



# Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

## Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring (FIM) Newsletter



Fatherhood Initiative

Youth Leadership Conferences  
*Brother, You're On My Mind! ©*

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

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**REVISED COPY!**



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FIMC and Liaison to BB/BS**  
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### A Modest Overview of Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization

**B**ig Brothers/Big Sisters organization has operated within the United States since 1904 under the belief as stated on its website, that: *inherent in every child is incredible potential*. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is an organizational Brotherhood consisting of 750 chapters in many countries world-wide. We share the belief and value system that all youth are valued and matter; we are happy to be aligned with the work of Big Brothers/Big Sisters as we continue to make a difference in the lives of our youth.

As the nation's largest donor and volunteer-supported mentoring network, Big Brothers/Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 5 through young adulthood in communities across the country. BB/BS develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people. BB/BS has developed partnerships around the country including those listed below including the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

During the reorganization of the Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee after the New Orleans Grand Conclave, as discussed in our Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring (FIM) Committee teleconference calls, our committee's focus now includes: **Big Brothers/Big Sisters** as a program partner. This represents an expansion of our role and a signal that the Fraternity leadership has confidence that we are carrying the brand. And, that the brand is bringing uplift to our communities through our service to others. Other partners in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters volunteer database include, but is not limited to: **African Methodist Episcopal Church; Alpha Phi Alpha; Alpha Sigma Phi; Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center; Caron Treatment Centers; Communities in Schools; Johnson & Johnson African American Leadership Council (Employee Resource Group); Kappa Alpha Psi; New Path; United Methodist Church General Commission on United Methodist Men; and Tragedy Assistance Program.**

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Accordingly, as we continue to move forward, we are asking that you:

- Reach out to the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization in your community;
- Share with them your involvement with youth in your community;
- Inquire about how you might include what they are doing with what your Chapter is doing to help work with youth in your local community;
- Let us know what you are doing and how you have progressed in your partnership arrangement.

Thank you!!

## ~ Celebrating 50 Years of Long-Range Space Exploration ~

### The Great Question: What did Kennedy do?

In his speech to congress May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy asked the Congress on behalf of the people of the United States to *“commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.”* The USA landed a man on the moon, **July 21, 1969** and brought him safely back to earth. Omega Men and other Black men and women were there studying and exploring space in some capacity  
**IN THE BEGINNING!**

### International Committee on Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Members



See the Fatherhood and Mentoring Website:

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



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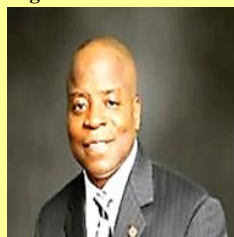
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### **Brother Robert W. Fairchild, Fatherhood Initiative Advisor**

## **Omega Men: Raising Boys to be Men: On Being a Dad**

Brothers, I trust that everyone had a great Father's Day. When you think about it, one day of recognition does not begin to adequately cover the impact that a father has or can have on the lives of their children. Many fathers wonder: how do I have a better relationship with my children? Many see the child and the father as two separate entities that come together "on occasion". In too many instances they don't come together at all. Even in much of our efforts we work with the two separately, almost as if they have little or anything to do with each other. We work with fathers on father issues and mentoring of young men around their issues. In reality the two go together like a hand and a glove.

When we mentor young men, we are really doing the father's job in his absence. The father's absence can be for many reasons, ranging from "I don't care to"- "I would love to but I can't." A lot of negativity can come from not having a father in a young man's life where he is not taught about his responsibility and how to conduct himself. As we insert ourselves in these situations through our programs, we should work toward making sure that we are working to solve the problem and not pacify it and keep it going.

What do I mean by this? We have to work with the fathers who are already at the fathering stage and with the overwhelming majority of young men who we know will become fathers by providing solutions.





So, what am I suggesting? As we work with fathers, help them with their issues (child support, jobs, legal, finances, etc.) and teach and show them how to be a good father as shown in the Future Dads program. At the same time as we are mentoring the young men covering the basics of how to be a good young man (discipline, education, violence prevention, conflict resolution, etc.) teach and show them how to be a good father as shown in the Future Dads program.

When we first put together the Future Dads program it was aimed at college students. We wanted to take a proactive approach and get in front of the issues that a young man would face and how he should conduct himself when he became a father. We have to now look at working and sharing this information at all levels with fathers and with young men. Many of the young men that we are working with don't have a father. So, it makes sense that we should talk to them about what it takes to be a good father as a part of our working with and training them. Likewise, many of the fathers that we work with don't know how to be a good father. We should share this information with them and help them understand its importance in cultivating a good relationship with their children.

Brothers, I ask that we incorporate the points and information in the **Future Dad's program** in all of our fatherhood and mentoring training programs because most of us are or will soon become a dad. It just makes sense that we learn about what we most likely will be doing in the future - Being a dad!

Bro. Fairchild

## **Rewards, Benefits of 21st Century Fatherhood Movement: Considerations for Developing Legislation**

**By**

**Brother Franklyn Malone and Tyrone Parker**

According to experts at the National Center for Fathering (NCF), Fatherhood has a profound effect on our families, our children, and our communities. The absence of fathers, according to researchers at the American Psychological Association (APA), in their study, Vulnerable Men and Boys, can cause poverty, emotional problems, drug and alcohol use. It can also lead to poor educational performance, suicidal thoughts, criminal behavior and other emotional problems. Over the past ten years the "father absence" epidemic in America has significantly decreased. This is directly attributed to the work of advocates for responsible fatherhood and mentoring.

In 2016 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) performed research which compared all fathers with varying backgrounds and ethnicities. It was found that the Black father in America was touted as one of the most caring fathers of all races. This is surprising information for many because the media has portrayed Black fathers and Black men as untrustworthy, thugs, and murderers in many instances. In so doing the image of Black men in our opinion, has been damaged and requires repair, correction and a more truthful and accurate depiction.

If one were to view television today, they would be hard pressed to even see a responsible, respectable, image of a Black man loving his family, providing for them, and keeping them safe. For these reasons and more we must take concerted action to redefine Black fathers in particular, and more specifically, fatherhood in general as we promote legislation that highlights the rewards and benefits that responsible fathers perform daily that appear to be overlooked, left out, or forgotten.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fatherhood Movement is a national collaborative effort supported by countless fatherhood organizations that offer services, supports and opportunities to fathers, families and the community. Today men are stepping up in larger numbers to be counted as mentors to children, antidomestic violence advocates, working side by side with women to train other men and calling for accountability through

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**"If one were to view television today, they would be hard pressed to even see a responsible, respectable, image of a Black man loving his family, providing for them, and keeping them safe."**

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training. There are national efforts such as the 52 “Made Men” who were recently honored at The Embassy of Ghana, in Washington, D.C. Other local efforts such as the “Man the Block program” at Richard Wright Charter School, Washington, D.C. directed by Principal Dr. Marco Clark, offering “safe passage” that makes a statement that men and fathers care, and are present to counter and eliminate the threat of violence and other dangers in urban communities.

There is also the work of the Alliance of Concerned Men who under Tyrone Parker’s strategic leadership in the careful development of a “Youth Conflict Resolution Manual” and training aimed at keeping peace on the streets, stopping gang violence and bringing peace to the community. Advancing fatherhood’s footprint is also being successfully implemented by the 100 Fathers Inc.’s, Fatherhood Master Trainers at Ballou Sr. High School in partnership with the Take Charge Youth Program. In this program adult men and fathers are teaching, mentoring and engaging younger men with “rites of passage” style power sessions that teach self-respect, self-discipline, integrity, leadership and scholarship.

Recently in Prince Georges County, MD, the 2019 Momentum Conference had over 500 attendees, (mostly fathers, parents and youth from D.C. and Maryland) being guided and taught by fathers and adult men and women about how to be proactive when violence is encountered. Organizations such as the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Masons, My Brothers’ Keeper, the Fatherhood Forum, Men Aiming Higher, Dare to Be King, the B-108 group of Baltimore, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the Men in the Gap Ministry’s all participate collaboratively. There is also the Prince Georges County, MD “Men’s Challenge” a coordinating fathers’ group that makes a difference by offering training, resources and alternatives to fathers, men and boys who are stepping up and changing the paradigm *from violence to victory*. This work is further exemplified by the powerful engagement of Mr. Curtis Valentine, Board of Education Member, Prince Georges County and the founder of the Fatherhood Forum which touches, trains and encourages over 300 fathers who serve in the Prince Georges County Public Schools.

### **Recommendations:**

Fathers and men are stepping up, showing up, and bringing positive changes in the lives of our children and families. The message to our legislators is to pass laws that can complement and support the progress of the 21st century fatherhood movement by:

- Providing funding for *mandatory fatherhood training before releasing from incarceration* with follow-up resources to aid the families of the incarcerated.
- Providing Mandatory *conflict resolution training* in the jails, schools and recreation centers.
- Funding for *Rites of Passage* boyhood to manhood leadership training in all grades.
- Funding for *fathers in the school’s* programs to create balance for young men and young ladies.

### **Summary:**

The Seventh Annual Father’s Day Celebration entitled: “To be a father is great but to be called a Dad takes a lifelong commitment”, is an opportunity to continue to fight for inclusion of the undeniable blessing that fathers bring into the family, the schools, and the community. We hope to continue to build a national collaborative caucus to lobby for the inclusion of the great benefits that committed engaged fathers bring as men who are available, authentic, and affirming. We are bringing back the fathers and bringing renewed hope to our families, children, and communities.

Hotep,

The D.C. Fatherhood Coalition

**Brother Franklyn Malone** is Commissioner for Fathers, Men and Boys through The Executive Office of the Mayor in Washington, D.C. He is a national, regional and local leader in the field of fatherhood and mentoring and serves as CEO of 100 Fathers, a Fatherhood and Mentoring nonprofit. As a respected Lay Minister of the Episcopal Church, Franklyn is former National Vice President for Fatherhood and Mentoring for the Brotherhood of St. Andrews World-Wide Ministry. Franklyn is also a nationally certified fatherhood master trainer, and has trained hundreds of men on how to be responsible fathers for their children and families. As a contributing author for **TheDadTalkBlog**, Franklyn has written on topics dealing with “facilitating fatherhood discussion groups.”

**Tyrone Parker** is Executive Director of the Alliance of Concerned Men (ACM), a Nationally and Internationally renowned Washington, D.C. based non-profit organization. He is also Commissioner, “Federal Commission for Boys and Men”, and presently serves on the Board of Directors as a Commissioner to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton’s Commission on Black Men and Boys, as well as several other Commissions, Boards and community-based organizations.



### ~ Celebrating STEAM ~

“The space race started in 1957 with the Russian launch of Sputnik. The US had difficulty getting started due to several launch vehicle failures. In order to consolidate efforts, many organizations were merged to form the National Aeronautical & Space Administration in 1958. In 1961, the newly elected President John F. Kennedy set a goal to send a man to the moon and safely return to earth by the end of the decade. Projects Mercury, Gemini and Apollo proved many techniques that led to a successful manned mission to the moon on Apollo 11 in 1969.

“The military planned to launch the Manned Orbital Laboratory in the 1970’s; Skylab was launched in the 1970’s and the first space shuttle was launched in 1981. However, through the first twenty-five years of the space age, Blacks were invisible – but they did and still contribute to the United

States efforts at space travel. Throughout this newsletter, included are snippets about the pioneering Black scientists, engineers and astronauts who have had impacts on the United States accomplishments in space.”

*By, Brother Ed B. Massey, (pictured above) Lt. Colonel, USAF, Retired; Voyager/Ulysses Project Manager, Retired. He has been involved in science, engineering, math and space technology from his college days at Tuskegee in the 1960s until retirement in 2010. Brother Massey became a member of Lambda Epsilon Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in December 1961. He has a BS in Electrical Engineering and a MS in Systems Management from University of Southern California. Ed is the father of two daughters and grandfather of two granddaughters. He is a member of Zeta Tau Chapter, Pasadena, CA.*

### Thabiti Boone, International Liaison

#### NYC Omega Men Support Father’s Day Weekend Busy with Fatherhood & Mentoring





**Brother Thabiti Boone was busy during the Father's Day Week End in NYC interacting with Omega Men in support of Fatherhood and Mentoring initiatives. His report indicates:**

Fatherhood continues to be a beautiful and critical Institution. Our children, families and world are at a better place because of loving, responsible and dedicated Fathers. Fatherhood events were happening at various locations throughout the city such as: RealDads Network annual Fathers Week of events, Daddy Daughter Dance, Fathers & Sons Basketball Forum & Clinic, and a Fathers of the Year awards dinner hosted at Merger Evers College. Several Omega Men were honored for being outstanding Fathers and Community leaders. Ten (10) NYC Omega Men were honored, by the National Black Male Initiative, The Made Man, as distinguished leaders in their respective careers and commitment towards Mentoring, uplifting the lives of young men. They all received Certificates of Recognition from NYC Congressman Hakeem Jefferies. Brother Boone participated as an Alumni Honoree. The Program also included attending a High School and College addressing over 200 young men with messages of inspiration and ended with a red-carpet networking reception.

### Newsletter Goal

**“To include information from Each District Each Quarter about Fatherhood Initiatives and Mentoring: Youth Leadership Conferences, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Brother You're on My Mind.”**

**Each District Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Chairman shall submit Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring information from their District each quarter to:**

**geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net. Next deadline for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2019 is September 15<sup>th</sup>. Information will cover July, August and September 2019**

### **~ Celebrating STEAM ~**

**Brother Dr. Robert Henry Lawrence, Jr. – USAF Astronaut, First African-American selected as an astronaut (USAF photo). Born in Chicago, October 2, 1935, graduated from Englewood High School in the top 10 percent of his class. In 1956 he graduated from Bradley University, in Peoria, with a B.A. in Chemistry.**

**While in college he enlisted in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and distinguished himself, receiving the commission of Second Lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve Program. While still in the Air Force, Lawrence earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Ohio State University in 1965. In June of 1967 he was selected as an astronaut in the Manned Orbital Laboratory (a precursor to the space station), making him the first African American astronaut selected for space travel.**

**In December of 1967, Dr. Lawrence, a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was killed instantly in the crash of an F-104 Starfighter at Edwards Air Force Base, California, leaving his wife Barbara and son Tracey to mourn. In a December 26, 2017 article in the *GOOD BLACK NEWS, The Good Things Black People Do, Give and Receive All Over The World*, Selena Hill wrote: Although his career was short-lived, Lawrence paved the way for other black astronauts like Dr. Guion Bluford, who became the first African American in space in 1983, and Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to travel to space in 1992.**



## Happy Father's Day!



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  
14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court  
Family Division  
Muskegon County  
State of Michigan

We started this year discussing real world challenges for fathers in difficult circumstances. These are men who have life issues that magnify the already estimable responsibilities that go along with being a father. In April's column Bro. Alonzo Duncan III, guested in this spot (and will return in October's Newsletter) to highlight fathers returning to their community and family after a term of incarceration.

I want to spend this column space discussing another challenge that recently presented itself in my courtroom. That being:

### The Change of Domicile of Child.

The establishment of the physical custody of a child carries the significance, among many things, of establishing the domicile of the child. In the law **domicile** means *place of legal residence*. Essentially, the parent who has primary physical custody obviously lives in some city. The child, obviously, lives there as well. The legal effect, however, is that that city becomes considered the domicile, or *place of legal residence* of the child.

In the State of Michigan, the law requires that the child must remain in the city where domiciled, or within 100 miles of that city of domicile. There is some form of the same requirement in every state. The child can be domiciled outside of that 100-mile radius only if, (a) the parties agree to the relocation, or (b) the relocating parent is granted permission, by court order, to relocate.

To be clear, the parent wishing to relocate is under no restriction from being able to move wherever he/she wishes. That relocating parent, however, cannot move and take the child with them, except as described above. Many parents make the erroneous argument that the court is violating their inherent right to live where they choose. The reality is that the court retains jurisdiction over the child, and lawfully can restrict the child's comings and goings, but not the parent.

The decision to grant the *Change of Domicile of Child* is governed by a set of factors, created by and written into state law by the state legislature, that the court is required to analyze and **must** render its findings thereto on the record. The court can't just "make it up" or "go with its gut" in reaching a very difficult and consequential decision. **If you ever find yourself in this type of litigation, please know that the court's decision must be made and supported by a clear record of the court's analysis and reasoning in reaching whatever decision that the court ultimately reaches. Always keep this standard in mind!**

Practically speaking, the issue of the child's domicile is a very consequential proposition:

1. It directly impacts the mobility of the custodial parent.
2. It can change the actual custody order issued by the court. If the court denies the change of domicile and the moving parent decides to move anyway, effectively, the noncustodial parent assumes the role of custodial parent.
3. Of course, custody drives who pays child support, and how much that support obligation becomes.
4. The amount of parenting time for the parents is affected when the domicile is changed. That parenting time change becomes more significant as the amount of distance involved in the move increases. Simply put, the further that the move is from the original domicile of the child, the harder it becomes to engage in opportunities to maintain regular, consistent parenting time as practiced before the move.



When the original domicile of the child is established, it is vital that both parents become knowledgeable about how the process of changing domicile works. As with other aspects of co-parenting, knowledge and preparation allows you to be positioned to effectively advocate your position...for the best interest of your child!

In Friendship...

Hon. Gregory C. Pittman

## From Around the Districts:

### 1<sup>st</sup> District: Brother Anthony Lilley, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

Dear Brothers:

Below are activities I have been a part of for the period of May-June. I participated in numerous phone calls and emails with the new International Chairman Brother S. Earl Wilson. Brother Robert W. Fairchild remains on



the committee and oversees the Fatherhood piece. We are now the Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee. Under this falls Fatherhood Initiatives, Youth Leadership Conferences, and Big Brother and Big Sister Program. The Grand Basileus has made it a priority that ALL Chapters participate in a Fatherhood and Mentoring Program.

**Greater Boston/Cambridge** – The First District has been busy with the Business of Omega and making sure that Fatherhood and Mentoring is being done in our communities. Iota Chi continues with their tradition of Brunch and Basketball and continues to mentor youth in the Area.

**Cromwell, CT** – Tau Iota continues to partner with the Legacy Foundation in the Greater Hartford Area. They recently took children to the Travelers Championship in Cromwell, CT where the children participated and learned the game of golf.



**Waterbury, CT** – Lambda Rho mentoring Program Granville Academy is coming to an end. The Chapter hosted a banquet in May for the students. The Chapter has partnered with New Opportunities Inc., to help with its Fatherhood Program. This Program is a part of the city of Waterbury and helps fathers with everything from parenting, to job search and domestic violence interventions. The Program uses the 24/7 Dads model.

**Stamford, CT** – Alpha Nu had their Father's Day celebration on June 15, 2019. This is the Chapter's seventh year hosting such an event.

I will be attending the Leadership Conference from July 9-14. I will continue to stress the importance of documenting and submitting articles and photos to me, so they can be put in the Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Newsletter.

Anthony B. Lilley, MSW



**Kwatsi Alibaruho** was Flight Director for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He is the first African American NASA Flight Director. Alibaruho was born to the late Dr. George Alibaruho of Uganda, and Dr. Gloria Alibaruho of Macon, Georgia. His mother is a retired university professor of social sciences, and his father a retired economist. Alibaruho's parents always encouraged his interest in mathematics and science by exposing him to printed material about rockets and about NASA as well as by exposing him to science fiction media of the time. Alibaruho earned a Bachelor of Science in Avionics in 1994 from the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In May 2011, he earned a Master of Business Administration from Rice University through Rice's Executive MBA Program, which he attended full-time while concurrently performing his duties as Flight Director. Kwatsi is married to Macresia Alibaruho with two children. (Photo of Flight Director Alibaruho in Mission Control during STS-126.)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> District: Brother Donald Williams II, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

### 2<sup>nd</sup> District Father's Day Reflections: Young dads and seasoned fathers

By Donald Williams, II

**H**appy Father's Day to the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Fathers around the world. Although being a father can be challenging, it is the most "rewarding" thing you will ever do as a man. Impacting not only the lives of your own children but other children as well! We celebrate Dads for being the GPS setting the tone for your family and modeling excellence to your community. Thank you so much for "help children glow and grow into healthy young adults" in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. Below are thoughts, images, memories and reflections of and about fathers and fatherhood:

**Khary Earley, (29 Years-old, his first child):** As I reflect on my 11 months as a new Father, lots of experiences come to mind. The sound of my daughters first cry when she came out the womb, the first time she fell asleep in my arms, or even her first words. However, one experience stands above all others:

On a lazy Sunday afternoon, my fiancé, baby and I were enjoying some TV time. I started feeding my daughter some teething wafers. I broke off a piece and put it in her mouth. When she finished eating the piece, I broke off another piece but this time I said "here, grab it". She looked at me, look at the wafer and let out a little "uhgggh," then proceeded to grab the wafer with her hand and put it in her mouth herself. My fiancé and I laughed until tears flowed. It was the intersection of youth and understanding. Our daughter is developing a personality all her own. It is wonderful to see her grow, both physically and mentally. I'm sure this is just one in many future stories to come!

**Brother Onokpise (34 Years-old, his second child):** I never knew how much work being a parent could be, so I give much honor and respect to my parents for the great work they did with me and my Brothers. As a father of two beautiful girls under the age of 4, I certainly understand and appreciated the responsibility that the Lord has laid at me and my wife's doorstep. We pray for wisdom every day. I understand my role as Dad is critical to their ultimate view of the world. I am also thankful for all the wisdom that was poured into me, so that I can keep these girls on the best path possible, to fulfill their God-given destiny.

**Lorenzo R. Prillman, (42 Years-old):** I think my mom put it best. She said, "little girls soften their daddy's hearts."

**Darrin Butler (44 Years-old):** Teaching and supporting my children and watching them implement what I have taught them and trusting my input more and more each day makes Father's Day every day for me.

**Del Jordan (45 Years old):** As a father of daughters, my goal has been to let them know that there is at least one man in this world who loves them unconditionally.

## **A Father: Love, Grace and Mercy**

by

**Tyrone Wheeler, Jr. (35 Years old):**

**M**y father, Tyrone Wheeler, Sr., transitioned six years ago and there is not a day that goes by that I do not reflect on memories of times we shared. Some memories are good and others not so much. One of the memories I hold deep in my heart is when he showed mercy and unconditional love towards me.

My father was a former Soldier and Vietnam Veteran. He ruled our house with an iron fist. He really took Proverbs 13:24 “Spare the rod, spoil the child” seriously when it came to “educating” me and my siblings. The seven words I hated to hear my mother say when I had done something wrong were: “I am going to tell your Father”. I knew that when my father got home, he would discipline me. Usually, spanking for PG purposes, was his preferred form of punishment in these cases. The only time I can remember my father not disciplining me after I did something wrong, was the time I burned down the kitchen in our home.

After graduating high school, my parents allowed me to continue to live at home with one stipulation; I must have a job. I was working the opening shift at McDonald’s from 5am to 1pm Monday through Friday. Sometimes instead of eating lunch at work I would come home to eat. I will never forget the day I burned down the kitchen.

One day after working my shift at McDonald’s, I decided when I got to our home, I was going to cut some potatoes up into French fries and fry them. I was excited, knowing that later that evening a few friends and I had plans to go to the neighboring town to play basketball against the locals. After cutting the potatoes, making the fries, and putting them in the frying pan full of hot grease I decided to watch the VHS basketball tape “Michael Jordan Come Fly with Me”. I watched the tape almost every day I was going play basketball. For some reason that day I decided to lay down to watch the tape. The next thing I can remember is waking up to a stove full of fire. I did what any kid would do in this situation, I tried to put the fire out with water. The fire spread due to the water and grease not mixing. By the time I finally got the fire out, half the kitchen was unusable. The first thing that came across my mind was “my father is going to kill me when he gets home from work”.

My father usually got home late in the evenings during this period, so I decided to go play basketball and face the consequences when I got back that night. Sure enough, when I returned home that night my father was standing in the door waiting for me. As I braced myself for the looming punishment, I was expecting from my father for burning down the only kitchen we had and leaving the house to go out of town to play basketball, my father gave me a hug. I will never forget his words. My father said, “I love you; I can always get another kitchen but not another you. I am glad you are ok, but I don’t understand you leaving to go play basketball after you burned down the kitchen”. My father and I never spoke again about this accident.

I learned so much about my father through this accident. I learned the love he had for me and the grace and mercy he showed towards me. I will always remember the day I burned down the kitchen and how my father treated me afterward. ///

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**Key Message (objective): To celebrate Dads and to encourage other men to continue to be involved and engaged in their children’s activities and healthy development.**

**By sharing our stories, we show this generation of men what Fatherhood looks like. So, 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 “presence” in your children’s lives to help them grow into healthy young adults. No Excuses! DW, II**





## ~ Celebrating STEAM ~

Dr. Guion S. Bluford, Jr. was the first African-American in Space. He boarded the Space Shuttle "Challenger" in 1983 and performed the first "spacelab mission" on the Orbiter Challenger. Born in Philadelphia, PA in 1942, Bluford was a decorated Air Force pilot in Vietnam before joining NASA in the late 1970s. "I felt an awesome responsibility, and I took the responsibility very seriously, of being a role model and opening another door to black Americans, but the important thing is not that I am black, but that I did a good job as a scientist and an astronaut," he said! Bluford graduated from Overbrook Senior High School, 1960; B.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering Pennsylvania State University, 1964; and, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in aerospace engineering in 1974 and 1978, from the US Air Force Institute of Technology. In 1987, Bluford received his M.B.A. degree

in management from the University of Houston at Clear Lake.

## OMEGA MEN AT WORK, COLLEGE CAMPUS TOURS:

Shaping, Saving and Impacting the Next Generation of Young Leaders.

By Donald Williams, II

They visited: Virginia Union University, Virginia State University, UNC Charlotte, Johnson C. Smith University, UNC Greensboro, North Carolina A&T, Winston Salem State University and North Carolina Central University.



**Philadelphia, PA – April 18, 2019** – As a proud member of our beloved Fraternity, I proudly witnessed Omega men over Spring break making personal sacrifices, taking leave from work to take high school age children out of their comfort zone to visit college campuses.

According to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, we must expose our young people to college at a young age, especially our young males. The CBC further asserts: "Black males ages 18 and older make up just 5.5% of all college students. Only one in six young black males who do make it to college will receive a college degree."

This is why it is imperative for Omega men to increase their commitment to conducting college visits to campuses. To increase the enrollment of our young Black males at colleges, our experience shows that mentoring continues to be vital in changing the mental mind map, instilling confidence and making a difference in the life of a young person.

Zeta Iota Iota Chapter in Philadelphia chartered two buses and carried approximately 86 students (62 male students and 24 female students) on this trip. Members of Might Mu Nu Chapter located in Maryland under the guidance of Coach Adrian "Hotdog" McDaniel

had approximately 33 male students and 2<sup>nd</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman, Donald Williams and Jason Miller visited 8 colleges in three days with 25 students (21 Male and 4 female students).

A shout out to all Omega men and Greeks who assisted with making this a great experience! Thank you for all you do and for being a helping hand to uplift students, families and communities across five states: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

## Youth Leadership Conference at the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Second District Conference

**Dover, Delaware, April 27, 2019** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> District conducted an outstanding Youth Leadership Conference at the 71<sup>st</sup> District Conference. The purpose of the Youth Leadership Conference is to empower, develop, and mentor the next generation of young leaders and to encourage young males to strive for excellence in their life. The theme of the conference centered on our Fraternity's Cardinal principles: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. Omega men provided approximately 25 young males from their mentoring program with uplift, wisdom and knowledge to help them navigate through adolescent to discovering their destiny. Brother Brandon Gray initiated Spring 2018 at Psi Epsilon at Delaware State University, now a senior (Major Political Science) kicked off the conference with a communication ice breaker.



**Congratulation to Director of Student Life, Brother Steve A. Smith, Basileus Andre Boggerty, Social Action Chairman Brother Salahudin Bin-Yusif and Psi Iota Graduate Chapter members**

The first speaker was the Reverend Brother Tony Lee, Gamma Pi Chapter Basileus who opened the YLC



**Brother Brandon Gray, Psi Epsilon, Delaware State University (Political Science Major)**

Conference with a conversation about three areas to help young males grow and develop to reach their full potential. Three areas were: your **name**, **focus**, and **being passionate**. Your name, he said, “has significance, don’t let anyone call you out of your name, Bubba, Boo Boo, or Rock Head. Your name has a tremendous meaning, every time someone calls your name, they are speaking purpose and meaning.” Second, this age group is not focused! “Don’t let anything around you distract, distress, destroy or panic you that keeps you from achieving goals. Finally, be passionate about what you do, pursue excellence in all areas of your life,” he said.

Several Brothers presented the Cardinal Principles in a way that was relevant and meaningful to young males. They encouraged the young males to use these principles as guidepost on their life journey. These are principles to live by: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.



Brother Darryl Green, Pi Omega Chapter, closed the YLC Conference with a compassionate dialog on Choices. Brother Green shared his heart wrenching story about how his younger brother was murdered in Baltimore, Maryland, over his tennis shoes by a fourteen-year old, who was later sentenced to life in prison and served 25 years. How God stepped in to change the situation to moving Brother Green from anger to forgiveness.

Brother Green went to court, forgave him and testified on his behalf for his release. They now work together speaking to students across the country about Choices, Consequences, Healing, Reconciliation, and Forgiveness. Congratulation to Director of Student Life, Brother Steve A. Smith, Basileus Andre Boggerty, Social Action Chairman Brother Salahudin Bin-Yusif and Graduate Chapter members for an outstanding and impactful YLC Conference. It was refreshing to witness Psi Iota Graduate Chapter working together with the undergraduate brothers from Psi Epsilon of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Omega's impact was tremendous in mentoring and helping young males think broader about their future. Omega men continue to change the lives and trajectory of another group of young males with the potential to become future leaders!

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

#### **FATHERHOOD, FRIENDSHIP, MENTORING, LEGACY**

**Gum Springs, Alexandra, VA** – Bro. Willie Frazier Jr. has created a legacy of fatherhood, friendship, mentoring, and legacy with sons and grandsons. Willie was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Inc., in 1963 at Howard University. William and Michael Frazier were initiated in 2000 and 2002 respectively through Psi Alpha Alpha in Fairfax Virginia. In inspiring a strong work ethic and legacy through 30 years of military service in the United States Army, the retired Colonel and elder Frazier also imparted the knowledge of giving back and uplifting the community.



Back Row (L-R); Bro. Clearance Demory (PG 65), Bro. Chris Rosier (PAA 02), Bro. Malcom Murray (PAA 02), Bro. Eric Kelly (PAA 02); Front Row (L-R); Bro. Michael Frazier (PAA 02), Bro. Willie Frazier Jr. (A 63), Bro. William Frazier (PAA 00)



L-R; Bro. Michael Frazier (PAA 02), Bro. Willie Frazier Jr. (A 63), Bro. William Frazier (PAA 02), Elias Frazier, William Paul Frazier Jr.



Elias and William Frazier providing community service at Quantico National

The essence of mentoring proved significant inspiring Michael to take over Omega U for Pi Lambda Lambda in 2017. Michael grew the Omega U Mentoring Program to mentoring 180+ students annually, and partnering with 10 county middle and high schools for the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest school district in Virginia, Prince William County. Bro. Michael Frazier was selected as the Omega Man of the Year for his extensive efforts and mentoring underrepresented youths of Prince William County Virginia. Bro. Michael Frazier became a mentor in Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Fairfax Virginia shortly after graduating from



Brother Tracy Whitehurst, Chairman, Tau Rho, FIM and BB/BS efforts



Old Dominion University in 2000. In addition, he supported his brother William in providing mentoring and time to students at Gum Springs of Alexandria, Virginia.

Both Willie and William serve on the committee mentoring to the largest mentoring organization in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District for Omega Psi Phi Inc. Bro. Willie Frazier Jr serves as a mentor at Potomac Middle School of Dumfries Virginia and has been mentoring to the students of Omega U since 2011. This tradition is being imparted into his grandsons and future Omega Men. Brother Tracy Whitehurst is the chairman of the Tau Rho Chapter Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative. He is coordinating with the executive officer and program manager of the local Big Brother Big Sister organization of Fredericksburg, VA. ///

#### **4<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Jerry Leftwich, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring**

**The Fourth District Celebrated their 78th District Meeting in Dayton, OH.**



**L to R: Brothers Jerry Leftwich, Fatherhood/Mentoring Chair, Bobby Robinson (DR/Now Immediate Past), Tracy Jones (Aids Healthcare Foundation), Lamar Cole (1st Vice DR/Now DR 4<sup>th</sup> District); Bro. Lamar Cole, 4<sup>th</sup> District DR uplifted by family and friends on Father's Day 2019!**

**Cincinnati, OH** – Fatherhood and Mentoring sponsored a “Lunch and Learn” event titled “Toxic Masculinity, Let’s Do Better.” The Aids Healthcare Foundation (AHF) underwrote the event. The luncheon focused on topics that included consensual sex and safe sex on the heels of the heightened awareness around Sexual Assault Prevention. The Luncheon was attended by 125 undergraduates and included a short film followed by Q and A with a panel of experts.



#### **~ Celebrating STEAM ~**

Frederick Drew Gregory was born January 7, 1941, graduated from Anacostia High School, Washington, D.C., in 1958; received a bachelor of science degree from the United States Air Force Academy in 1964, and a master’s degree in information systems from George Washington University in 1977. Colonel Frederick D. Gregory became the first black person to pilot a space shuttle when he led the *Challenger* on a seven-day mission in 1985. He also served briefly as NASA Acting Administrator in early 2005. An only child of two teachers, Fred Gregory grew up in an integrated neighborhood in Washington, D.C., and early learned the importance of education and hard work. Among his many organizational affiliations is the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Inc. Gregory's uncle, Charles Richard Drew, a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was a famous surgeon and pioneer in blood plasma production and preservation.

## 5<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Oliver Williams, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

**Memphis, Tennessee** – The Hope Center at Grace, Aspera Inc., Sigma Lambda Lambda and partners hosted its 6th Favorite Fathers Celebration Breakfast on Saturday, March 9, 2019, 9:00 a.m. at The Hollywood Community Center, 1560 N. Hollywood, Memphis, Tennessee. The annual event celebrated men who motivated and inspired others through their vision and leadership, exceptional achievements, and participation in community service as a father/mentor. Fatherhood is a journey without a finish line. Congratulations to;



Bro Lloyd Stovall, Epsilon Phi, 2011;



Bro John Green, Kappa Sigma, 1963;



Bro Christopher Taylor Mu Zeta, 1988



Brother Carlton McClelland, Eta Beta 1999



Dameon Banks, Xi Rho 2018



Keelon Lawson and Reginald Clark Xi Zeta 1994



### Brothers of Psi Tau Serving the Community

**Lexington, KY – May 2019** – Brother Bishop Carter, III and Brother Leander Ridgeway volunteer throughout the year for the BMW program at First Baptist Bracktown in Lexington, KY. The BMW program is called Black Males Working and it is a program that was created in 2005 in order to assist African American males in their development into manhood. It is a Saturday program that collaborates with the Fayette County Public School System.

### 2019 Father of the Year, Keelon Lawson, Sr.

**Keelon Lawson, Sr.** has been a positive impact in the lives of many for decades. Also, he's won state titles in two different times at Hamilton (2006 and 2015). His two sons Chandler and Johnathan – both of whom are nationally-ranked in their respective classes. Dedric and K.J., Keelon's older sons, now standouts at Kansas, were the stars of the Hamilton High School.



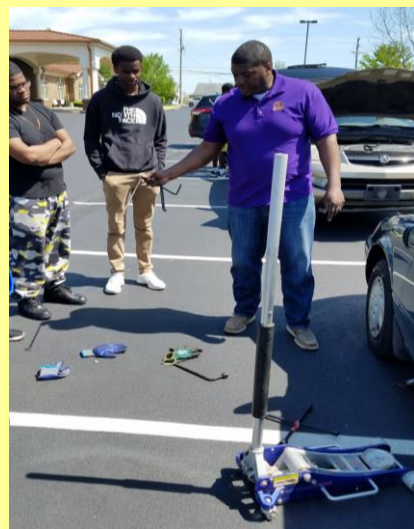


Mentees and Mentors at Bethsaida Baptist Church

The picture to the right shows Bro. Carter teaching young men how to change a tire.

### Mentoring and Tutoring at Bethsaida Baptist Church

**Lexington, KY** – Brothers of the Psi Tau Chapter have been mentoring and tutoring children in the community at Bethsaida Baptist Church, Lexington, KY to enhance and empower them since it started in 2002. The program has had outreach to youth that are challenged throughout the Lexington, Fayette County schools and the local government social services. Meetings occur every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. where dinner is served and then mentoring and tutoring takes place from the Omega men who attend. On this day, pictured are Bro. Dr. Bishop E. Carter III and Bro. James Higgins along with some of the attendees of the program.



### Honorary Selection as a Nominee for the Louisville Defender's Real Black Men Recognition

**Louisville, Kentucky** – Brother Louie Rivers Jr. has been selected as an honorary nominee for the Real Black Men Recognition program of the Louisville Defender Newspaper. This will be the ninth annual program in which the newspaper recognizes African American males who do great things in the community.

The Louisville Defender is a weekly newspaper in Louisville, Kentucky serving African Americans. Bro. Rivers Jr. currently serves as the director of county operations with the Cooperative Extension Program at Kentucky State University. Before joining the Cooperative Extension program, he served with distinction on active duty as a regular commission officer in the United States Army for over twenty years retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



Brother Louie Rivers Jr, Nominee for Real Black Men Recognition, the Louisville Defender

[See our website: omeagafandm.org](http://omegafandm.org)



### ~ Celebrating STEAM ~

Dr. Ronald E. McNair (1950-1986) was a NASA astronaut and musician who died aboard the space shuttle Challenger when it exploded on January 28, 1986. He studied at MIT and specialized in laser physics. Bro. McNair was born October 21, 1950, in Lake City, South Carolina. McNair graduated from Carver High School in 1967; received BS in Physics from North Carolina A&T State University in 1971; earned a PhD in physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976. He was named Presidential Scholar ('67-'71) and graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina A&T ('71). He was a Ford Foundation Fellow ('71-'74), a National Fellowship Fund Fellow ('74-'75), NATO Fellow ('75), and a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He won the Omega Psi Phi Scholar of Year Award in 1975.



### **Mighty 6<sup>th</sup> District Annual Meeting**

**Durham, NC** – The annual meeting was very successful and a lot of discussions around how to get all our college campuses involved with the fatherhood program. All the advisors are excited about the program and all see a need to have it on their campus. A lot of work and focus will be directed on getting more campuses onboard.

The highlight for the Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee was the announcement of the father of year award. This year the award was sponsored by Carolina Panthers (2 game tickets), Proud Fathers, Inc. (\$100), Baskets by Renee donated a gift basket and a plaque from the 6<sup>th</sup> District. This year's winner was Brother Reginald Terry from Mu Alpha Chapter.



### **Omega Manhood Institute**

Brother Charlie Bethea, President

**Lexington, NC** – The Omega Manhood Institute (OMI) held its fourth annual Fatherhood Prayer Breakfast on Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> 2019. The event was held at the Files Chapel Baptist Church in Lexington, North Carolina. The brothers of the OMI, a constituent of the Eta Beta Beta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., have realized that despite the negative connotation given to most families in the community that it serves, the father is the most overlooked entity in the family structure, according to most who have done studies on the subject. Therefore, at this time every year, the brothers of the Omega Manhood Institute come together along with the young men that they mentor and leaders in the community to celebrate and pray for the fathers and families in the immediate area.

This year prayer for the children was led by one of the mentees; Young Master Jammel Blanding. Prayer for the fathers was conducted by brother Orlando Speas, prayer for the mothers was conducted by Samantha Watts; and prayer for the total family was given by the Pastor John Cade, Senior Pastor of Files Chapel Baptist Church of Lexington North Carolina.

The institute thanks everyone that came out to celebrate and looks forward to celebrating more fathers and families in the future.

# Deliverance While Drowning

By

Brother Melvin L. Williams, Jr.

**Raleigh, NC** – Twenty-four years ago, God blessed me with Mollie Annette Williams. Along with this blessing came some of the biggest challenges and duties I have ever experienced. On June 17, 1995, my whole world was changed for the better, for the rest of my life. Going through life with all the unknowns, I find that most people sometimes have fear and run like Jonah ran when he was given the command by the Lord, to go to Nineveh to serve and save the people living sin. Like Jonah, men fear the command of parenting, because of the unknown. So, we run in the opposite direction or hide, due to the fear of parenting. I believe the three “Fs” should be consider by all fathers young and old when facing what I faced on June 17, 1995. Those three “Fs” are **Fear, Fault and Faith**. Let me explain: Back in my football playing days my head coach for four years said in his pregame speeches, “**Fear** None and Respect All”. I’ve tried to live my life that way and have had very good success in doing so. However, at the birth of Mollie, for unknown reasons I feared the thought of being a Father just like Jonah feared being a King. However, there was one difference between us, I respected the opportunity of becoming a Father. Now, I feared parenting, but living through what I was conditioned to do through my athletic training, I respected it and 24 years later I still fear parenting because of the unknown and the discomfort that comes with it, but I respect everything that is associated with being a Father.

“...I feared parenting, but living through what I was conditioned to do through my athletic training, I respected it ...”

Unlike Jonah, I was given a command to be the best father to Mollie that I could be and the only way that was going to happen was to believe what Isaiah 42:1 says, I was the chosen one to be Mollie’s Father and the Spirit and strength is upon me not to bring justice to the nation but bring joy and love to Mollie’s experiences. When the Lord hurdles the storms in our lives as male parents, we can’t run and fall asleep on our children like Jonah did on the people of Nineveh. Last point about fear: if God wanted to wage any storms against us, He will never leave nor forsake us but provide us with His everlasting care and guidance.

Secondly, we must admit our “**Faults**” just like Jonah did in verse 16. The hardest thing to do as a parent is to admit our faults, when it comes to our children. We oftentimes find others at fault when it was us all the time. God, just like in the story of Jonah, wages storms in our lives to get His message across to us. The storm in my life was when the courts of NC sided with my ex-wife and for three years, I had no direct contact with Mollie. I didn’t run from my situation, but I had some very tough and long talks with God asking why was Mollie being punished. Brothers, I thought it was about her and it was, but God had a bigger plan at that time. I didn’t see the plan, because we never see the plan. The plan was for me to go through this, so I could help other men deal with this storm, when it came into their lives. Like Jonah, God had to put him in the mist of the storm to obey His commands. God knew if He had told me to start Proud Fathers, Inc., serve on the Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., serve on various fatherhood committees, He knew I wouldn’t follow His commands. However, He knew if He took the one person I lived for (Mollie)... If Mollie was taken from me for a short period, He had my attention. The Lord knew I wouldn’t obey His commands and go into the ministry, because I had refused His calling/commands for 14 years prior to this incident. Colossians 3:13 tells us to make allowance for each other’s fault and forgive anyone who offends you. By admitting your faults as Jonah did, we should learn something from him and that we all will be delivered while drowning only if we are honest to ourselves and God. He knows our heart and what we are trying to accomplish with every action we take, the good ones and the bad ones.

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

Thank God for the third “F”, **Faith**. Webster defines faith as strong belief or trust in something or someone; the belief in the existence of God. **Faith** sustained me even when I doubted my faith; Faith sustained me when I had my doubts about what was going on in my life and Faith sustained me when I questioned God’s plan even though I didn’t know the plan. God sometimes has a funny way of getting His points across to us and we feel like we are drowning and no life preserver is in sight. But, I’m here to tell you that your Deliverance occurs when you are Drowning. All you have to do is have faith and trust the plan God has in store for you. I know that it’s easier to speak it, than live it. Hebrews 11:1 tells us, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see”.



What I didn’t see was that God’s plan, at the time, it wasn’t clear at all. Please know that I’m not blaming my ex; she did what she thought was best for Mollie at that time. Sixteen years later, I was able to enjoy Father’s Day and Mollie’s birthday, something I thought I would never experience again. This year, we took a train ride to Washington, D.C.

and we talked, went to a National’s baseball game, jazz show, dinner and most importantly spent time together just the two of us. We will never regain that lost time but God has prepared the both of us for this moment and we both are going to enjoy every second of it. My faith and finally becoming obedient to God’s commands have, of course, paid off. Mollie has grown to become the young lady that I hoped she would be and all my prayers were answered. Even though I couldn’t see them, I stood on my Faith. Hebrews 11:3, By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. Therefore, I wasn’t supposed to see all the prayers answered that I prayed for and over Mollie. However, I’m here to tell you that they all were answered.

Brothers, I felt compelled to share my testimony and I hope that these words help a Brother that is drowning and I wanted him to know that his **Deliverance Occurs while Drowning**. Peace and Blessings Brothers! ///



#### ~ Celebrating STEAM ~

Dr. Mae Carol Jemison was born October 17, 1956 in Decatur, AL. Seeking educational and economic opportunity, her parents moved the family to Chicago where she completed Elementary and High School. Jemison graduated from Chicago's Morgan Park High School in 1973 and entered Stanford University at the age of 16. She is an American engineer, physician and NASA astronaut. She became the first black woman to travel in space when she served as an astronaut aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*. After graduating with a degree in chemical engineering from Stanford University and a medical degree from Cornell University, she served in the Peace Corps from 1983 until 1985. Jemison joined NASA's astronaut corps in 1987 and orbited the Earth for nearly eight days on September 12–20, 1992, serving as a mission specialist on the STS-47 mission. In 1993, she resigned from NASA and founded a technology research company and later formed a non-profit educational foundation for children. She has appeared

on television several times, including in an episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Jemison holds nine honorary doctorates in science, engineering, letters, and the humanities. She is principal of the 100 Year Starship organization and an honorary member of **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority**. By NASA - NASA Image and Video Library (file), Public Domain.



**The Seventh District Initiate Service Awards in recognition of Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentorship**

The International Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentorship Committee is one of the corner stones under the leadership of the current 41<sup>st</sup> Grand Basileus - **Dr. David E. Marion**. The 7<sup>th</sup> District Council under the leadership of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Seventh District Representative – Brother James H. Sistrunk has aligned the 7<sup>th</sup> District commitment with the International Fatherhood Initiative and Mentorship Committee to support and carryout fatherhood and youth mentorship initiatives to further uplift communities throughout the 7<sup>th</sup> District, i.e., Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi.

During the immediate past 82<sup>nd</sup> Seventh District Meeting held in Montgomery, Alabama, Brother Jonathan Gaines, the 7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman, in coordination with each State Chairman presented a unified vision and training of Fatherhood Initiatives and Youth Mentorship to the 7<sup>th</sup> District Brotherhood. To acknowledge and recognize the continued commitment of Brothers and local chapters, the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council approved four (4) new Service Awards to be bestowed at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Seventh District Meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi in 2020 and each year thereafter.

The newly approved 7<sup>th</sup> District Service Awards with a concentrated emphasis in the areas mentioned consists of the following:

- **Father of the Year Service Award - (FIMC)**
- **Chapter of the Year Service Award - (FIMC Graduate)**
- **Chapter of the Year Service Award - (FIMC Undergraduate)**
- **State Organization of the Year Service Award - (FIMC State Organization)**

As with set service award protocol, local chapters are to first receive instructional information from their prospective State Organization/State Chairman at the State Organization Level. Thereafter, each State awarded recipient and local chapter will be considered for the 7<sup>th</sup> District – FIMC Service Awards for each category. Special thanks to Brother Richard Harris – First Vice Seventh District Representative for his support and guidance in working with the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council and State Representatives. Also, special thanks to **Brother Raymond Bell** – 3<sup>rd</sup> District FIMC Chairman for his advisement and sharing of best practices to implement a FIMC Service Awards Program at the district level. ///



# READY TO GO BIG?

Is your local chapter without a youth mentorship program? If so...Big Brothers Big Sisters of America in partnership with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., provide local chapters and Omega Brothers with an excellent opportunity to conduct One-on-One Youth Mentoring. To established youth mentorship in your local community, contact your local agency and seek assistance with support and access to administrative resources.

The Seventh District Council is fully committed in its efforts to support the vision of the 41<sup>st</sup> Grand Basileus – Dr. David E. Marion and the International Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentorship Committee in impacting and uplifting the lives of our youths throughout the Seventh District. If you are able and **READY TO GO BIG** as a Local Chapter and/or Omega Brother, again, please contact your FIMC – State Chairman to receive additional information to start One-on-One Youth Mentorship with Big Brothers Big/Sisters of America.

Brother Jonathan Gaines  
7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman  
Fatherhood Initiative and Youth  
Mentorship Committee  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America  
Committee





## Preparing Our Youth for Their Future



### **Beta Mu Nu Chapter - Bro. Albert Ike, Jr. - State of Alabama Chairman Written and Submitted by Bro. Bryant Cline**

**Calera, AL** - Beta Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in conjunction with the Black Rhinos of Alabama mentoring program of the Lifting As We Climb Foundation, 501 (c) 3, participated with GEAR UP Jefferson County Kickoff at the Boutwell Auditorium. Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a discretionary grant program that supports efforts to increase the number of low-income students that obtain a secondary school diploma and prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education.

This two-day GEAR UP event brought in over 1500 middle school students from surrounding Jefferson County, AL school systems. During the event, Bro. Timothy Alexander, Kappa Delta 2014, provided inspiring words on education and self-confidence. He also shared his testimony of how he overcame his tragic motor vehicle accident and went on to complete his master's degree and become a motivational speaker. Beta Mu Nu Chapter volunteered as event vendors and participated in several team building exercises to help participants understand the different pathways to a successful high school and college education. In life, we leave many pathways for our youth, one of the greatest pathways is education. In the words of the philanthropist and civil rights activist, Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." In conjunction with the International Fatherhood Initiative & Mentoring Committee, the men of Beta Mu Nu Chapter lead by example in educating our youth on how to change the world one day at a time. ///





## HBCU Youth Leadership Conference - Alabama State University

Submitted by: Bro. James E. Lovejoy  
Sigma Phi Chapter – Montgomery, AL

**Montgomery, AL** – Omega Sparks Youth Mentorship Group and Brothers of the Sigma Phi Chapter - Montgomery, AL participated in the first of a series of Youth Leadership Conferences hosted on the campus of Historical Black Colleges and Universities throughout the Seventh District of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The Youth Leadership Conference was themed “Dads Matter - Cultivating Future Fathers”, parents and youths engaged in a wide variety of discussions consisting of Higher Education, Youth and Law Enforcement, Single Parents Rights, Manhood 101 and Healthy Families.

There were over 100 Youths in grades 6 thru 12 in attendance with their parents. The Youth Leadership Conference was highlighted with the awarding of Academic College Scholarships.

The purpose of the Omega Sparks Program is to uplift our community’s youth. The objective is to build a strong foundation for young men by providing purpose, direction, and motivation to the future leaders of the world.

Under the vision Brother S. Earl Wilson – International Chairman and in coordination with Brother James Lovejoy, the HBCU Youth Leadership Conference series is off to a great start with the State of Mississippi is scheduled to serve as the next host site for the continuous of the HBCU Youth Leadership Conference. ///



Brothers from the Alpha Tau Chapter and young men of the Omega Prep Knights Youth Program take center stage during the HBCU Youth Leadership Conference.



**2019 Inaugural HBCU Youth Leadership Conference  
Alabama State University**

## Omega Prep Knights Travels to the Inaugural HBCU YLC

**Alpha Tau Chapter –  
Bro. Albert Ike, Jr. - State of Alabama Chairman**

**Tuscaloosa, AL** – The Omega Prep Knights (OPK) traveled to Montgomery, AL to participate in the Inaugural Historical Black Colleges and Universities Youth Leadership & Fatherhood Initiative Conference held on the campus of Alabama State University. The Omega Prep Knights are a mentoring group of the Alpha Tau Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in conjunction with the Bridge Builders Foundation, a 501(c) 3.

On May 4, 2019, the Inaugural HBCU Youth Leadership & Fatherhood Initiative Conference was held on the campus of Alabama State University in Ralph David Abernathy Hall from 10am -3pm. The event was hosted by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee and Project Friendship, Inc., along with local chapters Omega Iota Iota, Sigma Phi, Gamma Sigma, Lambda Epsilon, and with leadership from Iota Omega graduate chapter, the International, District, and State leadership.

Youth in attendance were from the Montgomery area and from as far away as Tuscaloosa and Huntsville. The Youth Leadership Conference theme was “Dads Matter – Cultivating Future Fathers”. The objective of the conference was to educate and provide Montgomery, AL area youths in grades 6 to 12 with life skills (tools) that inspire young men to be productive citizens and positive future fathers. The conference also aimed to collaborate with both non-custodial fathers and custodial (single mothers) parents to increase awareness of the challenges associated with “how to help in the growth and development of their sons.”

The conference consisted of educational workshops that focused on issues such as: Dealing with Youth Relations with Law Enforcement, Succeeding in the Classroom and the Community, and Manhood 101. There were also break-out sessions for the parents to discuss the challenges of rearing future fathers and leaders. Challenges discussed included topics such as: “A Father’s Anger”, “Both Parents Matter”, Single Mother Challenges”, “24 Hour DAD – Non-custodial Father Challenges”, “For the Children’s Sake, and “The Healthy Family”. Panelists were representatives from local legal, law enforcement, political, social service agents, family advocate professionals, clergy, and successful mothers and fathers. The young men also had the opportunity to meet and interact with the president of Alabama State University, Dr. Quentin T. Ross.



## Omega Youth Mentorship Program helps local youths pursue their dreams: Higher Education, Trade and Military Career

**Bro. Harry Belafonte Williams - State of Florida Chairman**

**Submitted by:  
Bro. Royal King – Executive Director**

**Tallahassee, Florida** – Local chapters from around the Seventh District extend many congratulations and honors to their 2019 Graduating High School Seniors that have received years of youth mentorship to continue to succeed in their life journey. Many graduating seniors have participated in an Omega Youth Mentorship Program. From the earliest age of 6 years, young boys are receiving valuable guidance from Men of Omega; it is our aim that the lessons learned will aid in the development of these youth into responsible, educated young men and future leaders. The Chi Omega Chapter, Tallahassee, Florida is one of many local chapters across the Seventh District that is seeing the fruits of their hard work and commitment with their Omega Lamplighters Youth Mentorship Program.



The Omega Lamplighters of Tallahassee, Florida saw 14 Lamplighters graduate from high school this year! These young men earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.45 as a class. All 14 Omega Lamplighters/High School Graduates have been accepted to a college, university, trade school and the military.

#### **GRADUATES: FUTURE ENDEAVORS:**

- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Tyrin Card       | Tallahassee Community College |
| 2. Kristian Cauley  | Florida A&M University        |
| 3. Dillon Craig     | Tuskegee University           |
| 4. Kayce Anderson   | Farmer - Full Sail            |
| 5. Radavious Hall   | Tallahassee Community College |
| 6. Kamari Morales   | University of North Carolina  |
| 7. Jaden Pittman    | Track Scholarship             |
| 8. Quan Porter II   | U.S. Air Force                |
| 9. Malachi Richards | Lively Technical College      |
| 10. Ronnie Thomas   | Florida A&M University        |
| 11. Michael Smith   | Florida A&M University        |
| 12. Ziyon Smith     | U.S. Air Force                |
| 13. Deandre Walker  | Tallahassee Community College |
| 14. McKinley Wilson | Florida A&M University        |



#### **Gentlemen of Influence (G.O.I.) and Q Unit Youth Mentees Excel: Another Great Academic Year**

**Eta Nu Chapter -**

**Bro. Harry Belafonte Williams - State of Florida Chairman**



**Pompano, FL** – Honors and congratulations are extended to the 2018 - 2019 Eta Nu Chapter class of the Gentlemen of Influence (G.O.I.) and the Q Unit Mentees for another great academic year. The two youth mentorship groups posted a 100% graduation rate with all graduating seniors receiving a college scholarship. All non-graduating mentees met the academic and testing requirements to move to the next grade level; 70% of the mentees received academic honors for the school year and capped off a great academic year with a Dance with Mom Celebration.

## ~ Celebrating STEAM ~



**Dr. Bernard Harris, Jr.**, born on June 26, 1956, the son of Mrs. Gussie H. Burgess, and Mr. Bernard A. Harris, Sr. A native of Temple, Texas. He graduated from Sam Houston High School, San Antonio, in 1974; received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Houston in 1978 and a doctorate in medicine from Texas Tech University in 1982. Dr. Harris completed a residency in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic in 1985 and joined the NASA Ames Research Center in 1986. His work focused on the field of musculoskeletal physiology and disuse osteoporosis. He trained as a flight surgeon at the Aerospace School of Medicine, Brooks AFB, San Antonio, Texas, in 1988 and became an astronaut in July 1991. He was assigned as a mission specialist on STS-55, Spacelab D-2, in August 1991, and later flew on board *Columbia* for ten days. Dr. Harris was the Payload Commander on STS-63 (February 2-11, 1995), the first flight of a new joint Russian-American space program. Mission highlights included the rendezvous with the Russian Space Station, *Mir*, operation of a variety of investigations in the Spacelab module, and the deployment and retrieval of *Spartan 204*, an orbiting instrument that studied galactic dust clouds (such as those where stars are born). During the flight, Dr. Harris became the first African-American to walk in space. Among his many professional, social service and civic organizational affiliations is the **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.**

### **Distinguished Young Men of the J.L.C.C. Youth Mentoring Program stand tall among Distinguished Men in attendance during the ACRI Annual Fundraiser**

**Eta Omicron Chapter -  
Bro. Sam Henderson - State of Georgia Chairman**

**Albany, Ga** – On Friday May 10, 2019 the Just, Love, Cooper & Coleman Youth Mentoring Program attended the Albany Civil Rights Institute (ACRI) Annual Fundraiser as special invited guests of ACRI – CEO Brother Frank Wilson. The event was held at the Albany Civic Center and was well attended by over 500 distinguished citizens from the City of Albany and other surrounding cities within the Great State of Georgia. The guest speaker was the current 41<sup>st</sup> Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Dr. David E. Marion. Dr. Marion made a personal request to take a picture with the mentees to acknowledge their distinguished presence and outstanding work as a youth program within the local community.



**J.L.C.C. Youth Mentees standing tall with the 41<sup>st</sup>  
Grand Basileus Dr. David E. Maron.**



**J.L.C.C. Youth Mentees enjoying a night of fine dining  
during the ACRI Annual Fundraiser.**



## **Department of Human Services, Chi Gamma Gamma Chapter and The GA State Organization of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Collaborate to Conduct Fatherhood Conversation in Mableton, GA (Cobb County, GA)**

**Chi Gamma Gamma Chapter - Cobb County and North Fulton County, GA  
Submitted by Marvin Broadwater, Sr. – Georgia State Representative**



**Mableton, GA, (Monday May 20, 2019)** – The GA Department of Human Services, GA State Organization and the local Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., (Chi Gamma Gamma) collaborated to conduct a Fatherhood Conversation which was held at the Family Life Restoration Center Annex in Mableton, GA. Several local elected officials and dignitaries attended. Over 120 attendees were present. Also, present were several local leaders of community youth service-oriented organizations. Twenty-eight noncustodial fathers not in the program attended. Others attended through the Facebook live feed (GA DHS Facebook page).

This program shed a new light to fatherhood, as one young man made a plea to the audience of seasoned fathers, “I need a few of you to help me figure this how”. He further stated, “I am 22 years old and I have a two-year-old, and I saw the words Fatherhood Conversation on the flyer and thought someone here would be able to teach me how to be a better father”. Ironically, the local Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity adopted this young man and vowed to work with him on becoming a better father, thusly enhancing one father-child relationship. The Fatherhood Program is administered by Georgia DCSS to help a noncustodial parent avoid having to appear before a judge in court. It is an employment-based service that focuses on providing services that can help the noncustodial parent achieve self-sufficiency. It also encourages parents to increase emotional, parental and financial involvement in the lives of the noncustodial parent’s children. The GA State Organization looks forward to the opportunity to continue the partnership and grow the Fatherhood Conversation event as well as dispel any and all misconceptions of the GA Department of Human Services (Fatherhood Program). ///

## **GA Department of Human Services, Mu Phi Chapter and the GA State Organization of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Collaborate to Conduct the First Ever Fatherhood Conversation in Savannah, GA**

**Mu Phi Chapter  
Submitted by Marvin Broadwater, Sr. - Georgia State Representative**

**Savannah, GA** – The GA Department of Human Services, the GA State Organization and local Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Mu Phi) collaborated to conduct a Fatherhood Conversation. Alarming to many attendees was the number of open or pending child support cases in Savannah. That number is an eyebrow raising 10,000; this is particularly alarming since the total population of Savannah is only 146,000. It is no surprise that the majority of those cases involve African-American Men and other minorities. Over 80 community members



were present. Noncustodial fathers were in attendance and continually asked questions about their particular circumstances. Hundreds attended and asked questions via the Facebook live feed (GA DHS Facebook page). The program is the brainchild of current GA State Representative Brother Marvin Broadwater, Sr. The program has grown since its infancy and inception from six to ten events a year across the State of GA. The program allows the opportunity for the State to fund other similar fatherhood events for smaller Chapters.

Although, the Georgia Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) seeks to educate all parents of the Fatherhood Program, most noncustodial parents do not initially need nor qualify for services when they are first contacted by DCSS. In situations where a noncustodial parent is faced with an unexpected loss of a job or they have a substantial decrease in their income, that is the time when they need help.

The Fatherhood Program is administered by Georgia DCSS to help noncustodial parents avoid having to appear before a judge in court. It is an employment-based service that focuses on providing services that can help the noncustodial parent achieve self-sufficiency. It also encourages parents to increase emotional, parental and financial involvement in the lives of the noncustodial parent's children. Services offered include: Driver's License Reinstatement; Child support Services; GED Enrollment; Job Training; Job Search and Placement; Volunteer Work Opportunities; and Support order modification, where applicable.



## **GA Department of Human Services, Alpha Gamma Gama Chapter and The GA State Organization of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

**Alpha Gamma Gama Chapter - Valdosta, GA**

**Submitted by Marvin Broadwater, Sr. - Georgia State Representative**





**Valdosta, GA** – On Wednesday April 17, 2019, the GA Department of Human Services, the GA State Organization and local Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Gamma Gamma, collaborated to conduct a Fatherhood Conversation at the City Hall Annex building in Valdosta, GA. Several local elected officials and dignitaries attended. Over 75 community members were present including twenty noncustodial fathers who asked pertinent questions about their particular circumstance. Hundreds attended and asked questions via the Facebook live feed (GA DHS Facebook page).

The Georgia Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) seeks to educate all parents of the Fatherhood Program whether services are needed at that time or not. In situations where a noncustodial parent is faced with an unexpected situation in their life, such as: loss of a job or they have a substantial decrease in their income, help is available through Georgia DCSS. The Fatherhood Program is administered by Georgia DCSS to help noncustodial parents avoid having to appear before a judge in court. It is an employment-based service that focuses on providing services that can help the noncustodial parent achieve self-sufficiency. It also encourages parents to increase emotional, parental and financial involvement in the lives of the noncustodial parent's children. **Services offered include:** Driver's License Reinstatement; Child support Services; GED Enrollment; Job Training; Job Search/Placement; Volunteer Work Opportunities; and Support order modification, where applicable. ///

## **Beta Rho Chapter Established Key Youth Mentorship and Volunteer Community Partnerships throughout the Mississippi Delta**

**Submitted by: Bro. S. Crawford**  
**Beta Rho Chapter – Itta Bena, MS**  
**Bro. Terrance Course – Mississippi State Chairman**

**The Mississippi Delta** – Brothers of the Distinguished Beta Rho Chapter have embarked on a sustained partnership with several educational agencies throughout multiple counties in the Mississippi Delta to provide mentoring and volunteer services. Among the numerous activities that have been planned and executed are Read Across America Day, Real-Talk student discussion, State testing motivation, assistance, rewarding, and an Easter Basket give-away. Two of our adopted partners are Davis Elementary and the MVSU Child Development Center. We look forward to providing our time and service to these over the months and years to come. ///



Omega Brother engage youths to improve reading and writing skills

## **Psi Mu Mu's Assault on Illiteracy and ACT Test Prep.**

**Submitted by: Bro. Hermain Drain**  
**Psi Mu Mu Chapter –**  
**Bro. Terrance Course – Mississippi State Chairman**

**DeSoto County, MS** – As Omega Men, we want our youth to no longer become victim to the corrupted streets and justice system, we want them to strive to be victorious, by never giving up on life, and anything is possible when you put your mind to it.

The Brothers of Psi Mu Mu Chapter, Inc., will continue in its commitment to Desoto County and the surrounding areas as a way to provide consistent mentoring, remain connected, and always enhance the goals, initiatives, and principals of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

The Psi Mu Mu Chapter believes educational success is a vehicle for change. The Men of Omega are always striving to improve the academic achievement of our youth through increasing their knowledge and skills, school attendance, and time devoted to schoolwork. These traits are enhanced by providing the local students in our community with additional academic practice, one-on-one tutoring, small group tutoring, and/or remedial academic guidance. Psi Mu Mu's Assault on Illiteracy and ACT Prep happens every third Thursday of the month. The program aims to provide our community's youth the opportunity to sharpen their academic skills.

The children served are assisted with their homework, provided tutoring in the areas of Reading and Math, and obtain ACT Test Prep assistance. The services provided are led by Brother James Sullivan (ACT Test Prep Coordinator) and Brother Damien Roberts (Assault on Illiteracy Chairman) with the participation of several Psi Mu Mu Chapter Brothers. ///



## Brothers of EKK Chapter Step Up to Mentor Community Youths

Submitted by: Bro K. O. Martin

Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter

Bro. Terrance Course – Mississippi State Chairman

**Canton, MS** – The Brothers of Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter recently answered the call of our community in need. Due to budget and service cuts, some of the community resources provided to youth living in the Joe Prichard Homes have been discontinued, leaving several programs without staff. Brother Creston Burse was contacted in an effort to continue an ongoing mentoring program which the kids enjoyed. Under the leadership of Brother Melvin Bonds, Epsilon Kappa Kappa has filled that need. The Brothers meet weekly on Wednesdays to give a word of encouragement, discuss life and world affairs, and perform Google treasure hunts using facts about African-American trailblazers.

Since our work with **Seeds of Hope** began, two men, Brothers Edgar Reed and Jerome Coleman, have stepped to the forefront and taken charge of the program. Both of these Brothers have their roots in Canton, Mississippi and grew up in the shadows of the Joe Prichard homes. The mentees look forward to the weekly rap sessions and time that is shared with them and especially the time on the computer learning "stuff they don't teach us in school," as said by one of the mentees.



## **YE Chapter Reads and Uplift Youths at the Lottie W. Thornton Early Childcare Center**

**Submitted by: Bro. Tyler Turner**

**Upsilon Epsilon Chapter – Jackson State University, MS**

**Bro. Terrance Course – Mississippi State Chairman**

**Jackson, MS** – Undergraduate Brothers of the Upsilon Epsilon Chapter continue an honored tradition with a working relationship in visiting the Lottie W. Thornton Early Childcare Center located in the College of Education Building on the campus of Jackson State University. The Brothers spend a significant amount of time in and around the center providing Uplift and entertainment for youths. During the Spring semester of 2019, several Brothers committed to visit the center weekly to read to the kids, providing an enthusiastic impromptu YE Hop and share educational milestones achieved over the academic school year.



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

#### **Beta Upsilon**

**Omaha, NE** – On June 16<sup>th</sup>, Father's Day Brother Fred Whitted, Basileus of the Beta Upsilon Chapter, gave an inspiring Father's Day speech at Zion Baptist Church. The Church is led by Pastor Kenneth Allen. The title of Brother Whitted's speech was, "Trying to make it home to my girls tonight."

In his address to the congregation, Brother Whitted spoke on the short time in his new-found role of fatherhood. On April 4, 2019 he welcomed his first child, Maya Josephine Marie Whitted. Although Brother Whitted lacked experienced as a father, he explained his point of view thus far.

He touched on several topics: African American males being an "endangered species," the fear of police violence/corruption, mental health, and the importance of mentorship. He challenged the men in the audience to help change the trajectory of a child's life by being a mentor. He let them know that you do not have to be a father by blood to be a father. He gave them five characteristics of what the make-up of a father should be in his humble opinion; **time, affection, patience, love and sometimes even your life.**



## Delta Delta Chapter

**Manhattan, KS** – Brother Ammanuel Dereje (Delta Delta) assisted in mentoring 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from the Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan planting tomatoes after a discussion of what constitutes a healthy lifestyles and healthy living.



Brother Weah Landford and Brother Tarrence Floyd II of the Delta Delta chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. collected over 20 bags of clothes for a youth clothing drive donating them to the Manhattan Fit closet for less fortunate youth in the Manhattan, KS community



## 9<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Sedric Myers, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

### **Psi Alpha Chapter Fatherhood Initiative San Antonio, TX**

– On May 18, 2019, the Psi Alpha Chapter Fatherhood Initiative Committee provided much needed assistance to their partners (the San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign) in support of the **It Takes A Village Workshop** at Davis Middle School, San Antonio, TX. This was a 1-day interactive workshop with parents and teenagers with the goal of teaching practical skills for enriching family success.

The facilitators covered topics in the areas of Youth Character Development, Mentorship, Family Support Systems, Improving Communication Skills, Healing Families, Healthy Relationship Skills and Conflict Resolution. Brothers Eddie Pinchback and James “Tree” Roundtree represented the committee by providing logistical support while also always seeking opportunities of identifying fathers in need of mentorship, guidance and assistance.







**San Antonio, TX** – On June 15, 2019, the Psi Alpha Chapter Fatherhood Initiative committee provided support to their partners (San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign) and took part in the **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Father's Day Fiesta** sponsored by the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) located at SAHA Park. This was an annual event to recognize and celebrate the sacredness of fatherhood while also presenting Hombre Noble Awards to several honorable men within the San Antonio community. The event also consisted of a Resource Fair, with other organizations manning tables and providing resources such as health screenings, educational opportunities, children's games, music and more. There were approximately 200+ people in attendance.

Brothers Archie "Ice" Peay Jr., Chairman, Anthony G. Peay, Vice Chairman, Alan Thompson, Ken Tyson, Lawrence Naylor and LeMarc Holcombe started the event by manning the table and asking Fathers to read and sign the San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign "Pledge for Fatherhood and Male Responsibility". The committee had the awesome opportunity to pass out their business cards and wrist bands and interact with other organizations and spiritual leaders to spread the word about the Psi Alpha Chapter's Fatherhood Initiative program. Brother Anthony Peay, Vice Chairman, was one of the special guest speakers who had the opportunity to speak to the audience on the purpose of the committee, our partnership with the San Antonio Fatherhood Campaign and the significance of fathers being in the lives of their children/family.

### **Young Men's Academy, Delta Kappa Kappa**

**Hot Springs, Arkadelphia, and Malvern, AR** – Delta Kappa Kappa Chapter which serves the communities of Hot Springs, Arkadelphia, and Malvern, created a mentoring program, the Young Men's Academy (YMA). The program focuses on identifying At-Risk Males attending a junior high school who may need an incentive to stay focused on academics. Each month of the school term a student was selected from each school to participate in the program. The selection process involved soliciting the help of school counselors, and administrators. The criteria for the selection of the students focused on: students demonstrating leadership, volunteer service, and academic improvement. Students who were selected by school faculty received a YMA certificate, and a \$50 stipend from Walmart. At the end of the school year the selected students will attend YMA leadership training in the summer. The trainings will involve tutorials in: learning skills, appearance and communication, mental health awareness, future educational goals, cooking with a grill, and physical health. The students will continue to be followed by the chapter and will possibly be recruited to mentor the next set of students selected for the 19 – 20 school years.

### **6th Annual Marcus Sheppard, Sr., Father & Son Offshore Fishing Charter Nu Phi Chapter**

**Galveston, TX** – The 6th Annual Marcus Sheppard, Sr., Father & Son Offshore Fishing Charter took place on Saturday of the Father's Day Weekend. In past years, the Team would secure 30 to 40 seats for the offshore adventure but the goal was set last year to secure the entire vessel and that goal was achieved! All 83 seats were purchased with a mixture of adults and youth prepared to have a great day on the water with their Fathers.

The vessel secured is named the Capt. John which sails out of Galveston, TX, into the



waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The charter heads out 70 miles into the Gulf in order to deep sea fish for those elusive Red Snappers, which comes with a two-catch limit. The great thing about the trip is whether a skilled fisherman or not, everyone leaves the boat with two snappers. It has been Brother Marcus Sheppard, Sr.'s mission to bring Fathers and sons together on Father's Day weekend to enjoy this unique offshore experience and an adventure it has been. From baiting the hooks with squid, the deck hands running up and down separating lines, and brothers claiming they bagged the biggest fish, it is a "great time had by all." But most importantly, the time and memories that the Fathers have with their sons is a priceless 12-hour sea voyage. – Brother Karlos w/a K Jackson

### **A Year of Mentorship Nu Phi Chapter Thompson Elementary School**

**Houston, TX** – On May 30th, Thompson Elementary in Houston's Third Ward, hosted the Brothers of Nu Phi Chapter for their Year-End Mentorship Appreciation celebration. The mentorship program was designed the previous Spring by the programs Chairman, Bro. Bert Simmons and the school's Principal, Tanya Edwards, to address and guide some of the schools at risk youth.



When the school year began, brothers were paired with mentees between the Third and Fifth grades with a goal of mentoring these youth throughout the school year.

Thompson opened its doors to the mentors throughout the school day and even created a meeting conference center so that mentors and mentees could have an area for one on one interaction. Throughout the year you would often see students learning how to tie ties, reviewing strategies to improve test scores, playing board games, March practice, surprise class visits, or enjoying lunch with a mentor.

The celebration kicked off in the school's library and the mentees enjoyed a pizza party hosted by the mentors. After which each mentee was given an opportunity to express what impact their mentor had on them throughout the school year. At the conclusion of the celebration, Ms. Kim Daniels, the school's counselor, presented the brothers of Nu Phi Chapter with a scrapbook that featured each mentee, their mentor, and all the activities throughout the year. It was so well put together each mentor requested their own copy. Although they are on summer break, mentors are looking forward to reconnecting to those returning mentees in the Fall.

**There are leaders and there are those who lead.  
Leaders hold a position of power and influence.  
Those who lead inspire us.**

**Whether individuals or organizations, we follow those who  
Lead us, not because we half to, but because we want to.  
We follow those who lead not for them but for ourselves.**

**From the book, Start with Why: How great leaders inspire  
Everyone to take action, by Simon Sinek**



## **Brother, You're On My Mind Omicron Beta Chapter**



**Mount Pleasant, MI** – Omicron Beta Chapter organized its first annual programming initiative addressing mental health awareness; Brother, You're On My Mind on November 16, 2018. This mental health initiative originally instituted by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in partnership with the National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities (NIMHD) is a national program that attacks the stigma on mental health and depression. This is implemented to change the national dialogue regarding the issue among African American men.

The mission of this program initiative is to educate not only members of Omega, but family members, peers, and other community members that deal with the challenges of mental health. A goal that was emphasized during this program was to communicate the importance of seeking help when

coping with mental health issues and to encourage affected individuals to get information from their health care providers and others in order to obtain appropriate treatment. Every year, more than 40 million Americans struggle with mental illness. African American men are as likely as anyone else to have mental illness, but they are less likely to get help. Depression and other mental illness can be deadly if left untreated. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among African Americans 15 to 24 years old. Untreated mental illness can also make African American men more vulnerable to substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, and homicide.

Brothers Emmanuel Glass (Basileus), Miles Newton (Vice Basileus), Floyd Beard (KRS), and Christopher Sanders contributed in the coordinating and event planning for this event. This event consisted of a presentation that gave attendees a brief snapshot of the statistical breakdown, showing evidence that the problem of depression and suicide is in the African American community.

The program included several performances about how to combat the stigma that surrounds mental health; these performances included activities such as: singing, spoken word and sharing personal experiences. The overall purpose for these specific accounts was to inform students on campus and other faculty members about how prevalent the issues actually are, show that there could be someone who may be a classmate or a close friend that one may see almost every day suffering from these issues.

According to the event presentations, some barriers that usually prevent African American men from getting treated for mental illness include: lack of access to care, lack of insurance, poor cultural understanding by therapists and the stigma around sharing feelings and emotions. The audience was also given an opportunity to share their





own perspectives and feelings on the subject matter and also express the importance of communication surrounding the subject itself.

Bro. Glass described the event as something that was innovative for CMU's campus; it was something new that had never been done before and he was shocked that this topic had yet to have been addressed formally. Bro. Newton was elated about the event's manifestation and the turnout overall, stating that "this event is something the chapter will continue to do for years to come. We want to ensure that there is an outlet for students to express their feelings and experiences." The brothers of the chapter are extremely humbled to be recognized by the fraternity and are also very appreciative for the chance to share their wonderful experience with the rest of the brothers of the organization.



### **~ Celebrating STEAM ~**

**Stephanie Diana Wilson** was born September 27, 1966 in Boston, MA; she is an American engineer and a NASA astronaut. She flew to space onboard three Space Shuttle missions, and is the second African American woman to go into space, after Mae Jemison. Her 42 days, 23 hours and 46 minutes in space are the most of any African American astronaut, male or female. She attended Stearns Elementary School a public school and Crosby Junior High School. For a career awareness class in middle school, Wilson was assigned to interview someone in a field that interested her. Since she liked to look up at the sky, she interviewed Williams College astronomer Jay Pasachoff, clarifying her potential career interest in space. In high school, her dad encouraged Stephanie to go into engineering; she decided to become an aerospace engineer. After graduating from Taconic High School, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 1984 Stephanie attended Harvard University, receiving a bachelor of science degree in engineering science in 1988 and earned a Master of Science degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas, in 1992.

### **12<sup>th</sup> District: Brother George D. Taylor, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring**

#### **Zeta Tau Foundation, Inc., Welcomes Fathers, Families and Friends Saturday June 15, 2019 at Victory Park, Pasadena, CA**



#### **Brothers of Zeta Tau Chapter Getting Ready to Receive Guests for its Inaugural Harold G. Reese, Sr., Annual Pre-Father's Day Walk**



**Pasadena, CA. June 15, 2019** – Zeta Tau Foundation, Inc., welcomed Fathers, Families and Friends, Saturday June 15, 2019 as it celebrated its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Pre-Father's Day walk begun by Zeta Tau Brother Harold G. Reese, Sr., and the Zeta Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Brother Reese, Sr., entered Omega Chapter March 26, 2019 due to a recurring health issue associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The Foundation and the Brothers of Zeta Tau Chapter have resolved to continue Harold's legacy of encouraging a real focus on the preservation of good health habits and fidelity to family and friends.



Brother Larry Quishenberry, newly elected Basileus of Zeta Tau Chapter expressed deep appreciation for being invited to support the Foundation in celebrating the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Pre-Father's Day walk. "The concept creator for the walk and organizer for the previous 6 years was Brother Harold Reese, unfortunately prior to this year's walk we lost Brother Reese to Omega Chapter." He commended the Foundation for continuing the walk in the name of its creator, Harold G. Reese, Sr. "We were pleased to participate in a walk that Harold would be proud of," he said. Added to the walk's menu was a splendid meal prepared by Zeta Tau's Master Chef and Basileus Brother Quishenberry who, in addition to preparing the food, arranged to have information distributed to the attendees on various health related issues such as: COPD, prostate cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Also, participating in this year's walk, named in honor of its founding brother **Harold G. Reese, Sr.**, was his wife Galene and son Brian. Mrs. Reese indicated to the group that a scholarship in Harold's name has been established. "For those who are interested in contributing to the scholarship, you may send your donation to the Zeta Tau Foundation, Inc, 530 S. Lake Ave #244, Pasadena, CA 91101. Indicate: "Harold Reese Scholarship Fund" in the memo line," she said. Or you may [Click here to support Harold Glenn Reese Sr. Memorial Scholarship organized by Harold Reese Jr](#) . Mrs. Reese also thanked all of the participants who came out for the walk.

Paying his respect to the family of Brother Reese was Brother First Vice Grand Basileus Ricky L. Lewis, who along with the Reese's led the walk as it begins a new look and a new tradition that will live on. For the last six years this walk was held at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. But due to a major event at the Rose Bowl, the walk was changed to Victory Park. Brother Lewis said. "It was pleasure to attend and participate in the Inaugural Harold G. Reese Sr., Pre-Father's Day Walk. It was uplifting and refreshing to fellowship with friends!"

In addition to the many Omega brothers, family members and friends, ZT was pleased to have in attendance the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus Ricky Lewis, 12<sup>th</sup> District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Kwame Dow, 12<sup>th</sup> District KRS Ronan Hill and Southern California Area Rep. Ed Young. Going forward, ZT looks forward to continuing in the mighty footsteps of our fallen brother as we continue the annual Harold G. Reese, Sr. Health Walk with Family and Friends. ///

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



Brother Dr. James King, Jr.  
April 23, 1933 – January 27, 2017

### ~ Celebrating STEAM ~

Zeta Tau Chapter Brother Dr. James King, Jr., was a native of Columbus, GA, a Morehouse graduate, and former resident of Pasadena, CA. Dr. King was the first African American PhD hired at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). After completing his PhD at Caltech in 1958, Dr. King began working as a research engineer of electrochemistry with Atomics International – a division of North American Aviation, Inc. During this time, he developed a method to measure the temperature inside atomic reactors. In the 1960s, during a Middle Eastern oil crisis, Dr. King began to engineer solar-powered cars. He joined JPL in 1961 to study the reactions between ions and molecules. In 1969, after working on a project investigating the physical chemistry of hydrogen and devising a new theory for gas anesthesia and how it works, Dr. King became manager of the physics section of JPL and later became Director of Engineering and Science, the largest directorate at JPL.

## Omega, Fatherhood and Our Programs

by: Brother Craig A. Mobley, Mu Chi, Spring '87, Life Member 3650

Chairman, STEAM Program,

75<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> District Meeting – Anaheim, CA-May 23, 2020

**Los Angeles, CA (Tau Tau Chapter)** – Four socially conscious men who sought to inspire generations to become focused members of society founded Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., November 17, 1911 at Howard University. Fathers of color have been marginalized before and after the Civil War by being denied avenues of success.

This Fraternity of college educated men envisioned and has created avenues of success. It is our responsibility, as members of our Fraternity, to draw more fathers into the success categories; thus, the Fatherhood Initiative. Programs such as the Youth Leadership Conference, Voter Registration, Health Initiatives, and the newly created Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics emphasis (**STEM**) delivers the platforms and vehicles necessary for those young men, who will become fathers and existing fathers to advance into the opportunities of which their forefathers were deprived. Bringing these avenues into the mainstream of this country is significant for us all.

The **Youth Leadership Conference** allows young boys to engage in face to face discussions with successful, college educated men. Because these mentors know the path ahead, they strive to impress upon young boys the need to become successful. Often, Omega participants serve as “stand-in” fathers for a short period of time to provide guidance and practical direction to our youth.

**Voter Registration** is about the importance and observance of citizenry. Voting can change the outcome of programs that impact fatherhood. Professions, regulations, education, finance, and housing, all enhance the ability of a father to be productive and provide for a family.

**Health Initiatives** bring the reality home. Take care of your health, live a worthy healthy life, and contribute more to the betterment of the world for longer.

**STEM** is about inclusion in the technology age. STEM provides knowledge of viable alternatives that let fathers demonstrate technical skills and expose young students to avenues for success in technology. With this influence there is an opportunity for young men to see the purpose and enjoyment of an educated and purposeful life, avoiding the pitfalls of drugs and crime.

Thank you to our founders of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc., who foresaw a need to promote organized programs which provide scholarships, uplift the spirits and demonstrate perseverance which allows manhood (fatherhood) to flourish. We look forward to seeing you May 23, 2020 at the **Columbia Memorial Space Center**, Downey, CA where our focus will be on introducing our Youth to STEM and STEAM. ///



## Omega Youth Leadership Academy: Partnering with the Phoenix Suns to Recognize Fatherhood Initiative Mentees, Mentors, Teachers and Volunteers During Spring Break



**Phoenix, AZ.** On March 27<sup>th</sup> 2019, The Omega Youth Leadership Academy and Phi Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., hosted and treated over 60 mentees, teachers, mentors, parents and volunteers who have been participating in OYLA's *Fatherhood Initiative programs*, to an evening at the Phoenix Suns versus Washington Wizards basketball game. Thirteen schools throughout the Metro Phoenix area were represented.

The evening kicked off with OYLA volunteer parents, executive director Bro. Larry, Ross, board chairman Bro. Carl A. Blunt, and board members Bro. Marc Sutton and Jay Williams manned a table in the stadium concourse and passed out flyers and literature that contained "Fatherhood Initiative" workshop information along with "My Brother's Keeper" and other mentoring and personal enrichment services conducted by the Omega Leadership Academy.

The table attracted quite a bit of activity and several parents showed interest in having their sons become a part of the OYLA mentoring program and attending the April 27<sup>th</sup> "annual Living Above the Influence" Youth Conference.

During the game, the Omega Youth Leadership Academy was recognized over the stadium Jumbotron for its many years of successful community service and commitment to African American and "At Risk" youth who were living in the Valley of the Sun.



After a very close game that went into overtime, the group was escorted down to the floor where Suns assistant Coach, Bro. Corliss Williamson thanked the mentors and volunteers for their valuable work preparing young African American and Latino students for life's challenges, he answered questions and took pictures with the Omega Youth Leadership Academy family, the Phi Iota Brothers and members of a girls basketball team that was chaperoned by their head coach, Bro. Ernest Pouncy. An added treat was the addition of Washington Wizards player Bro. Chasson Randle who joined in and interacted with the group as well.

Even though it was clear that the event was focused on males, the Suns administrative team was so impressed that it invited OYLA to entertain a similar partnership with the Phoenix Mercury of the WNBA. ///

## **Omega Youth Leadership Academy: In Partnership with LinkedIn and Starbucks**



**Phoenix, March, 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019.** The Omega Youth Leadership Academy (OYLA) closed out a busy and successful 1<sup>st</sup> quarter by participating in a partnership with **LinkedIn** and **Starbucks**. OYLA was asked by MENTOR.org, to delivers its mentoring expertise via a unique mentoring session. MENTOR.org organizes local events throughout the nation as part of the 10K Connections Campaign.

The mentoring session was unique in the fact that it was an incredible career mentoring opportunity. The mentee's rotated every 20 minutes to meet with different professionals. During the two-hour session, the young men were able to have career mentoring conversations with three professionals and gain insights from their experience on how to set themselves up for success at work and in life.

For the mentors, it was an opportunity to share their career advice with other youth in the community as well as reflect on the experience afterwards with the mentees. The event was a tremendous success and MENTOR.org is considering the utilization of the Omega Youth Leadership Academy in a much larger role.

The mentees had the opportunity to network with: Patrick Porter-Business Owner, Abdulla Saunders-President San-Trac Technologies, Dr. Derrick Wood, Jay Williams-Owner Williams Construction, Dwayne Ross-Project Manager, Shannon Royal-CEO Vision Leadership Academy, Stacie Ellis-Behavioral Health Professional, DR. Bill Smith-Educational Administration, Lawton Connelly Esq., Marc Sutton-Sutton Insurance.



## Omega Youth Leadership Academy Get a Motown Moment



**Brothers Larry Ross Director, far left. Carl A. Blunt, 32<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> VGB, standing far right. Braggs, Temptations, standing 2<sup>nd</sup> from right**

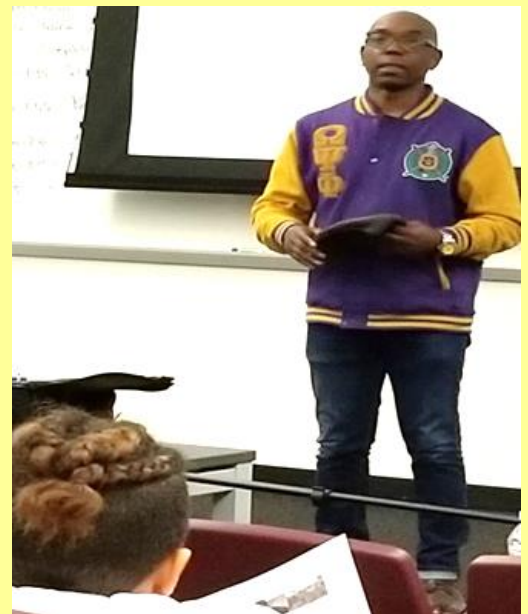
**Phoenix, AZ.** On February 12<sup>th</sup>, the mentees, parents and brothers who were participating in a monthly Omega Youth Leadership Academy workshop at Arizona State University were treated to a visit from the lead singer of the Temptations.

**The Temptations** and **Four Tops** were performing in downtown Phoenix at the Dodge Theatre that weekend, when the lead singer Bro. Larry Braggs, (who was initiated into Omega Psi Phi through Theta Alpha Chapter in Dallas), reached out to the local chapter to inform them that he would be in town. When he heard that there was an Omega Youth Leadership Academy mentor workshop scheduled Saturday afternoon, he exhibited the true spirit of Omega men of like ideals and asked if he could swing by and meet the brothers and mentees.

At the workshop, Bro. Braggs fraternized with the brothers and addressed the mentees and parents about his educational journey, the importance of perseverance and achieving one's dreams. He also took questions about the multiple facets of the entertainment field.

He closed by highlighting one of the many positive aspects of being a member of Omega. Bro. Braggs told those assembled that a few hours ago, he was in a city unfamiliar to him in a hotel, but after placing one call, he finds himself surrounded by friends of all ages.

Brother Carl A. Blunt, the 32<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus, presented Bro. Braggs with gift of 12<sup>th</sup> District cufflinks on behalf of the OYLA, Phi Iota, Alpha Theta and the 12<sup>th</sup> District. Bro. Braggs thanked the brothers for their hospitality and treated several brothers and parents to back stage passes for the performance later that evening.



**Brother Larry Braggs addressing Omega Youth Leadership audience**

## **Upsilon Lambda Lambda International Chapter participates in the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Kanto Plains Special Olympics**

**by Michael Robinson  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

**June 2, 2019**

**(Reprinted from Stars and Strips – Okinawa, Japan)**



**Yokota, Japan** – On Saturday, June 1, 2019, six members of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. along with over 1,000 volunteers provided support for the 40th Annual Kanto Plains Special Olympics. The event took place on Yokota Air Base in Yokota, Japan. The Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and friendship. Each year participants repeat the credo: “Let Me Win. But if I Cannot Win, Let Me Be Brave in the Attempt.”

During the Special Olympics, the Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter assisted the committee in awarding gold, silver and bronze medals to participants of the 50-meter, 100-meter, 200-meter and 400-meter track events. In addition, red, gold, white and green ribbons were provided. The Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the 13th International District are committed to providing service and uplift to the community.

**Pictured: Brothers Kyle Stewart, Brother Jamar Selvy and Basileus Roger Riddick with the Special Olympic participants in the 100-meter track event, and Brothers Jeff Washington and Michael Cotton.**



**On the Left, Brother Jamar Selvy presents medal to Special Olympic participant in the 50- meter track event. On the Right, Brother Jeff Washington presents medal to Special Olympic participant in the 50-meter track event.**





(L) Brother Kyle Stewart presents medal to Special Olympic participant in the 100-meter track event. (C) Brother Michael Cotton presents medal to Special Olympic participant in the 200-meter track event. (R) Brother Michael Robinson with young girl displaying her medals and ribbons from participating in the Special Olympic track events.

## **SGG LEADS BOYZ TO MEN(TORSHIP) LEVEL 2 CAR MAINTENANCE AND CULINARY PROGRAM**

**By Brother Cortez Pree**

**Okinawa, Japan – June 8, 2019** – The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma increased the frequency of their Boyz to Men Program from quarterly to bi-monthly due to increased request from the community to conduct the program more frequently. SGG serves as key facilitators for the Boyz to Men Program (B2M) led by Basileus Brother Cortez Pree; the event was conducted on Saturday June 8, 2019 at Chapel 3 on Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan.

The Boyz to Men(Torship) Program is open to all males ages 5 to 18 in the Okinawa Community. The purpose of B2M is to mentor and educate males through the interaction of sports, cooking, guided discussion and more. The primary goal is to ensure our youth are mentored and guided toward the right path to manhood in order to become productive citizens for our society.

The mentees cooked a variety of breakfast and lunch dishes that included scrambled eggs, sausages, fried fish, homemade French fries, sausage, pancakes, and waffles. Afterwards, the facilitators served brunch to the mentees and bonded with them while eating. Once the mentees finished their meal, they sanitized the kitchen and eating areas. The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma conducted a guided discussion that included subjects in the areas of professional sports, career development, and respect for females. The program concluded with young men conducting level 2 car maintenance under the supervision of the older males. The learn how to rotate tires and change fuses.

SGG continues to take the lead as mentors for our young males in the Okinawa Community. Basileus Brother Cortez Pree stated: “We must set the example for our youth and guide them to be productive citizens in our society”.



**L: Basileus Cortez Pree provides instructions to mentees on how to change and rotate tires; C: Brother Courtney Arnold leads guided discussion for mentees; R: Mentees learn the importance of team work by cooking and serving food to each other.**

# Brothers of Chi Mu Mu in London, England Take A Stand Against Youth Violence

By

Brother Nakuja Guyan

**London, England** – During the past two years, the Brothers of Chi Mu Mu Chapter have volunteered to support an outreach project and partnership with Marcus Lipton Community Centre which is located in the heart of Brixton. Brixton is located in the London Borough of Lambeth which is affected by knife crime amongst youths.

The Brothers of Chi Mu Mu Chapter frequently visit trap houses and drug dens where young people have been groomed and used as 'drug mules.' In some cases, Brothers have assisted in returning youth found in these locations back to their families. Unfortunately, this is an ongoing project with no end date.

Recently, the Brothers of Chi Mu Mu Chapter accompanied parents of young people who have fallen victim to knife attacks in an organized march on Downing Street to bring awareness to Parliament. Participants requested a meeting to discuss support and help for families and young people affected by this tragedy.

In addition to youth violence in England, during the past few months, we have also witness in the news tragic violent events involving our youth in Tokyo, Japan, and the United States:

- A schoolgirl and an adult man were killed and 15 other young girls injured in a stabbing at a bus stop just outside Tokyo, Japan on May 28, 2019.
- On May 7, 2019 two teenagers walked into a STEM School, Highlands Ranch in suburban Denver, Colorado and opened fire with handguns in two classrooms killing one student and injuring eight others.

Click or cut and paste to your browser the link to read article about youth violence taking place in London, England: [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/marcus-lipton-stabbing\\_uk\\_5cc18cd3e4b01b6b3efd21ee?ncid=other\\_email\\_o63gt2jcad4&utm\\_campaign=share\\_email](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/marcus-lipton-stabbing_uk_5cc18cd3e4b01b6b3efd21ee?ncid=other_email_o63gt2jcad4&utm_campaign=share_email)

The Brothers of Chi Mu Mu Chapter and the 13<sup>th</sup> International District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. are committed to preventing youth violence around the globe. "Our youth are our future."



The Brothers of Chi Mu Mu Chapter in London, England from left to right: Shane Gillings (KRS), Corey Nowell (VB), Nakuja Guyan (Basileus), Akogwu Obekpa, Trevor Hodge (13th District DR), James Snipes III (KF) and Paul Brown (IPB) not pictured.



## 13<sup>th</sup> District Promotes Mental Health Awareness Month and Brother You're On My Mind

By

Brother Michael Robinson

**13<sup>th</sup> District** – During the month of May, the Brothers of the 13<sup>th</sup> District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. promoted Mental Health Awareness. According to Wikipedia, “Mental Health Awareness Month” was started in the United States in 1949 by the Mental Health America (then known as the National Association for Mental Health). This year marks 70 years of promoting “Mental Health Awareness Month”. The theme “4Mind4Body” highlights the importance of work-life balance, pets, spirituality in achieving balanced mental health.

The Brothers of the 13th International District have placed Mental Health Awareness as one of their top priorities for promoting information and service to the community in alignment with the goals of the International Headquarters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Among other Mental Health Initiatives promoted by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the National Institute on Minority Disparities is “Brother You're On My Mind”. The main objective is to help start conversations about mental health in African American men.

**Kaiserslautern, Germany** – On May 29, 2019, Basileus Brian Jones, Brother Dave Edwards and Brother Dorian K. Jones of Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter along with Behavioral Health Care Specialist, Mrs. Mary Brahm, engaged the community of Kaiserslautern, Germany on mental health issues. The Brothers passed out over 100 pamphlets and business cards for Landstuhl Mental Health resources at the Exchange on Ramstein Air Force Base, Ramstein Germany. Mrs. Brahm works at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and assisted with professional information and advice to individuals.



The Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter in Mainland, Japan partnered with the Health Promotions Department from U.S. Naval Hospital in Yokosuka, Japan to promote Mental Health Awareness month at the Exchange on Yokosuka Navy Base, Saturday, May 25, 2019.



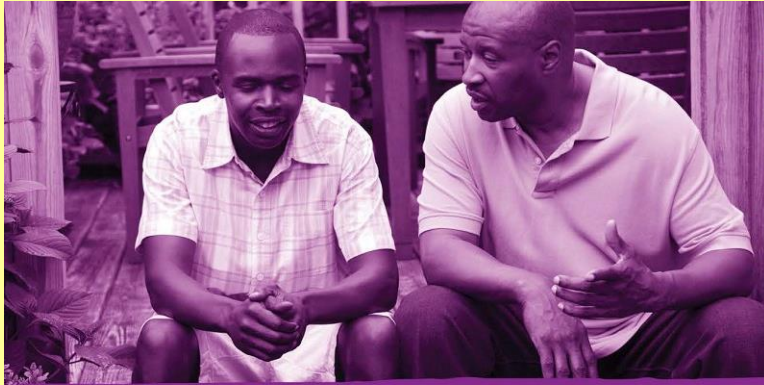
~ Celebrating STEAM in the 50<sup>th</sup> Year of Space Adventure ~  
**Charles F. Bolden, Jr.**, born in 1946; he was a Marine aviator, NASA astronaut, and first African-American administrator of NASA. He has served as a pilot and commander aboard space shuttles *Columbia*, *Discovery*, and *Atlantis*. He graduated from C. A. Johnson High School in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1964 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Science from the United States Naval Academy in 1968 and later earned a Master of Science degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California in 1977. He was a member of the Astronaut Corp from 1980 to 1984 when he returned to assignments in the Marine Corp. His highest rank achieved was Major General and his last assignment was as Commanding General of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing. On May 23, 2009, President Barack Obama announced the nomination of Bolden as NASA administrator. Bolden was confirmed by the Senate on July 15, 2009. He was the first African American to head the agency on a permanent basis. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Bolden lives in Houston, and is married to Alexis (née Walker); the couple have two children.

### Military family members and dependents view Mental Health Awareness Month Display



Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter provided snacks for members viewing the display. Brother Kyle Stewart and Brother Michael Robinson of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter with youth from Yokosuka community. Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter's promotion sign for Brother, You're On My Mind!





## BROTHER, YOU'RE ON MY MIND

Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

"If you can show me how I can cling to that which is real to me while at the same time teaching me the ways into the larger society, I will drop my hostility and my defensiveness, I will sing your praises forever and I will help you to make the desert bear fruit." ~ Ralph Ellison ~

## Coaches from Phi Gamma Gamma Lead Teams Participating in the Eastercup Berlin-Moabit Basketball Tournament By

### Brother Brian Jones

**Kaiserslautern, Germany** – The Eastercup Berlin-Moabit is one of the ten supported International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Europe tournaments for teenaged girls and boys. This year the event was held on Thursday, April 18 thru Monday, April 22, 2019 in various gymnasiums in downtown Berlin. The basketball tournament consisted of 127 teams from 20 different countries and 36 nations competing in 21 categories. FIBA has supported this tournament for the past 7 years.

The U-16 and U-19 Girls' Basketball Teams sponsored and coached by Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter's 2018 Citizen of the Year

Mr. Kevin Smith and Basileus Brian Jones participated in the tournament for the first time. One highlight featured the girls coming back from being down by 15 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter against the Czech Republic to force overtime but losing on a sudden death free throw. The U19 girls came in 4<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams and U16 team came in 6<sup>th</sup> out of 16 teams.

Since January, the Brothers of Phi Gamma Gamma located in Kaiserslautern, Germany have raised over \$3000 in cash to support the U-16 and U-19 Girls' Basketball Teams. In addition, the chapter negotiated \$5000 in paid transportation costs with Landstuhl Child Youth Services to transport the U-16 and U-19 teams to the United World Games in Klagenfurt, Austria in late June 2019.



Basileus Brian Jones and Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter's 2018 Citizen of the Year Mr. Kevin Smith with U16 and U19 Girl's Basketball Team from the Kaiserslautern Military Community in Germany.

The Brothers of Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter also volunteer to officiate scrimmage games for the basketball teams. Brother Brian Jones stated, “as a coach I spend hundreds of volunteer hours and my personal funds supporting the teams doing everything from designing the team logo, to fundraising and managing parents”.

## **Zeta Xi International Chapter Uplifting Young Island Swimmers**

**By**

**Brother Byron Biscoe**

**St. Thomas, Virgin Islands** – The Brothers of Zeta Xi International Chapter located in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands partnered with the BCB Middle School and the St. Thomas Swimming Association for the inaugural eight (8) week swim class and water survival training program. Once a week on Saturdays, youth ages 11 to 18 attend the swimming course held at the St. Thomas Association Aquatic Center in Red Hook. Topics include:

- Introduction to swimming as a sport
- Correct use of life vest
- Learning how to swim
- Basic rescue skills and techniques



At the end of the 8-week course, participants must demonstrate the following before receiving a certificate from the Brothers of Zeta Xi International Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.: Pass the swim test; Swim the length of the swimming pool; Dive off the diving board, and; Demonstrate knowledge of the rules of swimming and safety in the water.

The 8-week swim class and water survival training program initiative are led by Brother Jerry Petersen of Zeta Xi International Chapter. The Brothers of Zeta Xi International Chapter, the 13th District and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., are committed to providing training, mentoring and resources to assist our youth with increased awareness of water sports and safety. Swimming is one of the few exercises that allows participants to use every muscle in the body.

## **Zeta Xi International Chapter Uplifts Island Swimmers**

Brothers of Zeta Xi International Chapter with participating youth in 8-week swim course and water training program. In addition, they are serving as monitors to participants as Facilitators from the St. Thomas Swimming Association provide swimming techniques for participants.





**Brothers of Zeta Xi International Chapter provides lunch for youth**

**Brother Jerry Petersen with young males receiving certificate after completing the 8 – week swimming course and water survival program.**



**“Friendship Is Essential To The Soul”**