranks we may work our way out of it.**

**“Under leadership we have been constrained to do the biddings of others; by service we may work out a program in the light of our own circumstances.**

**“Under leadership we have become poverty-stricken; by service we may teach the masses how to earn a living honestly.**

**“Under leadership we have been made to despise our own possibilities and to develop into parasites; by service we may prove sufficient unto the task of self-development and contribute our part to modern culture.”**

*From the book, The Mis-Education of the Negro, by Brother Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, circa 1933; known to many as Father of the Formal Study of African American History*

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### 1<sup>st</sup> District - Brother Anthony Lilly, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman

**Daddy Daughter Dinner! Chestnut Hill, MA** – Brothers of Iota Chi Chapter hosted The Daddy/Daughter Dinner at Del Friscos Restaurant on June 10, 2018. The brothers hosted family members, friends and guests that are fathers with their daughters from Boston and surrounding areas. This was a great effort and success to organize and have the fathers from the surrounding communities attend this event. Brothers and their daughters were well dressed as they dined with their daughters as a Pre-Father’s Day celebration. Brothers look forward to hosting this event next year.





## **Tau Iota Chapter: Celebration of Fatherhood Cookout**

**Hartford, CT** – Tau Iota Chapter hosted its annual Celebration of Fatherhood Cookout on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>. The event was held at the Pond House at Keney Park, a central location where the community could come out to celebrate with the brothers and acknowledge the work we do throughout the year. Brothers and their families along with youth participants from our mentoring programs, all celebrated the great weather, food and music throughout the day. Brothers stepped, played cards/domino's and fished with their families.

A large crowd of people from the surrounding community who wanted to know what was happening in the park with so many Black men in attendance were attracted to the event. After learning more about why we were there, the brothers welcomed them to participate with a plate of food and fellowship. It was a great day to celebrate Black Fatherhood.

Tau Iota host its annual celebration, to celebrate Black Men in the community and change the narrative of black fathers. Through several of its programs, Tau Iota has positioned itself as a leading advocate of Fatherhood initiatives and Men's health in the Greater Hartford area.



**"Brothers at Keney Park, a central location where the community could come out to celebrate and acknowledge the work we do throughout the year."**

### **"Consequential" Thinking By Brother Reggie Perry Iota Chi Chapter**

**Cambridge, MA** – On June 24<sup>th</sup> the Brunch & Ball teens were visited by Bro. Gary "Gee" Murray from Albany, NY who works for Glenmont Job Corps as a Career Preparation Period Instructor. Bro. Murray opened up his discussion by respectfully asking the teens to turn off or put away their phones. He explained that he drove 2 hours and 44 minutes and the least they could do for him was pay him the courtesy of their attention for the next few minutes.

Bro. Murray opened up by asking the 13 teens, "What is *Consequential Thinking*?" The group didn't have an answer so Bro. Murray followed up with, "What is your favorite 'whip'?"

Eli, one of the attendants, responded by saying a "Lambo". Bro Murray painted the story of Eli driving the Lambo, stopping and picking up one of his boys, and as they cruise – the passenger shares the story of needing to "get back" at some homies who got him. Now that the ride has turned into looking for the "get back" that Eli is no longer driving the whip because he's let his boy's drama take over the situation, and now the passenger's situation is driving the whip. He asked Eli was he ready for that headache? Pressing the point that the situation will only end with a death or a trip to the hospital.





Bro. Murray asked the teens for their “plan” and that being in high school is an investment in their future, an investment in who they should be or who they can be. Bro. Murray ended the discussion by reiterating that they need to have a plan. He recited that old adage: *“You can Plan to Fail or Fail to Plan!”* and that they are more likely to be struck by lightning than to make it to the NBA. Upon further research, we learned that 54 people were drafted to the NBA while 24,000 were struck by lightning – thus, *Consequential Thinking!!*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> District - Brother David Williams, II, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman

**NY, NJ, DE, PA and MD** – The 2nd District wishes Happy Father's Day to the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Fathers around the world. Although Fatherhood can be challenging at times, I declare it is the most “rewarding and gratifying” experience you will ever have as a man. My friends don’t you dare underestimate the impact you make in the lives of your children and one's that cross your path.

We celebrate and honor you for being the GPS (**Great Positioning System**) for Sons and setting the tone for your family and modeling excellence to a new generation. To stepfathers, uncles, next-door-neighbors, Godfathers, teachers, coaches, male spirits that continue to make a difference in young people lives, thank you so much for standing in the gap in your community to help children grow and glow into healthy young people.

**We asked for brothers to share their Fatherhood reflections and here are a few: Brother Harrison (32 Years-old, Father of two):** The one thing we can never get back is TIME! Fathers, never take for granted any second that you are able to spend with your Child(ren). As men, we have to understand how powerful a positive presence in the household is for our children. They are watching our every move and listening to our every word. The change needed in our world truly does start at home. So, I want to thank those fathers, stepfathers, and father figures who have sacrificed the own fun, dreams, money, and free time, to ensure their children could live a life that we could only dream of when we were growing up. And for those fathers that are not handling your business, all I can do is pray for you. You are missing one of the greatest joys in life – Fatherhood! HAPPY FATHER’S DAY TO ALL. #Nodaysoff #365daysperyear

**Downey II, Ph.D. (34 Years-old, first child):** Fatherhood has been awesome and very rewarding. It’s something I get up for every day and I wouldn’t trade it for the world. Since the birth of my son four years ago on Father’s Day 2014, I am anxious to wake up every morning to a new day to see what new things, new look, new sounds, new movement my son is doing. I really look forward to coming home after a long day of work to seeing him and my wife! I cannot wait to create ever-lasting memories with him. I love being a Husband and Father. Fatherhood is the way to go!

**Brother Onokpise (33 Years-old, first child):** Fatherhood can be challenging, frustrating, and downright hard sometimes. But when baby girl looks over, gives me that special smile with her mouth half full of teeth, and laughs while dancing around...it makes it all worth it!

**Key Message:** Let's be intentional about celebrating and encouraging our brothers and other men to be actively involved and engaged in their children's activities and healthy development. Don't you dare underestimate the impact you make in the lives of your children and community. At the end of the day a child wants his/her father. He or she wants to know about you and what you like or dislike. You must be there in your children's lives.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> District – Brother Raymond Bell, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman

#### **Omega U Program, Pi Lambda Lambda: Celebrating Brother Dr. George M. Hampton's 90 Years of Grace Submitted by Brother Albert Woods**



**Dr. George M. Hampton**

**Dumfries, VA** – The Omega U Program for Pi Lambda Lambda (PLL) of Omega Psi Phi Inc. from Dumfries Virginia hosted an assembly and cookout for the entire 8th grade student body, faculty, and administrators on June 7th, 2018 in honor of Bro. Dr. George M. Hampton 90th birthday at Hampton Middle School Woodbridge, VA.

The assembly included a talented panel of recent college graduates. Bro. Jose Gonzalez (Virginia State), Taylor Williams (University of Maryland), Donald Jones (Georgetown), and Carmen Sanchez (Howard) conducted an inspiring conversation and dialogue to 380 students of Hampton Middle School on students taking accountability



for their education, protect what they are earning, and giving back to the community as they progress through life to the future generations. with Bro. Dr. Hampton was in attendance for the panel discussion and was a participant. The assembly was engaging and interactive with students asking questions and the panel members going into the crowd to meet and greet students with questions and answers.

Students of Hampton Middle were immediately able to interact, listen, and relate to the diverse panel of recent college graduates and young adults about the challenges and fun of high school on what to expect with preparation. Donald Jones Jr., graduated from Hylton HS, JMU (Bachelors), and Georgetown University (Masters); Carmen Sanchez graduated from Hylton HS and Howard University while playing on an athletic scholarship; Taylor Williams graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic HS and received her Associates Degree one day prior to graduating from HS and went on to graduate from University of Maryland; Bro. Jose Gonzalez graduate from Woodbridge HS and went on to graduate from The Virginia State University with his Bachelor's degree in Finance. The Omega U program of PLL sponsored and facilitated cooking out for the entire 8th grade class of Hampton Middle School, faculty, administrators, and staff of 450 participants.



The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. – Colonel Fritz McNair and his Princess Faith.  
Submitted by Brother Albert Woods



Colonel McNair said, “I was stationed at the Pentagon. My inspiration and thoughts were three-fold:

- Whether stationed at home or abroad, life, work deployments, and many other things can prevent us from spending precious moments with our kids. We can't worry about missed days in the past or in the future, we can only cherish today's moments.
- I've also learned from elders, family members, and watching my daughter, Faith, grow that kids really grow up fast. So, my wife and I try to cherish each day with Faith since **tomorrow she'll be a little bit older and tea party opportunities may be lost.**
- Our most important inspiration comes from Psalms 127:3, Children are a heritage from the Lord, our offspring a reward from him.”

**The Great Question: How do we measure success when fulfilling  
the values proposition of the Founders?**

See the Website:

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

**We Care, Stay Woke, We Vote!**



**Project S.T.R.I.D.E.**  
**(Supervising, Training, Relating Ideals, Developing Excellence)**  
Submitted by Brother Robert Mitchell



**Rochester, New York** – For twenty-five years, the 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 the Rochester Community's youth.



**Brothers of Theta Omicron Chapter in conjunction with Theta Omicron Scholarship Foundation making it happen for our youth, parents and staff at School #4 in Rochester.**



**Cincinnati, OH – June 17, 2018** – The Brothers of Beta Iota Chapter demonstrated their commitment to the community and the celebration of fatherhood by volunteering at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fatherhood Community Celebration. For the past six years, the Talbert House has hosted this free event for dads and families to enjoy a day of games, entertainment, arts & crafts, food & beverages, live music, sports activities, and more.

Talbert House is one of Cincinnati's leading advocates for promoting fatherhood. They have supported Beta Iota's fatherhood efforts every year, and we are happy to be able to support them. The Talbert House Fatherhood Project is funded in part by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati and assists men in their efforts to become responsible, committed, and nurturing fathers for their children.

Beta Iota provided volunteers to man the food station where they grilled hot dogs, chicken, and burgers for the hungry crowd. The hot weather didn't keep the crowds away, and the Brothers of Beta Iota persevered through the heat to make sure that everyone was well fed. It was a great event, and we're looking forward to serving again next year!

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**Theta Psi, West Virginia State University,  
Boys to Men "Que Talks"  
Bobby Robinson, Assistant Editor to Oracle**

**Institute, WV - April 27, 2018** – Theta Psi Chapter has hosted Que Talks for over 20 years. These forums have consisted of a host of subjects including but not limited to: domestic violence, respect of womanhood, study skills, serving your community, how to interact with police, goal setting, and successful living.

The Boys to Men Que Talks was inspired when the Brothers of Theta Psi observed many college aged men were still behaving in childlike ways. Since Theta Psi has always been the thermometer on West Virginia State University Campus, they knew it was time to regulate the temperature in growing the young men from adolescents to men as relating to their behavior. The awesomeness of Theta Psi is their alumni Brothers who are always available to assist in any way needed, and this Que Talks needed added reinforcement. Hence, multiple Brothers from the Theta Psi Alumni Association returned to the campus for the weekend of Omega Week and participated in the Boys to Men Que Talks.

Discussions surrounding studies, grades, social interactions, attire, and responsibility were presented. The success strategies were well received and the question and answer period evidenced an engaged event. Following the event, some of the young men (in varying ways) stated this was the kind of direct interaction they had been needing.





### **“THE QUE TALK”**

The whole week was wonderful, as it was Theta Psi Chapter’s Omega Week.

- Sunday – the Chapter invited the students to attend church with them
- Monday – the Chapter hosted a Meet the Men of Omega during traditional Manhood Monday
- Tuesday – the Chapter planned a Town Hall regarding prescription drug costs
- Wednesday – the Chapter hosted “Are You Smarter Than a Que” (like the gameshow)
- Thursday – the Chapter organized a Dodgeball Tournament
- Friday – the Chapter organized a Flag Football Tournament and Campus Cookout; then later that evening was the Boys to Men Que Talks
- Saturday – the Chapter culminated the week with a dance/party

West Virginia State University was the bettered because Theta Psi prepared a phenomenal week of fun and service. Oh, and by the way, Theta Psi came in second place in dodge ball, and won flag football! Theta Psi continually demonstrates “Our Strong Bonds.”

### **Eta Gamma, Experiencing Joy Through Service: Central State University, Frank Barber, Editor to Oracle**

**Wilberforce, Ohio – June 15, 2018** – Eta Gamma Chapter was reactivated this spring with 12 new members. These talented young men, give of their time to volunteer in mentoring young men from the surrounding area.

On June 15, 2018, the Brothers of Eta Gamma had the pleasure to enlighten a youth group about someone near and dear to all Omega Men. The Brothers of Eta Gamma took a group on a tour of the Colonel Charles Young Home and shared multiple details of the significance of this history.

The youth had a great time, learned a lot, and felt significant knowing that history was established by someone from the area where they live. The National Parks Service owns and maintains the historic homes of Brothers Colonel Charles Young and Dr. Carter G. Woodson. National Parks Service has been a wonderful partner and sponsor of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It allows Omegas to utilize these respective homes for various mentoring group tours.





## **Fathers, Football & Futures in the Fourth!**

### **Bro. Jerry Leftwich, Chair**

**Cincinnati, OH** –Local students from East Community Learning Center interacted with Omega men attending the 77<sup>th</sup> Fourth District Meeting, April 5, 2018, as guests of the host Chapters XI Chi & Beta Beta. The 4<sup>th</sup> District Representative Bro. Bobby Robinson, welcomed students and introduced a group of distinguished Brothers from the Fourth District. Brothers who are Fathers, Mentors, and Educators took turns sharing their life experiences and provided encouragement to the attending students. Brother Vyrone Finney, school Principal provided leadership for the students and made it possible for them to attend this lunch and learn session. XI Chi Chapter mentors at East Community Learning Center monthly and ensures that Omega's presence and impact is felt in the lives of youth in the Akron area.



**Brothers and Youth at the 77th Fourth District Meeting**



**NFL Brother Isaiah Williams (pictured above) Beta Beta Chapter**

***“They do more than run, catch, dribble and shoot, block and tackle; they carry the load!!”***

Most of the young men voiced that they were athletes, so the host chapter provided a special guest to speak to the students. Brother Isaiah Williams from Beta Beta Chapter who happens to be a Guard with the Indianapolis Colts spoke to the 30-plus students about the realities of the desire to play professional sports, academics, and developing a work ethic.



**Black2Life NPO and Theta Omega Chapter Shop for Children's Books**

**Louisville, KY, April 14, 2018** – Black2Life, a local non-profit organization sponsored a children's book give away. Theta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., assisted with this community service endeavor. Brother Greg Blount, Basileus of Theta Omega was impressed with the turnout for the event. He said, "the event was an overwhelming success." Brothers Michael Calvert (Black Shirt), Doug Willis & Oliver Williams represented Theta Omega Chapter. Brother Calvert lead the book give-away at Kroger's groceries in the city's west end. More than 100 books were distributed.



**Fishing with Fathers**

**Memphis, TN** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fishing with our Fathers Event, hosted by Brothers of Sigma Lambda Lambda Chapter occurred on Father's Day Weekend Saturday June 16, 2018 in Germantown. Fathers, both biological and surrogates, empowered their families by giving the gift of time. "The best gift to give your children is time. We can purchase Play Stations, Air Jordan's, clothes and more," said Brother Oliver Williams. However, "the gift with a shelf life that does not expire is experience," he added. Brother Williams asserted that the 5<sup>th</sup> District, will continue to strengthen this work with an emphasis on adverse childhood experiences and trauma-related



approaches. Whether it is an assault on literacy or changing the narrative by fishing, “Our goal,” said Williams, “is to improve the lives of our children – one at a time.”



**6<sup>th</sup> District, Brother Melvin Williams, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman**



**Charlotte, NC** – Brother Thabiti Boone was a guest of Charlotte’s annual Father’s Day event hosted by Fathers United, a City-wide Fatherhood Initiative providing Child Custody, Parenting Skills, Parental Rights, Employment for Fathers. The event had exciting workshops, food, Father/Child activities.

**The Great Question: How do we measure success when fulfilling the values proposition of the Founders?**

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## State of Georgia: Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Provide help to Fathers & Children

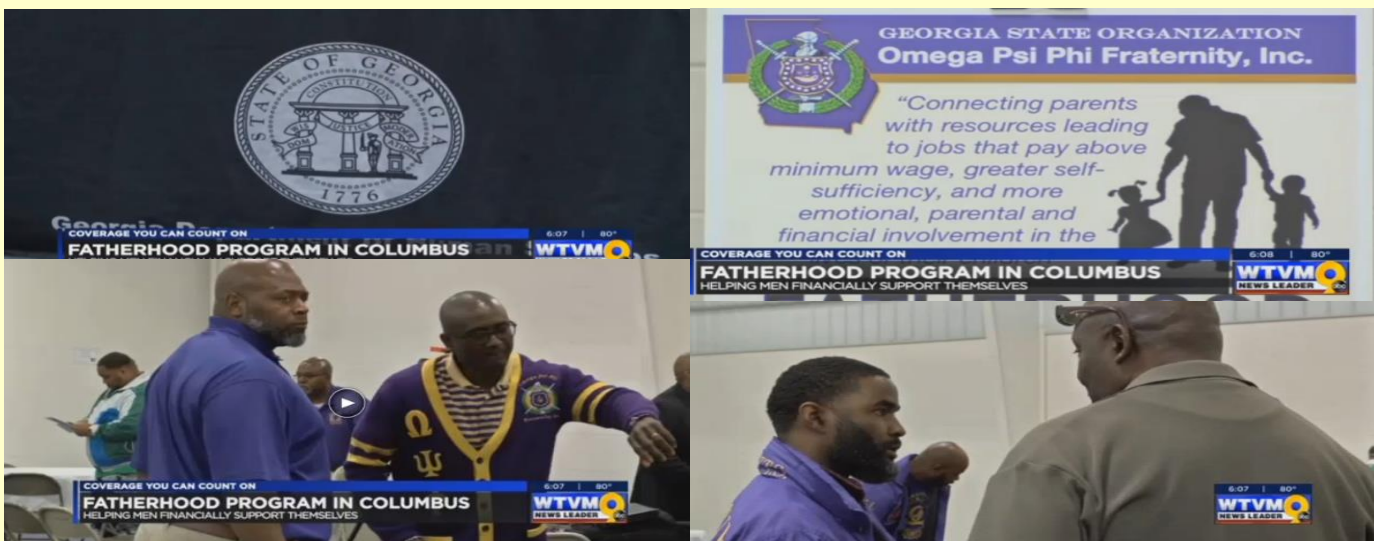
**Columbus, GA** – On March 17<sup>th</sup> at around 5:33 pm EDT, Jose Zozaya, News Anchor and Reporter for WTVM reported on what was described as “the first of many conversations leaders with Omega Psi Phi fraternity hope to share with fathers across town.” It is from that report (WTVM) we offer this story:

Dozens of men shared information and insight on the kind of help Georgia's Department of Human Services can provide through its Fatherhood Program, which has been part of DHS' outreach for 12 years. Part of this effort, for Marvin Broadwater, Sr., the fraternity's Georgia representative, is to counter any rumors or fears the men may have against an agency that handles and monitors child support payments.

"It's in their minds," Broadwater said, "that it exists because 20 years ago, the Department of Human Services was different." John Hurst, DHS's deputy director for child support services, said the agency has followed a federal lead to change the way they operate and bring non-custodial fathers into the conversation. "Over the last several years, the [federal agencies have] been moving away from enforcement and more to services. Georgia again is out in front of that," Hurst said.

The services offered through the Fatherhood program include possible child support modifications, depending on the father's financial situation. That client will have a case manager to help them with financial issues, as well as help them find job training and placement. "I'm actually gaining two things at one time," said Rico Morrison, who attended Saturday's "Fatherhood Conversation" at Canaan Baptist Church.

"Independence, [and] getting to see my child again; that's the main focus I have." In addition, the Fatherhood program can help men, like Morrison, with suspended driving licenses reinstate them, and ensure clients can get to the jobs they want. This, Hurst said, is a partnership both the agency and the fraternity want to grow; to bring non-custodial fathers into the discussion of helping themselves and their children succeed. "We really appreciate [Omega Psi Phi's] effort in bringing the audience to us and reaching out to them and helping us get our message out there so we can help people."///



## **Daddy Daughter Dance**

### **Brother Marc Styles, Chapter Editor**

**ATLANTA, GA.** – On March 3, 2018, the brothers of Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter held their first Annual Daddy Daughter Dance, with the chosen theme, “A Father’s Most Precious Pearl”, on the campus of the Atlanta Metropolitan College. “We are always doing things for our sons and young boys within our communities, so we decided to switch things up a bit and do something for our daughters and nieces”, said Brother Tony Alexander, the Committee Chairman of the event.



Each young lady was announced and escorted by the gentleman that brought them down a purple carpet and at the end of it they received a tiara which brought smiles to their faces.



A Social Media Booth was available for everyone to post pictures on their site. The candy filled table with “To Go” bags was also a big hit.

There was a first-class meal served, and after that a Daddy-Daughter dance contest was held, which had everyone cheering on the next couple. Awards also went to the dad with the “Most Look Alike” couple, the dad with the “Youngest Daughter”, and the dad with the “Oldest Daughter”. Everyone received a free framed photograph as they entered the event. A great time was had by everyone in attendance and were already planning on attending the event next year. Brother Henry Porter, serenaded the ladies with the Omega Sweetheart Song to end the event.

## **State of Florida: Omega Lamplighters on The Rock Ranch**

### **Chi Omega Chapter**

**Tallahassee, FL** – Brothers of the Chi Omega Chapter and Omega Lamplighters of Tallahassee shared and enjoyed a special visit to the Steve Harvey Mentoring Camp sponsored by the Steve & Marjorie Harvey Foundation. Brother Tony Knox Jr., Grand Basileus took in a moment to reflect and reconfirmed Omega’s commitment to youth mentorship.





## The Honor Roll Eta Nu Chapter

**Pompano, Florida** – The Brothers of the Eta Nu Chapter celebrated the achievements of mentees at their end of the year awards and rites of passage ceremony. Special thanks were giving to parents in trusting the Brothers serve as mentors to provide guidance and educational development.

100% of students were promoted to the next grade level.

100% of seniors graduated from high school.

100% of seniors will attend college and/or armed forces.

100% of seniors received college scholarships.

60% of students earned/maintained honor roll honors



## First Annual End of Year Banquet: Another Successful Year for Lamplighters by Lamplighter Neal Williams and Bro. Dr. Charles Dukes Sigma Alpha Chapter –



**Miami, Florida** – The Lamplighters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Alpha Chapter convened with family and friends May 12, 2018 for its first annual *End of The Year Banquet*. The festivities took place at the Chapter's Omega Activity Center. The Lamplighters celebrated their accomplishments, while Brothers and Mentors, family, friends and others looked on. The Lamplighters program provides mentorship to young male students, as they enter into manhood and leaders. This year-round program serves more than 20 Lamplighters. They are taught essentials necessary to develop and maintain a prosperous life in modern day America. Fraternity Brothers engage, influence and mold them along their journey to become productive men of tomorrow.



Jahone Green, President and Master of Ceremonies kickstarted the evening by inviting each member to introduce themselves. Jahone received the Sigma Alpha Chapter's **Dr. Edward J. Braynon, Jr.**, Scholarship Award. This scholarship is named after the Fraternity's 30<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, for his superior academic achievement including a GPA well above 4.0 and nomination as the Miami Herald's Knight Scholar Award for Mathematics.

Shortly after introductions, Lamplighter Neal Williams, the Editor, delivered a "Purpose" speech describing the Lamplighters Mission and Vision. Next, the crowd offered quite the applause for the high energy steps led by Lamplighter Marquis Smith, who also provided a drum solo before he heads off to become a member of the Bethune Cookman University Wildcat band. More Lamplighter talent was on display when two others shared their musical talents with the audience of about 150 folks. Lamplighter Kelvin Washington recited two original poems, "Why do we cry" and "Death", which spoke about the realities of life on the streets in the city of Miami, which includes gun violence and other harsh circumstances.

The speaker for the event, Brother Major Tim Belcher of the North Miami Police Department, delivered an inspirational speech about Friendship, one of the cornerstones of the Fraternity, while also encouraging the young male students to have focus and purpose. He reflected on his past experiences from high school to present to have some impact on the male students who were placed in front of him in a semi-circle.

Following a hearty meal and some light music, the Lamplighter's Vice-President, Kavon Aponte, brought the banquet to a close with a "Thank You" to all families and a special acknowledgment to all the moms for Mothers' Day. This inaugural event was a great experience for all, allowing us to celebrate our past-accomplishments and get energized for more achievements in the future.

## State of Alabama: Omega Lamplighters Induction

**Birmingham, AL** – Brothers, parents and friends gathered for the 2018 Lamplighter Induction Ceremony in Metropolitan Birmingham. The new induction class consisted of young men from 12-18 years of age. Omega Lamplighters Youth Leadership Development Program empower male youths to further develop as young productive adults. Providing group mentoring, life skills and educational guidance.



## State of Mississippi: Supporting Strong Families



*Photo (left to right): Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Mississippi State Representative Alvin Jackson, HUD Public Housing Specialist and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman Terrance Course, HUD Mississippi Public Housing Director Sheila Jackson, Mississippi Field Office Director Jerrie Magruder, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Canton Chapter Basileus Creston Burse and Canton Mayor and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity member William Truly, Jr.*

**Canton, MS** – Earlier this month, the Canton Housing Authority (CHA) hosted its first HUD Strong Families observance with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Nearly 200 CHA residents enjoyed a day of fellowship and fun in honor of Mother's and Father's Day. HUD Strong Families observances aim to connect parents with financial literacy, health, and social services in a fun, enriching environment. CHA Executive Director Stan Beasley said the agency was thrilled to be able to support this event. "This is just one of the many outreach efforts that we offer to help residents access services they may need to overcome barriers to employment, strengthen their financial capability, and address other challenges holding them back from achieving their goals," said Beasley. "We offer programs such as financial coaching, GED preparation, nutrition and budgeting classes just to name a few. We want all of our residents to have the opportunity to achieve their goals."

### 8<sup>th</sup> District, Brother Skyler Johnson, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman



### Beta Upsilon Chapter

**Omaha, NE** – By and large politics is a messy creature. Between the 24-hour news cycle (often bias), there's a lot of noise that has to be weeded through. And that doesn't even include local races. Within all that noise, you have something that plagues voters in general, a lack of education.

It's why the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. made it a point to spearhead an effort to educate voters as midterm elections draw closer. It was through

a conversation that the Vice-Basileus of the Chapter, Bro. Barry Thomas had with other Divine 9 members, including Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Phi Beta Sigma and community leaders (including Black



Votes Matter, spearheaded by Preston Love who spearheaded Bro. Jesse Jackson's Presidential aspirations in 1984), that the idea for the North Omaha Political Convention (NOPC) was born.

The idea behind the convention is what if this collaboration could get together those running for local, state and national office where they could speak directly to the people about the platforms they're running on. And also, what if you could have attendees have the opportunity to register to vote, learn how to register and when ballots are due. This all falls in line with Omega's Social Action mandate of voter registration.

Voters and potential voters heard from a myriad of candidates who the collaboration reached out to. These candidates represented the entire political spectrum from Democrat, Republican, Libertarian and Green Party. Candidates had a time limit to say who they are, their platform and most importantly, how they could help the North Omaha community. Attendees submitted questions to candidates as well to hear straight from the horse's mouth in regards to various stances.

But Beta Upsilon wasn't satisfied with registration efforts. We wanted the North Omaha community to be educated on bills coming up in the Nebraska Legislature as well as how lines are drawn in voting districts in regard to those who are incarcerated in the Nebraska prison system. This was done before candidates spoke and opened up attendee's eyes to what is going on in the state capitol of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The NOPC proved to be a success with an attendance of more than 250 people. One of the those who spoke at the convention beat a popular democratic incumbent and will not face a GOP Congressman for his seat in office this November.

Our efforts continue as the road to November Mid-Terms moves on.

## **Omicron Xi Chapter Kansas City, Kansas**

### **Sons of Success Mentoring Program**

**Kansas City, KS** – The Omicron Xi Sons of Success Mentoring Program (SOS) is implemented during the academic school year in partnership with the Urban Ranger Corps of Kansas City, Missouri. The Urban Ranger Corp identifies 12 to 18-year-old African American males in middle and high school, to participate in the mentoring program on an annual basis.

The SOS mentoring program is designed to facilitate middle and high school Urban Rangers to engage in self-disclosure in a safe environment. The young men are exposed to successful strategies that will enable them to make effective decisions and improve upon their personal growth. The participating mentees are afforded the opportunity to share with their fellow mentees personal experiences relevant to the obstacles they face. The mentors' listen carefully to the mentees' concerns and offer practical approaches to overcome their obstacle (s).

The mentees' meet with the Omicron Xi mentors for a 90-minute session. A curriculum entitled "overcoming obstacles: life skill education" is used to stimulate critical thinking skills and mentee interaction. The mentoring sessions occur monthly on the second Saturday of each month for high school Rangers and every fourth Saturday of the month for middle school Rangers. The SOS Mentoring program has proven to be very effective and instrumental in providing encouragement and guidance to young African American males. Currently more than 63 Rangers will participate in the 2017-2018 Sons of Success (SOS) Mentoring Program.



**SOS Mentoring Program MS Rangers**



**SOS Mentoring Program HS Rangers**

## **Brother Skyler Johnson** **Keynote Speaker for Urban League Scholars Reception**

**Omaha, NE** – On May 2, 2018, Brother Skyler Johnson was afforded the great opportunity to serve as the keynote speaker for the Urban League of Nebraska's Scholarship Reception, which was sponsored by American National Bank. This scholarship event, held annually, is held in order to recognize the scholarship recipients from high schools throughout the Omaha/Metropolitan area.

This year, over 35 graduating seniors were acknowledged for their hard work and dedication to their academics and various communities. The scholarships were presented by the Urban League of Nebraska; Urban League of Nebraska Guild; Urban League of Nebraska Young Professionals; Metropolitan Community College; and Aileen and Thomas Warren.

Brother Johnson began his speech by reciting "Bridge Builder" by William Allen Dromgoole. Using this poem as a starting point, Brother Johnson began discussing his life growing up and the impact that his bridge builders had on his maturation. Making evident the power of giving and the importance of lifting up the community, Brother Johnson communicated the importance of giving back no matter the level of success one might achieve.

Above all, the aim was for each of the scholarship recipients to understand that no matter their station, class, or wealth, they should never feel as though they are too good to give back to children and their community at large. Brother Johnson implored each listener to think about all of the mentors they've had that had positively impacted their lives, asking all to imagine where they might be without the support and care received from those special others.

At the conclusion, Brother Johnson left each with a simple charge: be the change-maker and bridge builder for others because one may never know which youth's feet may pass their way one day!

### **Project Manhood and Friends Educational Tour**

**Omaha, NE** – During this year's spring break for Omaha Public Schools, student participants of Project Manhood & Friends visited Atlanta Georgia and Birmingham Alabama as part of the Project Manhood and Friends Educational Tour. Project Manhood & Friends is sponsored by the Beta Upsilon Chapter. The Chapter is in partnership with multiple schools within the OPS District.

This partnership has been in place for almost 20 years. Over the past six years, the Chapter has applied for grants and thus far have received more than \$200,000 in support. A key objective we want our students to understand is that "Greatness is going beyond your comfort zone". Students need to understand that there is more to life than the people on their block, neighborhood and State. This is why we make sure the tour is always outside of the state of Nebraska. It is important for our future leaders to be well rounded. Project Manhood & Friends teaches young men and women various principles that will guide them through adolescence to Manhood & Womanhood. These principles ensure that they are productive citizens in through the next millennium.

**College Visits** – One of Project Manhood's goals is to educate our youth by exposing them to realistic possibilities of receiving a college education. During the Atlanta educational tour, students visited Morehouse, Clark and Spellman. These HBCU's share the commitment by continuing its rich tradition of developing leaders and enhancing the intellectual, social and economic condition of its student body. During the tour, the students were strongly encouraged to focus on good grades now because of the impact it will have in the future.



**Brother Skyler Johnson**  
**Lewis and Clark Middle School**  
**Omaha, NE**





## **Fatherhood from An Undergraduate Standpoint**

By Davasia Deandre Jones

Immediate Past 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Ninth District DR

UG Representative to the Supreme Council

**Hammond, LA** – I was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. on April 6, 2013. This was one of the greatest accomplishments of my life. Not knowing 17 months later, that I would receive one of the greatest gifts and blessings that God can ever give to anyone, I was blessed with the gift of a child.

On Friday September 19, 2014 (*the day the Grand Basileus announced that the moratorium was lifted*), at 11:27 p.m., my soul was lifted when Davasia Deandre Jones II was born weighting 8-lbs 3 ounces at 21 inches. Prior to his birth and following, I have had doubts about raising him, but the brotherhood has extended more than the right hand of friendship.

Many graduate and undergraduate brothers that are fathers have really shown me the meaning of “*duty of one brother to another*” by encouraging me mentally, physically, spiritually, and financially. Some brothers I have known for short periods of time and some for years, yet we share a common interest. Brothers have shown up to birthday parties, baby showers, and have been available for many late-night calls when I just needed to talk to a friend about being a father. During the 2014 Grand Conclave I met some brothers from the Phi Iota Iota Chapter, we fellowshipped the weekend and talked about me becoming a father. Those four brothers showed up at my son’s baby shower.

I’m just thankful to be part of a great brotherhood that mentors Undergraduates to prevent them from being young fathers, but if they do have children they talk to us about how to be great fathers. The relationships I have made with brothers have helped me give advice to undergraduate brothers that are fathers in times of need.

**Long Live the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.!!!!**

## **The O.M.E.G.A. Academy Tau Kappa Kappa**

**Southfield, MI** – The O.M.E.G.A. Academy (One Man Eager to Get Ahead) is a male mentor program designed to provide guidance and support for middle school-age students in the Southfield Community. The purpose of the O.M.E.G.A. Academy is to provide uplift to African American male youth through the expectation of scholarly excellence and leadership development. The O.M.E.G.A. Academy is devoted to the total development of African American males as they transition from adolescents to men. This initiative is a partnership between Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Tau Kappa Kappa Chapter), the Boys and Girls Club at the Field Zone, and our male student participants and their parents. Mentors and mentees gather at weekly meetings to participate in scheduled mentoring sessions. These sessions take place on **Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** throughout the school year (first week of October thru the last week of May).

Mentoring topics include: Bonding Activities, Introduction to Manhood, Character Development, to kneel or stand, Police Brutality and Criminal Justice Reform, Male Responsibility, Academic Success, Financial Literacy, Health Education, Public Speaking, Black History: What is Kwanzaa, Career Identification/Job Skills Training, Anger Management, Dealing with Depression, Problem Solving/Decision Making, The “N” Word, School-to-Prison Pipeline, Leadership Development. In addition to weekly mentoring sessions, our program includes monthly outings/activities, community service projects, and fundraising events.



**Planning Session with our Mentees**



**Volunteering at Children's Center**



**End of Year Camping Trip**



**End of Year Ceremony**

Jay B. Marks, PhD  
School Quality Consultant, Oakland Schools

## Project Manhood



**East St. Louis, IL** – The Brothers of **Nu Chi Foundation** (NCF) celebrated another successful year of giving back to the East St. Louis community. Their premier mentorship program, Project Manhood was the centerpiece of fatherhood and mentoring while carrying out the program's mission to develop, promote, and support the betterment of African American male youth through *otherfathering* – the act of caring for young males as if they are our own sons.

The program is in demand since nearly 60 percent of our mentees live in single-parent, mother-led homes. Mothers, as well as some fathers, seek the services of Project Manhood mentors to assist in grooming their sons, ages 8 to 18 years, to become responsible and successful adult men. The program has had an impact on Project Manhood mentees over the past five years with all seniors having graduated high school, and either gone on to attend college or joined the military. This year, the NCF partnered with the **Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House**, a faith-based nonprofit that provides services to address the needs of youth and families. In the inset photo, The Honorable Judge Walter Brandon is sharing his experience as a St. Clair County (IL) juvenile court judge.



The 2017-2018 season, was kicked off by The Honorable Bro. Gregory Pittman who visited the mentees to share an enlightening educational perspective on the juvenile judicial system. He discussed the juvenile court process and his experience as a judge working with youth. His insightful words were encouraging to mentees who are striving for excellence.



East St. Louis City Councilman Robert Eastern III, gave an impassioned presentation on the importance of community service in December. He shared personal stories of growing up in the city and why Project Manhood mentees have a responsibility to actively participate in the local area as well as surrounding neighborhoods including running for public office in the future. Other sessions conducted during the year included discussions on preparing for college, military service, improving your brand—a discuss of personal identity, and student resume writing, to name a few topics.

Mentors coached mentees on critical thinking and strategy through the game of chess. Central to this effort was emphasizing not only the skill involved in the game but also the development of self-confidence and sportsmanship. Project Manhood mentees hosted a chess tournament in February. Several fathers attended the event which made the event all the more enjoyable.



Mentors invited Technical Sergeant Nick Haddix from the local United States Air Force recruiting office to the March education session. He shared his expertise on military service and he explained the process to enlist in the military or be commissioned as an officer.

Mentees attended the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute's Youth Government Day at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield in April. This program educates high school and college students on the innerworkings of government policy and public service as a career. Mentees interacted with federal and state legislators, state constitutional officers, judges, lobbyists, journalists and others involved in the political process.



Each year mentees participate in the "Metro East Youth Leadership Weekend" on the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale campus. The Paul Simon Institute sponsors the program for African American young men from the Metro East St. Louis area. The program focuses on leadership development and community service, plus motivating and encouraging youth to contribute to their communities and make good choices.

NCF sponsors an annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Tour in June. This was our fourth year hosting this informative event that serves a vital role in helping our young men embrace their pursuit of higher education.



The HBCU tour provided an opportunity for mentees to share life-bonding experiences with mentees of other Omega fraternity chapters. Past participants have praised the tour as being instrumental in assisting them in their pursuit of a collegiate academic journey.





**Brother Dennis R. Martinez, 33<sup>rd</sup>  
12<sup>th</sup> District Representative**

## **To our Good Health and Happiness: Omega Men – First, Last, and Always!**

**The Mighty 12<sup>th</sup> District:** The Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., are known by many descriptors; We are fathers, sons, brothers, husbands. We are leaders in our communities, and contributors to the causes of equality and peace.

We are the epitome of nobility while not being averse to getting dirty and digging deeply into the pit to help others. We are Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. But first, last and always, we are Men of God! God has given us our life! He sustains us and comforts us. And, He has commissioned us to do that which is meaningful and right with our lives, including; building bridges, working and leading in our communities, protecting and providing for our families, preserving our heritage.

To do all these things and more, we must be healthy and well. We must be examples of health and well-being to our families, neighbors and friends. We must continue to encourage others and ourselves. We must continue to seek out opportunities to apply Omega's health initiatives in our lives and communities, such as the "Brother, You're on my Mind" Program, the Charles Drew Blood Drive and work with the American Diabetes Foundation.

It is with events like the Zeta Tau Chapter's Annual Pre-Father's Day Walk, that we, as Omega Men, live God's creed and provide ourselves and others with the opportunity to uplift our health and well-being, while enjoying a great walk on a nice day with our Friends. After all, "Friendship is Essential to the Soul", first last and always!

Thank you to the Brothers of Zeta Tau Chapter for an outstanding event and a nice walk around the Rose Bowl. A beautiful venue for a great walk and fellowship!

**In Friendship and Service,  
Bro. Dennis R. Martinez  
A Big Rose Bowl Meet-Up!**



**Brother Martinez, teeing up Annual Pre-Father's Day Walk around the Rose Bowl**

### **Zeta Tau Foundation and Zeta Tau Chapter**

**Pasadena, CA June 15, 2018** – 12<sup>th</sup> District DR Brother Dennis Martinez "tees up" Zeta Tau Chapter Brothers, fathers, families and friends before their 6<sup>th</sup> annual Pre-Father's Day walk-a-round the Rose Bowl. What has become a well-established pattern for the Chapter included brothers and dignitaries from other chapters in Southern California including Brother Kwame Dow 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative and member of Tau Tau



Chapter. Brother Martinez told the group that paying attention to our health is very important to our general well-being as family men and as leaders in our local communities. Following the “walk-a-round” Chapter coordinator of the event, Brother Harold Reese, invited the group to a cookout where his son Glen was Chef Extraordinaire.



**They walked side by side on a beautiful Saturday morning ...**



And directly after the walk, they wasted little time; they feasted and enjoyed the company of other Fathers, Families and Friends at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA. Photos by Brother Jim Wilson, Fatherhood Chairman, Zeta Tau Chapter.

### **Dawnn Lewis: Creating a new day in Los Angeles**



**University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA** – Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was there to assist Dawnn Lewis and the volunteers of “A New Day Foundation” welcome over 400 male and female high school and college students and their parents toward a path of financial and technological success.



## It's "A Different World": A New Foundation in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA, May 26, 2018 - Brothers Ronnie Walker, Tau Tau Chapter, Rodney Jones, Tau Tau Chapter and George D. Taylor, Zeta Tau Chapter were present and lending



a hand at Dawnn Lewis' first Youth Mentoring Conference held at the University of Southern California. Dawnn Lewis is an original member of cast on "A Different World" TV Show and who was the composer of the show's iconic theme song. Her message to the youth that bright day in May in Sunny Southern California was to **"Stay Focused N F.I.T. for a Different World."**

A woman of many talents and commitments, Dawnn is Founder and President of "A New Day Foundation" – a non-profit 501 (c) 3 whose mission is to provide financial and programmatic support toward the empowerment and education of underserved youth.

Dawnn Lewis' foundation provides services pro bono to assist small grassroots non-profit organizations in underserved communities.

It is often said, when you want to get something done, ask a busy person to do it. Dawnn Lewis is a busy person. She told this reporter, "while I'm exceedingly proud of my legacy being affiliated with A Different World, I'm presently working on three different projects: NBC series - This Is Us, TNT series - Major Crimes and CW series - I Zombie as well as several animated series." In other words, her portfolio is way beyond *"a different world!"*

About the New Day Foundation, Dawnn told the youth and parents who were present, "We at the **A New Day Foundation**, are committed to doing all that we can to be one of those positive forces in your life. As a child or as a parent, we want you to be empowered toward your best selves, and life's best possibilities. I'm so proud of each of you," she said, "and eternally grateful to all those that are standing with me to make today possible." Dawnn's foundation awarded several thousand dollars to high school scholars, one of whom was the mentee of Brother Ronnie Walker. See: [www.ANewDayFoundation.net](http://www.ANewDayFoundation.net).

**Remember!!!!**

**100,000 Fathers, Grandfathers, take your Sons, Grandsons, and/or Mentees to the Voting Polls!**

**Stay Woke, Vote!**



## FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE 2017-2018 – BETA MU MU

Submitted by Brother Larry Clarke

**Las Vegas, NE** - The Beta Mu Mu Chapter has pursued its Fatherhood Initiative by partnering with an existing community program called **Real Talk** - a youth intervention program. One of the hallmarks of **Real Talk** is the parent participation and attendance at the monthly meeting.



In the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2018 the Chapter participated as quest speakers. In January Brother Monty McCoy spoke about his career in the military and as a government investigator. Brother McCoy spoke about his background growing up in Chicago and his current career as an investigator. The kids asked a lot of questions and were hungry for information about what an investigator does.

**Brother Monty McCoy talks about a Career in the Military**



In February, Brother Dr. Leary Adams spoke about his career in the Air Force and as an educator in Las Vegas. Brother Adams explained how he was not a good student until he got to college where he began to flourish and later earned his PhD.

**Brother Dr. Leary Adams talks about a career in the Air Force**



**Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive**

Also, Brother Adams was speaking at the Pearson Community Center on the westside of Las Vegas; he was principal of one of the elementary schools in that community. He left the kids with many important life skills tips and the thought that they can change now, but they have to make the decision to change. Both Brothers McCoy and Adams emphasized that the decision to change is the most important choice!

In June 2018, Beta Mu Mu held a Brother Charles Drew blood drive with the Red Cross; Brothers Randy Bacon and Charles Walden conducted voter registration at the same time. The event was heavily supported by Kappa Xi Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta and Sigma Gamma Rho Sororities. There were forty (40) blood donors; twenty-four (24) pints of blood were collected.

**Remembering Dad on Father's Day**

**By**

**Brother Michael Robinson**

**Okinawa, Japan** – Father's Day is a special day set aside to honor dads, grandfathers, uncles, future dads and any man assisting in the roles of a father such as a God Father, guardian or mentor. Today, we can clearly see how vital fathers are to the success of a family. Dads are looked up to as leaders.

All of us at one point of time in our lives have forgotten to get a gift for dad on Father's Day. Instead we spend a lot of time shopping for Mom and picking up a last-minute gift for Dad. Many wives and children suggest men are hard to shop for, but Dads located all over the world deserve a special gift for all they do each day.



Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., stand with Dads from the Okinawa Community attending church service at Camp Foster Community of Faith on Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, 2018. Chaplain Jones, a member of Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter, delivered a powerful Father's Day sermon based upon Proverbs 3:4-6. He described the roles, responsibilities and relationship a father should have with his children.

**Sigma Gamma Gamma Holds 1st Annual Mother and Son Dance in Okinawa, Japan**

**By**

**Brother Michael Robinson**

**Futenma Marine Corps Air Station, Okinawa Japan** – The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter held a special event during the month of April to increase the bond of love between mothers and sons. Young men ages 3 - 18 up brought their beautiful mothers out for a special date at the Habu Pit Restaurant located on Futenma Marine Corps Air Station in Okinawa Japan. A Dance contest was held for the best Mother & Son dance team. In addition, raffle prizes were given away. The mothers present at this event enjoyed spending time with their sons and most of all just feeling special. Basileus Cortez Pree of Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter stated this was an outstanding event filled with lifetime memories.





**Young men participate in Mother & Son Dance Competition**



**SGG Basileus Cortez Pree presents opening remarks for 1st Annual Mother & Son Dance**

### **“SALUTE TO THE MILITARY CHILD’**

**By**

**Brother Ameet D. Micko, Theta Rho Vice Basileus**

**Wiesbaden, Stuttgart, Kaiserslautern and Bavaria, Germany** – On 20 April, the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Theta Rho Chapter, kicked off the Salute to the Military Child by supporting the military school community. Brothers provided their world renown BBQ skills for the annual Kaiserslautern Elementary Spring Fling. Children in the K-Town Military School Complex had a great time playing games such as the dunk tank, bouncy houses, face painting and cake walk.

The kids (and parents) worked up an appetite and sought the smell of BBQ coming from the direction of the brothers. The best of our relationship with the



community is the part where we give back. Theta Rho was donated all proceeds from the event to the Elementary School Student Council.

Theta Rho continues to provide leadership and mentorship in the respective military communities in Wiesbaden, Stuttgart, Kaiserslautern and Bavaria. They represent the largest US Military service member populations in the country. The Salute to the Military Child while stationed overseas is a salute to each other. A community full of Military children is a community full of future leaders that rely on direction and guidance from trusted men in a community that understands how to support when family members often find themselves dealing with parental absence due to their military duties. The efforts of Theta Rho, will always be there as fathers and mentors, especially in the overseas military community.

### **The Pi Xi Chapter Reading Program Initiative** **By Brother Eugene Horton**

**Nassau, Bahamas** – Pi Xi Chapter reading program continued this academic year, 2016-2017. As can be expected, the students were always thrilled to see the Brothers of Pi Xi Chapter appear at their classroom to engage them, whether donned in paraphernalia or their business attire with hints of purple and gold.

Lessons ranged from simple reading exercises to talks about our Afro-West Indian history — “*from whence we came.*” From the program’s inception, the Program Chairman, Bro. Gavin Brown, has ensured that a constant flow of brothers will uphold their commitment to the students of the Cleveland Eneas Sr. Primary School.

Before breaking for the Christmas holiday, students made certain that they were exposed to a step show. Of course, never the ones to disappoint, Pi Xi Brothers answered the call, with style and grace. As long as commitment to our future, in the form of these students is maintained, this program will continue to be a successful initiative.



**Group photo of 13<sup>th</sup> District Representative Brother Delon Brennen with staff members and students of the Cleveland Eneas Sr. Primary School**

#### **About This 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](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net) Quarterly deadlines: December 15, March 15, June 15, and September 15.**



## NOTES