

International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee

See the Websites: www.omegafandm.org
www.i-ylc.org



S. Earl Wilson, Chairman
 Fatherhood and Mentoring
undenied16@aol.com



Keith G. Pemberton
 Vice - Chairman
k.g.pemberton@poyfs.org



Raymond Bell
 Vice - Chairman
raybell6h89@msn.com



Robert W. Fairchild
 Fatherhood Advisor
rfairchi@msn.com



Marvin Broadwater, Sr.
 Georgie State Representative
mbroadwatersr@yahoo.com



Sedric Myers
 Special Projects
sedricmyers@msn.com



George D. Taylor, EdD
 Newsletter Editor/Publisher
geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net



Tony Q. Cobb, Jr
 Undergrad Advisor
fseg41@gmail.com



Anthony Lilley
 1st District
HAVOCT196@aol.com



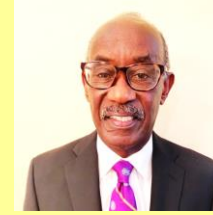
Donald Williams, II
 2nd District
aimhighinlife@aol.com



Michael Frazier
 3rd District
frazier_mw@hotmail.com



Jerry Leftwich
 4th District
JerryLeftwich@yahoo.com



Julius Hill
 5th District
jullushill89@yahoo.com



Melvin L. Williams, Jr.
 6th District
proudfathersinc@gmail.com



Jonathan Gaines
 7th District
7dfatherhood@gmail.com



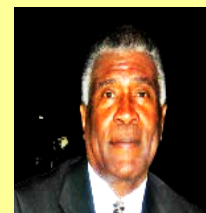
Alton Guidry
 8th District
aguidry1911@yahoo.com



Sedric Myers
 9th District
sedricmyers@msn.com



Cyril Weems
 10th District
weemsc1@yahoo.com



George D. Taylor, EdD
 12th District
geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net



Michael Robinson
 13th District
mrobin12004@yahoo.com

BROTHERS, ON SUNDAY, JUNE 18, THE COUNTRY WILL PAY HOMAGE TO FATHERS. Our beloved fraternity will also celebrate fathers and the role that they have played in the lives of many of our brothers world-wide.

A sub-committee of the International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee is **busy at work making plans for this special occasion.** You will hear more about this in the coming weeks, so stay tuned.

We commend the brotherhood on the initiatives, events, activities, and programs that are taking place in the various communities where Omega men are present. We have observed your creativity, as well as your commitment to stand up and become involved in the life of your communities.

Let us continue to do so. **Fathers play an important role in the lives of communities, their children, and families.** Just as we can see the impact their absence has on their children; we know that their presence makes a big difference! And, we celebrate you.

While single family parents have been successful in raising their children, the experience of not having both parents involved leave *an experience void* that is reflective in the attitude and actions of the children. This is why our mentoring efforts working with fathers and boys is critical. You know the data; you have seen the statistics. We have done excellent work in mentoring

young men and boys. However, young fathers are struggling to work and understand how to deal with the many pitfalls that they face in being a good parent. Let us help them.

Brothers, as members of the Talented Tenth, we are obligated to reach into our communities and assist our people.

Our experiences and understanding as parents are of great value and can be very helpful in helping young fathers who are trying to make it. My ask is that we escalate our efforts in working with fathers which is sorely needed.

Again, **we are preparing for this year's Father's Day celebration, June 18,** which you will see information on soon. Some time back we put out information on what chapters could do in working with fathers. We are also working up a new list which will include a wide range of various activities. We want every chapter engaged. The impact of all chapters participating can have a powerful and lasting effect on righting the ship of Fatherhood in our communities!



In Friendship,

Brother Robert W. Fairchild

~~~ **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** ~~~

**June 15, 2023**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023, Submit information for April, May, June, 2023**

**Our Goal: Publish Information from Each District, Each Quarter**

**Fatherhood, Youth Leadership Conferences, Mentoring**

**Submit articles to: [geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net)**

**Celebrating Fatherhood – International Father's Day Celebration – June 18, 2023**

## Power and Influence: Implications for Black Men

By Brother Eric O. Johnson, 1-11-LBB

Currently serving the 3rd District, Alpha Omega Chapter.

Playing chess with Orlanda, my 8-year-old daughter, is a fun and educational activity. As we are aware, chess is a game that requires critical thinking, problem-solving, and strategic planning skills, which can help improve cognition.

The power and influence of the Black man in the **fatherhood and mentoring** space cannot be overstated. Black men have a unique role to play in shaping the lives of their children and their communities.

Fatherhood is a critical aspect of a child's development, and Black fathers have the power to positively impact their children's lives. Black fathers who are present, engaged, and supportive have been shown to help their children achieve better academic outcomes, higher self-esteem, and greater resilience.

In addition to their role as fathers, **Black men have the power to serve as mentors** to young people in their communities. Mentoring is a powerful tool for empowering young people, and Black men who serve as mentors can help to inspire and guide the next generation of leaders.

**Black men** who are fathers and mentors **have the power to challenge negative stereotypes** about Black masculinity. By being positive role models, they can help to reshape societal perceptions of Black men and demonstrate that Black men can be caring, nurturing, and responsible.

As a reminder, the 3rd Annual International Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Father's Day virtual Celebration "Father's Celebrating Fatherhood" will take place on June 18, 2023.

In Friendship,

Brother Eric O. Johnson



**The Fraternity's Aim:** The Fraternity continues to enhance-educate-engage in closing the gap of father absenteeism in the lives of their children. As mentors, the Fraternity understands the need to assume several different roles during a successful mentor-mentee relationship. It has called on its membership to focus on the importance of mentoring our next generation of young men and fathers and to actively engage in Fatherhood and Mentoring activities that are centered on four value-laden strategies: 1. **Raising Awareness**, 2. **Developing Partnerships**, 3. **Increasing Advocacy**, and 4. **Promoting and Celebrating Achievements**. (Quote from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Fatherhood and Mentoring Status Report, November 11, 2014.)

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**Contemporary Thought:** In keeping with the aspirations of our founders, Brothers Coleman, Cooper, Love and Just and Brother Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the father of African American history, we envision Brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., continuing to first, engage in self-development and, second, maintain ways by which we will involve male youth and fathers in growth opportunities that will enable them to be benefactors of service and uplift to our communities and our spheres of influence! (Quote from: unpublished GUIDE AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS TOOL KIT, January 2023)

**Just A Thought: What is THE African American Experience?**

**W**hen discussing the so-called African American Experience over the past 404 years, it cannot be disputed that through our ancestor's blood and sacrifice our people have overcome nearly insurmountable odds.

After being kidnapped and brought to the New World against their will, forced into enslavement and subjected to hideous atrocities, they still built one of the greatest nations in the world with their bare hands and created a culture that produced not only some of the greatest leaders, but introduced styles that have captivated, impacted and influenced others throughout the global environment in which we exist.

**CULTURE, ONE OF THE MAIN** components that defines a people, and the so-called American Black Experience as we know it today, emerged from an African culture that our ancestors were not allowed to carry from their homeland.

To paraphrase Pastor **Joshua Cullins** in the documentary **Reclaiming the Throne**, he describes the American Black Experience by saying: It is a shared condition and sum of experiences we suffered at the hands of our oppressors and colonial masters.

**OUR ANCESTORS WERE FORCED** TO IMPROVISE, adapt, and overcome systematic and vicious attempts to disconnect them from their rich and powerful African heritage. The fact that they were denied the opportunity to read and write resulted in a new or hybrid African American culture being created primarily with oral

history elements derived from their true African culture.

With just a minimum amount of research, the deliberate omissions and erasure of the magnificent, wealthy, and dominant African contributions by those that call themselves historians is revealed. That practice of historical misrepresentation and deletion has been, and continues to be key variables in the formula to keep Black people in the dark about who they really are.

From scholars like **Hugh Trevor Roper** who spread fallacies that Africa had no discernable history until Europeans arrived and archeologists like **Giuseppe Ferlini** and French explorers who destroyed historical African artifacts, documents, books and tombs, to today where current elected public servants are leading campaigns to minimize and rewrite the value and importance of Black history.

**In 2023**, we find that overt racism has reared its ugly head once again and attempts to erase our past, disconnect us from our heritage and return us to a submissive condition is a reality. However, this time, our children have been the targets.

**IT APPEARS, SCHOOL BOARDS** are being compromised, teachers are being intimidated and removed, books are being banned, history is being rewritten and most egregiously, over the past decades our music has been a continuous, persistent, and sustained source of indoctrination of our youth.

Songs that top the charts now are no longer about being Black and Proud or Black is Beautiful instead it's about glorifying, predicting and



**Brother Dr. Carl A. Blunt**

accepting our own demise. No longer are our brothers and sisters looked on as being **Young Gifted and Black** instead it's (n-words) and (b-words). To paraphrase Pastor Cullins again, he states that we (African Americans) are the only ones who celebrate our own demise and degradation.

We are still being lynched. Today it's just police and vigilantes killing us. We are still on the plantation; today it's just the privatized prisons. We still live under Jim Crow Laws; today it's just restrictive state voting legislation.

**WHEN I HEAR THE TERM WOKE** coming out of the mouths of those that can't even define it, I wonder if they realize what it actually means. Woke is a form of the word awake which means to emerge from sleep. Become alert, to be attentive, to come to life.

Whereas the opposite of woke is the word sleep which is a form of the word asleep: I assume this is what the anti-woke people consider themselves: Not attentive or alert, inactive, having no feeling, as in his legs were asleep. I'd rather stay woke. Share our true history.

"The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history."  
George Orwell 1984. 📖

**Dr. Carl A. Blunt** is an author, lecturer, and immediate past Board Chairman of the Omega Youth Leadership Academy. He also served as the 32<sup>nd</sup> First Vice Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc.



## Diversity as a Business Strategy: How Diversity Leads to Organizational Success

By Maurice R. Smith, Esq.\*

**Editor's Note:** Periodically, SMEs (*subject matter experts*) are invited to address a topic of contemporary interest to fathers and leaders. DEI is current as Fathers seek to navigate the various dimensions of work, life, family balance, and benefits. Accordingly, this piece is proffered. gdt



Bro Maurice R. Smith,  
Esq., PLLC.

**C**ORPORATE LEADERS ARE tasked with creating shareholder value. This is a singular mission. To perform this guiding mandate, executives should pursue actions that benefit their stakeholders.

Organizations can fulfill their aim by insisting that their talent resources are equipped to face various business scenarios. This takes a staff, board, and management team that possesses myriad skills and experience. This article examines a business case for diversity. Three areas where a focus on diversity can be good for the bottom-line are observed. Before doing so, let's see if we can come to an agreement on the meaning of diversity.

Diversity is simply the multiplicity of traits, skills, backgrounds your talent pool may possess. By talent, I mean your board, volunteers, and staff. Diversity includes a wide variety of categories. Here are some descriptors:

Race – Gender – Identity – Sex Orientation  
– National Origin – Age – Marital Status –  
Religion – Disability – Ability – Personality  
– Income – Geography – Education –  
**Parental Status** – Class – Generation

As you may see, diversity can mean different things to different people. The utility of identifying these distinctions is not to highlight what separates us. The important takeaway is the realization that our members, staff and stakeholders may see the organization in different ways. Armed with this understanding, we can see how well-intended decisions can be mistaken by audiences with different perspectives.

Rather than focus on diversity as a barrier to overcome, we should consider viewing diversity as a tool for competitive advantage. Let's face it. Most businesses are unremarkably indistinguishable from their competitors. The differences that separate some companies from others is often lost on the public. It befits institutions to seek advantages that highlight a superior business model.

Back to the business case. Here are three areas where organizations can improve their bottom-line by incorporating diversity in their organizations.

**DIVERSITY AS DUTY OF CARE: Every corporate official has legal fiduciary duties** which must be obeyed. One of the responsibilities is called the *Duty of Care*. The Duty of Care is a legal requirement imposed on directors and corporate officials requiring compliance to a standard of reasonable care while performing their roles for the organization.

The Duty of Care implies a reasonable officer seeks to advance corporate opportunities. Therefore, it seems reasonable that an effort to expand diversity would be expected if the anticipated results are better returns.

On the opposite side of the equation, corporate officials are warned to avoid wasting company's resources. The **Corporate Waste Doctrine** states directors have a duty to not squander corporate opportunities. It may be reasonable to conclude that the omission of qualified talent with diverse skills handicaps an

organization's potential. This is a wasted opportunity.

Another way to think about the Duty of Care is to consider how corporate resources are invested. The warning to avoid blind-sided risks has application for diversity. The same may be said for human resources. *Diverse people talents often lead to greater returns.*

**DIVERSITY AS RISK MITIGATION: Every management team should be focused** on quality control issues. Quality control requires constant attention to process improvements and strategy performance. One way to improve in these areas is by reducing errors. The first step here is identifying real issues. Lawyers often call this issue spotting.

Most organizations make mistakes. Miscalculations result in bad execution, the formation of the wrong strategy or misjudgment on the cost of a venture. Smart organizations study past failures to understand what went wrong and how to avoid repeating errors. In many instances, bad results came from a failure to incorporate diverse perspectives.

When presented with a problem, management must discern which details are fact and which are noise. The purpose of issue spotting is to ensure management addresses the important matters and avoid missteps.

Diversity improves odds of spotting issues by broadening the perspectives around the table. A team of people who see a situation with different angles improves the probability of recognizing obstacles and developing ways to

alleviate the challenges. Furthermore, the team is more equipped to uncover new opportunities.

**DIVERSITY AS MARKETING TOOL:** The power of affiliation is natural to many organizations that concentrate their services in a particular target market. Common interests among the customers and members ensure an institution focuses its attention on the needs of its stakeholders.

People often prefer to conduct business with organizations that represent their interests. Identity is a common interest. Organizations that reflect the character and content of its community demonstrate a sensitivity that is not lost on its members.

**Corporate leaders should ask what image they want to project in their intended market.** This is the lens through which members and the community will judge the organization's focus on representation. The adequacy of diversity is not determined by insiders. The audience should be asked for their impressions to get a sense of how members feel diversity has been attained.

A diverse board and staff improve the chances that the organization will be in tuned with its customers. The results may be services and products that truly addresses the needs of the audience.

In summary, corporate leaders have a duty to improve the way they serve

members. Diversity offers organizations benefits in so many ways. A strategy built on diversity employs all stakeholders' interests as a competitive advantage. Seems like a no-brainer. 🧠

\*Maurice R. Smith is an attorney, business advisor and former financial institution CEO. Smith was initiated in **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.** in 1978 through the Omicron Alpha Chapter, Wilmington, NC. He received the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and earned a Juris Doctorate from the NC Central University School of Law. Smith is licensed to practice law in North Carolina, the United States Supreme Court, and the District of Columbia. Smith is also a North Carolina Certified Superior Court Mediator and can be contacted via: [www.msmithlaw.us](http://www.msmithlaw.us)

## The Fatherhood Journey – Character, Our Destiny!

### A Tale of Two Morals—Character is Destiny! Implications for Fathers

By Brother Larry Hammond, Sr.

This is a tale of two morals; one, a spoiled rich child who apparently never learned to tell the truth or the importance of doing the right thing. In 1973, he and his father were accused by the Department of Justice of violating the civil rights of Black people that were trying to rent an apartment in the buildings owned by this father and son duo. This son later became the President of The United States.

The other child grew up in Shriver's Row in Harlem. He was taught high morals, solid values, and the importance of telling the truth by his parents. He strived for excellence in the classroom and graduated from Harvard Law School. This son later became the Manhattan District Attorney.

On Thursday, March 30, 2023, HISTORY WAS MADE when this Manhattan DA became the first prosecutor in the United States of America to charge a former president with a crime. Ironically, one was born in the same year that the other was accused of racist practices and had to pay a hefty fine for discriminating against people of color who were attempting to rent apartments in his property.

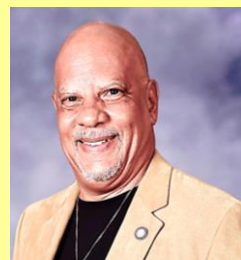
I teach leadership development. I train on the virtues of qualities like confidence, integrity, accountability, and compassion that allow leaders to reach their maximum potential. These are the tenants of leadership that help those in leading roles to succeed. Regrettably, over the

past few years these vital principles have seemingly been under attack. There has been an all-out assault on morals, ethics, and the leadership values that I teach to those that want to excel in leadership. Principles like, honesty, uprightness and basic decency have really taken a hit. We see people in leadership positions, at the highest levels, that do not tell the truth and that demonstrate unethical standards in their actions daily. Social media has inundated the airways with twisted and convoluted philosophies that are the very antithesis of what I have been teaching to the leadership ranks.

**AS FATHERS, WE ARE THE LEADERS FOR OUR CHILDREN.** It is up to us to espouse the principles of virtue and fortitude to our children so that they will grow up to be leaders. It is up to us to be the example, showing the way forward and to live in values that build stellar character.

"Leadership is not about being in charge. It's about taking care of those in your charge," Simon Sinek.

I encourage all fathers to "stay the course." Lead by example, and show your children the right path, at whatever age, by modeling the behavior yourself. Encourage them to think critically about the world around them and to form their own opinions. Don't let today's bombardment of lack of ethics, morals and values cloud your influence as a father on your children. Now, more than ever, you owe it to them to give them the tools to succeed in life. Character is Destiny! 🧠



Bro Larry Hammond, Sr.  
VIH Consulting

## History Bears Witness to the Truth

*"Remember the days of old, Consider the years of all generations. Ask your father and he will inform you, your elders, and they will tell you."* Deuteronomy 32:7  
Brother Charles "Chuck" Clemons, M.Div., 12<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain



Charles "Chuck" Clemons

In 1969, a little Methodist Church was set ablaze by an unknown arsonist in New Jersey. A year after the assassination of Rev. Dr. **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, my Father, the late Rev. **Charles Lee Clemons, Sr.**, and the congregation of Reeveytown African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church awoke to their church set ablaze. Detectives who investigated the charred site found evidence of a kerosene canister and candles strewn through the sanctuary, yet no culprit could be found. The much-coveted land was owned by this African American congregation and had descended from brothers who were of African and Indigenous-American ancestry. Stories were recalled that local business owners, land developers, and city officials were trying to coerce the church to sell the property.

My Father, the Men, and the Women of this church pooled their resources and set their minds to rebuild. With the little they had, they raised funds to start anew. Their actions inspired others to donate time and money. The Society of Friends (often referred to as the Quakers) after hearing of the church's plight volunteered man hours on the construction site. My mother, **Cherrie Sheppard-Clemons**, recalled receiving a visitor to our home who sat in the living room with my father. He was a wealthy neighbor who had planned to build a swimming pool that year (1969) for \$5,000. He was so disgusted that anyone would burn a church or possibly attack the Black community, he signed the check over to my Father for the church. These actions together shape a community and family history of resilience and triumph.

**MY HISTORY IS A SMALL SUBSET** of the rich legacy and heritage of our people who descended from Africa. Our stories collectively bear witness to the truth of our God-given value and dignity. Like any story there are aspects that we may mourn, some we celebrate, and some we question to unearth lessons for us to use to navigate the challenges of today.

In America, we are experiencing demographic and cultural change. This shift in the predominance of ethnic groups has elicited a reaction from many in the larger

white community who are fearful of a multi-ethnic or multi-cultural society. Compounding those fears is an unresolved guilt related to the founding and development of the Americas based on a racial caste system. What we commonly call, systemic racism.

**THE SCRIPTURES (DEUTERONOMY 32:7)**, invited the ancient Jew then and the modern man today, to remember the works of God in earlier times. Remembering how God rescued in the past from trouble encouraged faith for today. The Israelites who had been rescued from Egypt and brought into the promised land were also warned not to forget God in the good times in the "land flowing with milk and honey." History reminds us of the truth of who we are and where we come from!

**FOR AMERICA TO BE GREAT**, it must not run from its history, but remember, teach, and learn from it. Within the American experience, there are histories we must learn and renounce its evil: the decimation of the Indigenous peoples, the Enslavement of Africans, Jim Crow, Segregation, Redlining, and Police Brutality. Then there is within history acts we should remember to celebrate: the great Kingdoms of Africa - wealth and ingenuity, the inventors of Africa and America (Ancient and Modern); our legacy of decorated warriors from African Chiefs, Black Conquistadors, Black Patriots, and Decorated Military Men and Women.

There exist countless other stories of African histories within the larger world history of mankind. This brief recalling of Black history could not be scaled to fit within this article, but I end with remembering a Christ-like leader, Black Man within my house, the Rev. Charles L. Clemons, Sr., who made his mark on history through the uplift of our people. FIETTS

**\*Charles Clemons, Jr., 12<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain, is author of, "UNDIVIDED: A Biblical Response to What Divides U.S.," 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2020**

## From Around the Districts

**"WHEN TROUBLE IS SENSED WELL IN ADVANCE, IT CAN EASILY BE REMEDIED; IF YOU WAIT FOR IT TO SHOW ITSELF ANY MEDICINE WILL BE TOO LATE BECAUSE THE DISEASE WILL HAVE BECOME INCURABLE."** FROM "THE PRINCE" BY NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI



### **A Success Story: From Client to Provider**

**Waterbury, CT** – The Brothers of Lambda Rho Chapter continues its Fatherhood work with the New Opportunities, Inc. The 24/7 Program is a 12-week group program where father's meet weekly to gain insight on parenting, navigating the court system and overall stresses of being a father.

Mr. Francisco Melendez came to the program seeking help trying to reunify with his two children. After successfully completing the program, he continued the course and was awarded custody of his two children. The Juvenile Court found that Mr. Melendez was the most appropriate parent.

After gaining custody of his two children and becoming a stable full-time parent, Mr. Melendez has been given the opportunity to work for New Opportunity, Inc., in Waterbury as a Fatherhood Specialist. He will be able to work with fathers who were once in his shoes to help them become a success story. The Brothers of Lambda Rho Chapter salutes Mr. Melendez on this accomplishment. ///



### **Lambda Rho Celebrates Black History Month**

Lambda Rho believes in *Brothers supporting Brothers*. Our Chapter Chaplain Brother Rev. **Antwaun Richardson** took part in MLK Worship service in the city of Waterbury. It was a collaborative effort between Grace Baptist Church, Mt. Olive AME Zion Church, and Zion Baptist Church, where Brother Richardson resides as pastor. It was a great teaching moment for the city of Waterbury. The Brothers of Lambda Rho want to thank the City of Waterbury for allowing us to attend and be of service. ///



### **Tau Iota Partners with Clover Street School**

**Windsor, CT** – Tau Iota Chapter had the pleasure of partnering with Clover Street School in Windsor. The Brothers read black authored and centered books to the Clover Street fourth grade students. The Brothers also engaged with the staff in what our children need to be successful in Education. The Brothers of Tau Iota thank the Windsor Board of Education for allowing them to serve. ///



### **Mission Hills, CT – Iota Chi Celebrates Black History Month**

Iota Chi Chapter gave a brief history and performed for the students at Roxbury Prep Mission Hills. Brothers Coles and Williams informed the students about the importance of Black History not only for the month of February but for the whole year. The Brothers also gave a history on the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The Brothers of Iota Chi would like to thank the staff at Roxbury Prep Mission Hills for allowing them to serve. ///

***"Let us be the generation that reshapes our economy to compete in the digital age. Let's set high standards for our schools and give them the resources they need to succeed. Let's recruit a new army of teachers and give them better pay and more support in exchange for more accountability. Let's make college more affordable, and let's invest in scientific research, and lay down broadband lines through the heart of the inner cities and rural towns all across America."*** Barack Obama, 2008, 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America.

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



**SECOND DISTRICT FATHERHOOD AND MENTORING** Committee (FMC) celebrates six years of “telling the mentoring story” using a podcast. The FMC has been intentional about connecting with a new generation of listeners who uses podcast as their primary source of information.

In 2017, **Ques On The Move** talk show was launched using the social media platform to amplify the bright lights on the incredible community engagement and mentoring work Omega Men are doing in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The podcast focus’ on meaningful conversations that impact and make “*hope happen*” through mentorship in our communities. The podcast airs from January through April every Tuesday at 8 p.m. for a half hour segment where different chapters talk about mentoring programs in their community.

**Ques On The Move’s** mission is clear, intentional, and strategic driven to have approximately 85 Chapters actively engage their communities through mentoring Dads and young people, especially young males.

Omega has been mentoring for a long time with outstanding results saving, shaping, and changing the trajectory of young people lives. *Mentoring Matters!* Parents and mentors alike are told to be mindful that “*one day your sons and daughters will follow your example and not your advice.*” We have been intentional in the sixth season to reach out to guests from other Districts.

On Tuesday, January 10, 2023, **Ques On The Move** podcast kicked-off the sixth season with S. Earl Wilson, International Chairman of the Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee, who provides transformative

leadership that impacts approximately 750 chapters in seventeen countries around the globe. He has a heart for mentoring men and young people. He has guided the Fraternity under the leadership of Dr. David E. Marion, 41<sup>st</sup> Grand Basileus with significant accomplishments and currently under the leadership of Ricky L. Lewis, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus, to next level initiatives.

Co-Host Jeffrey Diggs asked the International Chairman, Brother Wilson, what initial thoughts he had after 90% percent of the conclave chapter’s delegates voted “Yes” making Fatherhood and Mentoring a mandated program. He became emotional because “Team Omega” worked hard for a long-time engaging community through mentorship. The FMC was made a top priority with resources for a greater impact at the Chapter’s level. This is where a significant difference is made with Omega men working to strengthen families in their community. These mentoring programs encourages Dads to be engaged as effective parents in their children lives.

On Tuesday, February 7, 2023, Black History Month featured two distinguished leaders, **Dr. Rahmon Hart**, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Iota Phi Foundation, Chairman/CEO and **Keith G. Pemberton** from the 6<sup>th</sup> District, Beta Kappa Kappa, the “On Point” Chapter in High Point, North Carolina. Both provide sterling leadership in their communities through mentoring,

Brother Keith G. Pemberton, the International Vice Chairman, Youth Leadership Conference is excited about the 2023 Dr. Moses C. Norman, Sr., International Leadership Conference which will be held July 11-16, 2023. He is responsible for planning the Youth Leadership Conference that will be held in Nassau, Bahamas. He addressed the purpose of the youth conference which is to provide training, education, and manhood instructions.

Brother Dr. Hart, a son of Pittsburgh, was the District Marshall twice during the pandemic. He is excited that the 75<sup>th</sup> Second District Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA., during April 20-23, 2023. With all that is going on in the world today, he was asked: “What are some of the challenges for connecting and building relationships with today’s generation that’s different from when he was 15, 16, 17 years of age?”

On Tuesday, March 7, 2023, Women's History Month featured two quintessential servant leaders. Brother **Jamaal Gosa**, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Youth Leadership Conference leader from Iota Phi Chapter, outlined the activities that will help students lead, proceed, and succeed. Brother **Eric Johnson**, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Alpha Omega Chapter, Chairman for Fatherhood & Mentoring, talked about the impact mentoring has had in his life journey. Special Note Brother Sergeant Major Eric Johnson (Army Retired) is a **Purple Heart Recipient**.

The segment concluded with Brother Diggs, honoring our women in our lives by asking the guests to share insight on who were the women in their life that influenced them?

**Key Message: Ques On The Move** podcast is truly about "messaging" – influencing a new generation of listeners about incredible mentoring program in their communities. Omega men in the mentoring space are trusted Ambassadors with a divine mission to make a difference in our community. As we put the pandemic in the rearview mirror, mentoring programs must view Dads as engaged and effective parents who are involved in their children's growth and development; and, who help young people, especially young males, to reach their full potential.

**Ques On The Move podcast GOAL:** 1,000 Viewership -- Go to Facebook and YouTube. See you every Tuesday night from January to April, 8 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Facebook & YouTube. Copy and paste in your browser:

<https://www.facebook.com/2nddistrictfm>

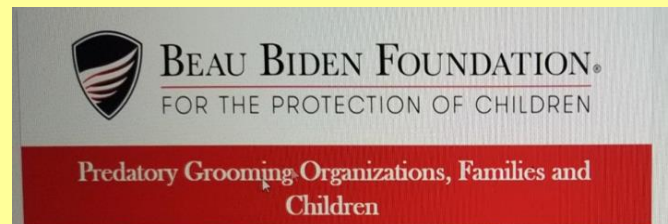
<https://www.youtube.com/@2nddistrictfm2nddistrictfa85>

## District Mentoring Leadership Seminars

On Saturday, February 4, 2023, the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Winter Council Meeting was conducted under the leadership of **Delrecole "Rico" Gales**, 38<sup>th</sup> Second District Representative, who approved the "Roll Out" plan for addressing Risk Management.

In 2023, the 2nd District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee launched a series of Districtwide Mentoring Leadership Training seminars in response to it becoming a mandated program. On Monday, February 13, 2023, seminar topics were: the Risk Management and District's Mentoring Roll Out Plans.

The series wrapped up with presenter, Brother **Reggie Laster**, a recently retired Delaware police officer. He currently works with the Beau Biden Foundation on training, educating, and certifying organizations nationwide. The third workshop centered on Risk Management strategies and preventative measures to protect the mentoring brand.



The workshop was a precursor to a conversation with Corridor Representatives about the District's Mentoring Roll Out plan, which will be conducted by pairing Corridors together. The conversation centered on what Risk Management is and isn't and dos and don'ts while interacting with children. The District will work with Corridor Representatives by States to raise awareness, implement training, certify participants as per a policy letter under the Beau Biden Foundation.

**Key Message:** It is extremely important for leadership at the Chapter level to persist with mentoring programs that increases awareness on the importance for men to be engaged as effective parents in their children's lives and helping young people, especially our young males, reach their full potential. ///

Next Level Mentoring Leadership Matters and Mentoring Saves Lives! ///

**HISTORY LESSONS:** "America is running short of big people who are willing to tackle big issues, pursue big ideas, and make big commitments to the human condition. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Septima Clark, Lyndon Baines Johnson, and Everett Dirksen, Mary McLeod Bethune and Esau Jenkins, and countless others have left us great legacies. They must be replaced with professional careerist whose personal commitments are genuine, and handshakes are ironclad contracts. Those who seek your assistance should never be shrugged off by nonchalance and indifference. You must help replace today's big thinkers with visionary leaders who see our country as a land of opportunity for all Americans and as a beacon of hope for people around the world who yearn to be free."

From, *Blessed Experiences: Genuinely Southern, Proudly Black*, James E. Clyburn



### 3<sup>rd</sup> District: Brother Michael Frazier, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring



Prince William County Virginia, Pi Lambda Lambda

On February 11, 2023, the Omega U hosted its 7th Annual Black History Program, with guest speakers Bro. **Cozy Bailey** and CEO **Calvin Farr**. Rev. Cozy Bailey is President of the Prince William County Branch of the NAACP.



Prince William County Virginia, Pi Lambda Lambda

On February 4, 2023, the Omega U took a trip to Hampton University. The students were exposed to various facets of the University ranging from Admission and Financial Aid to overall student life. The Omega U students were able to engage with faculty that represented several different departments and even had the opportunity to speak with a third-year student from the same county; Prince William County.



Newport News, Virginia, Kappa Iota Iota

On a brisk Saturday morning the Young Men of Distinction (YMOD) along with the men of Kappa Iota Iota (KII) assembled in preparation for attending the Newport News Public Schools annual RISE conference. This year's conference included workshop topics designed to promote overall student well-being and success and those which support the RISE! Pillars of Leadership: Mentorship, Character Development, Academic Excellence, College and Career Exploration, Enrichment, and Service (NNPS 2023).





### Fairfax, Virginia, Psi Alpha Alpha

The MANUP Mentoring Program of Fairfax Virginia completed a series of Professional Careers for the students at John Lewis High School on January 20, 2023. The day was completed with the presentation to 40 students with hygiene care packages. The care packages were gifted to the students on practicing good hygiene as a basic tenant of Manhood.

**The MANUP Mentoring Program** took 40 deserving students from John Lewis, Mount Vernon, and Freedom High Schools to George Mason University (GMU) on January 14, 2023, to watch the GMU Patriots take on Davidson University.

Students watched a thrilling last second win by GMU at Eagle Bank Arena located in Fairfax Virginia. Students were able to talk with GMU University President (top) Greg Washington, and student cheerleader and President of The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority of Omicron Iota (right), Nicole Wright.



NICOLE WRIGHT, OMICRON IOTA PRESIDENT, GMU



### Petersburg, VA, Delta Omega

On February 25, 2023, the Delta Omega Chapter's Excellence (DCoE) in Petersburg, Virginia. The mentorship program, "The Male Protégé Program" (TMPP), conducted its fourth seminar of the year at the Delta Omega Foundation, Incorporated's Center of Excellence. The seminar topics presented were "Mental Health and Wellness Awareness" and STEM project "The Business Behind the Design." ///

## Mentoring the Next Generation of Engineers

Bro Troiano “Tori” Franklin 4-FA21-  
Beta Iota Chapter (Cincinnati)

**BROTHER TROIANO “TORI” FRANKLIN** is an Associate Director of R&D for the endo mechanical platform at Ethicon, Inc.

Brother Franklin was recently invited to speak at the University of Cincinnati’s National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) chapter 2023 Corporate Week. During this week in February, they feature different company representatives to come and speak about their workplace experiences and provide insights or advice on navigating the corporate world as a Black Professional.

Tori spoke to their General Body about the P.I.E. Model that was topic and subject of the book “Empowering Yourself, The Organizational Game Revealed,” by Harvey J. Coleman.

In the book, Coleman explored the impact of PIE on your career success. Looking at 3 key elements that contribute to progression in your career:

1. Performance
2. Image
3. Exposure

Coleman says that **performance is 10%** of career progression, **image is 30%**, and **exposure is 60%** one’s career progression. He emphasizes that “**Right-sizing the balance**” between these three dimensions is critical for career positioning and progressing.

Tori told the group that each model “needs to be right sized for you” and he explained what it looks like going “**from good to great**,” as shown in the P.I.E. Differentiation chart above. Brother Franklin shared his personal experiences with students that were lessons learned from 20 years of engineering experience. ///



### P.I.E. Differentiation

|   | Good<br><i>Builds incremental brand equity</i>                                                                                                                                                            | Great<br><i>Creates new and sustainable value propositions</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| P | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Plays not to lose</li><li>➤ Hits the numbers</li></ul>                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Plays to win</li><li>➤ Transforms the industry</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| I | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Supports change</li><li>➤ Handles unexpected demands</li><li>➤ Qualifies statements</li><li>➤ Does job well</li><li>➤ Understands informal organization</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Personally leads change</li><li>➤ Anticipates and adapts strategy to changing conditions</li><li>➤ Confident to declare stretch plan</li><li>➤ Change agent</li><li>➤ Is savvy, builds consensus, and drives change</li></ul> |
| E | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Niche Exposure to Key Organization leaders and influencers</li><li>➤ Creates Development Plan in isolation</li></ul>                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Broad network of advocacy (Mentors &amp; Sponsors)</li><li>➤ Actively participates in informal information network</li><li>➤ Uses network of supporters to create meaningful development plan</li></ul>                       |





## Celebrating Black History in West Virginia

By Hollis Lewis,  
Chair of the Fatherhood and Mentor Initiative, Xi Alpha

**Charleston, WV** – Xi Alpha, Theta Psi, and Gamma Lambda Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., located in Charleston, West Virginia, had a fruitful Black History Month. We spent this time with a focus on our youth. The Xi Alpha Chapter hosted its annual Black History Month Program held at West Virginia State University on February 19, 2023.

During the program, we were educated and entertained with performances by the Epsilon Chapters of the Xinos and Xudos, Bridging the Gap Youth Group, Martin Luther King Choir, and many other youths in our community. In addition, the Men of Omega went to several schools around the city including Piedmont Elementary, Mary C. Snow Elementary, Dunbar Middle, and Westside Middle to provide uplift and education about Black History to our youth. ///

## **Jonesville Academy; Fatherhood/Mentorship Impacting Young Great Minds**

By Bro. Dallas Miles -

**Bowling Green, KY** – Minorities often face discrimination and exclusion in education: thus, giving purpose for Jonesville academy, a program designed for Black and Brown young men in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> in Bowling Green and Warren County. For the past two years, the Theta Alpha Alpha (Bowling Green, KY) brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., have volunteered at Jonesville Academy.

The program operates once every two weeks where the youth rotate through these classes: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Reading, Writing, Exploring Languages, History, and Cultures. Furthermore, youth can hear from positive role models in the community, thereby helping to create future equal educational opportunities.



On January 15, 2023, the brothers of Theta Alpha Alpha attended the Jonesville Academy tie-tying ceremony at 3:30 pm in Bowling Green. This event was located at Houchens LT Smith Stadium on the campus of Western Kentucky University. It was a graduation ceremony in which the young men were instructed to wear white collared button up dress shirts. Each student was recognized for their accomplishment by receiving a red tie and having it tied by influential members of the community. In attendance were three brothers from the Theta Alpha Alpha Chapter, **Curtis Johnson** (3-19-TAA) **Theo Marks** (1-02-TΞ) and **Jamarvin Durham** (1-10-ΓΘ).



Bro. Curtis Johnson who serves on the board at Jonesville Academy advised, “He wants to promote black excellence in academics and show young black men they can be more than the negative stereotypes they see constantly.” When Bro. Marks was asked what motivated him to get involved with the academy, he replied, “Interacting with today's promising youth is a great opportunity to introduce them to Omega values and principals”.

Bro. Durham teaches the youth at Lost River elementary located in Bowling Green. Every other weekend he volunteers at Jonesville teaching grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> writing and reading topics.

Fatherhood and Mentoring is one of the fraternity's mandated programs that has been exemplified in Bowling Green. The brothers of Theta Alpha Alpha prides themselves on being involved and active in our community. There is no regard when it comes to the great work being done but there's always room for improvement. Uplift is of the essence and these brothers are impacting our youth and producing some of the greatest minds of the future. ///





## Gamma Phi's 'Rites of Passage Program' at H. G. Hill Middle School



**Nashville, TN** – During Black History Month, Gamma Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., had a viewing of the movie 13<sup>th</sup> with the mentees of their

mentoring program at H. G. Hill Middle School. There were many facts learned from the film that led to some penetrating dialogue. The movie clearly drew a picture of slavery and racism that still exists today in America.

It was a hard-hitting fact that one in every three in the room had the real possibility of going to jail (based on today's statistics). Many of the mentees vowed that they were going to do whatever it takes to not be the one in those statistics. It is hoped with the knowledge of systemic racism and recognizing the importance of having as much education as possible, will go a long way in overcoming the traps of racism. Gamma Phi pledged to continue to support these young men with the tools that are needed to be successful. ///

### 6<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Melvin Williams, Jr., Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

#### The Love of a Father

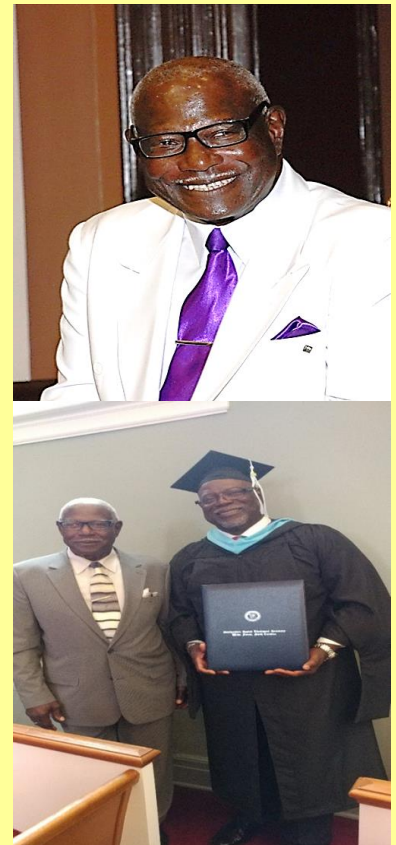
*"He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him." Proverbs 13:24*

**Raleigh, NC** – October 3, 1975 would change my life forever; that was the day my parents separated. I was 12 years old living what I thought was the best life a child could live. I had both my parents, a little brother, and my grandparents, both sets were just a stone's throw from our home in Rocky Mount, NC. On that day, my mother decided to leave my father. Neither I nor my brother knew what was going on. I became an angry 12-year-old boy in the blink of an eye. When the dust settled, I remained in Rocky Mount and was raised by a single father and my brother went to Virginia and was raised by a single mother. This decision was made by father.

June 8, 1988 was another day in my life I will never forget. I was twenty-five years old, and my father and I finally had "the talk" – that discussion about what happened on October 3, 1975. My father, Melvin, Sr., met me at Burger King on Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh NC. We ate lunch and talked about what had been troubling this 12-year-old boy all these years. The talk helped but it was not until June 17, 1995, when my daughter Mollie was born that our relationship changed. It did not fully return to its pre-October 3, 1975 state;

but I knew I wanted to be the father to Mollie that I thought he wasn't to me.

My father is a man with a third-grade education in the 70's that took on the sole responsibility to raise his angry 12 years old son. For me, that speaks volumes to who **Melvin Lee Williams, Sr.**, is. He told me that he was not going to allow me to disrupt my mother's life any worse than he had already done. He felt that he needed to take anything that was going to make my mother's life any worse than it was when our family split







because of something he did. From 12 years old to 60 years old, my father has never missed an event. He has watched me and showed me how to deal with my anger and demonstrated to me through his actions how to be the best man I could be - even when things are not going

well.

When Daddy attended all my sports awards programs and games, I always considered his presence special; but his attendance at my graduation from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary tops them all. To me, it was that day that our relationship went full circle together under a watchful eye of our Lord and Savior. It became clear to me that the verse listed above is what he lived by. He never let me go unchecked for any negative actions and still today he checks me when I step out of line. The greatest thing I learned from this man is that the best relationship you can have is with our Lord and Savior. Growing up my father didn't attend church, but he made sure I did. Today, he is a deacon in his church, and proves there is great pleasure in serving the Lord.

I turned 60 years old on February 11, 2023. I had a chance to share a meal with my 80-year father. It was an opportune time to talk, really talk and share. During that conversation I thought "What if this man didn't take on the responsibility and recognize I was in no shape to go to Virginia with my mother?" Had he let me go to Virginia, I don't know where I would be right now. Despite our relationships – ups and downs, I thank God every day for giving me the father I have and for giving him the tools and resources he needed to raise me to be the man I am today.

Three things I learned from my father that I keep in my heart:

1. Do not be afraid to admit when you are wrong,
2. Be man enough to own your mistakes and your mess, and most importantly,
3. You can always go to our Lord and Savior for help.

I love my father. That 12-year-old boy is not angry anymore and he knows that he is truly blessed and dearly loved by his father. ///

\*\*\*\*\*



## How My Father, Mr. Leroy Anderson, Sr., Influenced My life

By Paul L. Anderson

My father, Mr. **Leroy Anderson, Sr.**, had a very positive influence on my life in every facet. He was born the oldest son and one of eleven children to the late Roy and Ethel Anderson in Washington, Georgia. They were of very humble means, but full of faith in God. Dad was also the grandson of a slave, Wash Anderson, who was brought to the United States from Nigeria as a small child. Dad's father was a freed man who gained favor from God and a white land owner to sell him 55 acres

**L-R: Noah (youngest sibling), Leroy, Sr., Paul Anderson** of land in the same geographical area where his father was a slave. This property is still owned by Anderson family members.

My father realized that he needed to relocate his family to North Carolina to have a better chance for a successful future. At his time of migration there were my parents and my five oldest siblings. Dad had a sister and a brother-in-law who had already moved to Charlotte and proved that there were possibilities for success.

Dad was the oldest one with little formal education but he had plenty common sense coupled with determination. He had an unwavering faith in God, believing that the Lord would make a way even during a "Jim Crow" environment. Within a short period of time my father had two jobs to pay for daily living expenses and save for the future. My father was the

primary income earner for the entire family. He demonstrated the importance of having a diligent work ethic for us to follow. Dad and Mom, both taught us to work hard and give our best in school and in all of areas life.

Fast forward... from 1943 to 1962 my parents have gone from getting married in rural Wilkes County, GA to having nine children and now owning their home in Charlotte, NC. Raising all nine children was a team effort for my parents and my siblings. **My father always taught his children to give their best in order to have a better opportunity for advancement.** To that end, all nine of their children finished high school and college, some of us with advanced degrees.

Our father demonstrated manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift. Dad took his leadership responsibilities seriously. He always made sure that we had everything that we needed in school and in life in general. We would hear our father and mother praying on their knees every night and morning, praying aloud for us all to hear. They would pray for us all by name, along with their siblings, family members, our neighbors, and the members of our church.

Dad had several illnesses, always persevered while battling his illnesses. He was also a double leg amputee but maintained a valid driver's license, mowed his own

lawn, climbed ladders, and performed numerous household chores. He would not allow anything to turn him around once he made up his mind. He frequently shared with us that "nothing can be failure but a try." He would always encourage us to keep on trying until we reached our desired goals.

Dad was a singer! He loved singing metered hymns. He served as the president for the hymn choir for several decades. Sadly, he passed away in 2001 and was not able to see my sons evolve into great singers just as he was. The timeless truths and principles my father taught his children have been passed on to our children and their children.

Dad influenced me to be a father that has an active role in my sons' lives and every dimension of their personhood. My father influenced me to be there for my sons and in all of life's events. Dad also influenced me to be transparent with my sons and let them know that I am not perfect, but with faith in God and His Word, the impossible can be possible if you only believe. Lastly, Dad influenced me to always keep the communication lines open and insure there are no miscommunications. It's doesn't matter where you have come from, but it matters most where you are going. Plan and execute your plan. ///

## 7<sup>TH</sup> District: Brother Jonathan Gaines, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

### Fatherhood & Mentoring

**Huntsville, AL January: 28** The brothers of Psi Kappa Kappa Chapter in Huntsville AL, affectionally known as the "Rocket City" are off with a blast in 2023. They have been busy meeting and mentoring the young men in their Gold Standard Program.

They sponsored a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) session on 28 January at the world renowned **HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology**. HudsonAlpha is a Huntsville based world-class Institute with a global reach. Ms. **Dasi Price**, Ed.S., the HudsonAlpha Director of Student Experiences provided the group with a great overview of HudsonAlpha.

Its mission is three-fold, conducting genomics-based research to improve human health and well-being; sparking entrepreneurship and economic development; and providing educational outreach to



nurture the next generation of biotech researchers and entrepreneurs, as well as to create a biotech literate public. Ms. Price also shared with the group the many enrichment opportunities available for students at HudsonAlpha. The brothers extended the right hand of fellowship for this event and invited local Boy Scout Troop 102 to participate in this session. Overall, it was a great session. It was informative with and interactive participation. ///



## CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE



**Birmingham, AL** February 11: In celebration of Black History Month, and to educate their mentees on black history, the brothers of Psi Kappa Kappa sponsored a trip the Birmingham Institute of Civil Rights, and the 16th Street Baptist Church.

The Civil Rights Institute is a large interpretive museum and research center. It details the events and actions of the Birmingham campaign of 1963, its Children's Crusade, and the other Civil Rights Movement

in the 1950s and 1960s. It tells a great story of the movement.

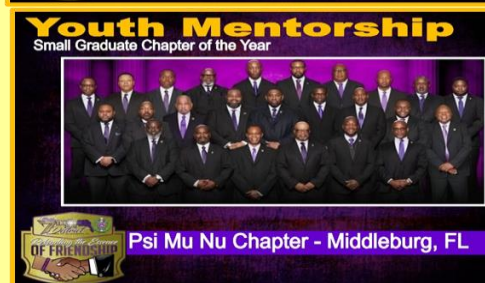
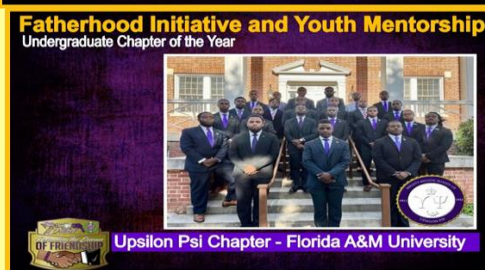
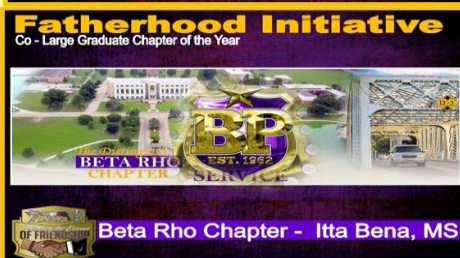
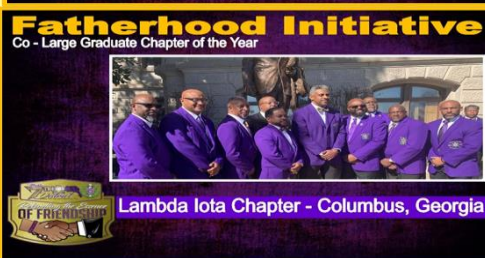
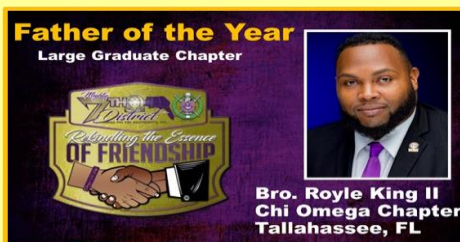
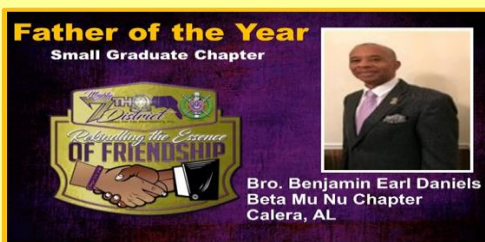
They wrapped up the day after touring the 16th Street Baptist Church. This was the church that served as the primary headquarters for organizers in Birmingham during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Minister **Fred Shuttlesworth** was the primary local organizer. While **Martin Luther King Jr.** and **James Bevel** were active representing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). They led the Children's Crusade, which taught the students nonviolence in protesting.

This is also the church were one of the most extreme acts of violence took place against African Americans. White supremacists boomed the church on September 15, 1963, killings four little innocent girls. Many credit this as the key event that highlighted racism and conditions that blacks were enduring in the south. It gave energy to the movement. (**Tony F. Hodge**, H-81, Chairman, Fatherhood & Mentoring, Psi Kappa Kappa, Huntsville, AL) ///

## 86<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> District Meeting Fatherhood Initiative & Youth Mentoring Service Award Winners

On behalf of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentoring Committee, we are happy to salute our 86<sup>th</sup> Seventh District Meeting FIMC Service Award Winners.

We salute all our Local Chapters/Brothers for their valued time and commitment in carrying out Fatherhood Initiatives and Youth Mentoring projects throughout the many local communities within the State of Alabama, Georgia, Florida & Mississippi. ///





## MLK Unity Breakfast and Unity Day Program.

Lambda Iota Chapter - Columbus, GA

Submitted by: Bro. Barrette Walker - GA FIMC State Chairman



Omega Lamplighters and the Men of Lambda Iota Chapter - Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Columbus, GA) took part in the MLK Unity Breakfast and Unity Day Program at Metropolitan Baptist Church. The weekend celebration included a Unity Processional and Mentoring session with special guest Chief of Police **Freddie Blackmon**. The MLK Holiday Celebration is one of the many mentoring and learning opportunities for Omega Lamplighters Youth Group to ensure history is learned and celebrated, and to become community leaders. ///



## State Organization of Georgia Fatherhood & Mentoring Fathers and Youth Symposium

Submitted by: Bro. Barrette Walker - GA FIMC State Chairman



**ΩΨΦ STATE ORGANIZATION of GEORGIA**  
State of Georgia Fatherhood and Mentoring Fathers and Youth Symposium  
"THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION"  
February 23, 2023 @ 7:00PM  
4 GUEST SPEAKERS  
[Click Here to Enter Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 782 873 9123  
Passcode: 626946



**Mr. Michael R. Johnson—**  
Director of Student Support  
(Columbus County School District)  
Mr. Michael R. Johnson is the proud son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Helen Johnson. Michael is a native of Augusta, Georgia, and graduated from The Academy of Richmond County High School (ARC). He received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from South Carolina State University. In addition, he has a Master's in Education and Specialist's degrees in Educational Administration & Supervision. Michael has served in our public-school systems for over thirty-one years.



**Katrina Johnson**  
Katrina Johnson is a mother and a veteran educator from Spartanburg, SC. She shares her story through the eyes of a little girl with BIG dreams riding in a BIG truck, all while sharing and teaching valuable life's lessons that will be left as a legacy to her children and others. She's an Amazon Bestseller author for a children's book & once held position as Principal in Greenville. She's been in education for 25 years.



**Tracy Harmon—Educator & Brand Manager**  
Tracy Harmon is the youngest of 5 siblings and a graduate of South Carolina State University (SCSU). She holds a Master of Education with a concentration in Special Education from Grand Canyon University (GCU). She continued her studies and holds certifications from the University of Georgia, University of North Carolina—Charlotte and Cornell University. Ms. Harmon has held several positions for 22 years at all levels from college/adult education to elementary school. Ms. Harmon is very active in the community in the areas of helping children and voter awareness. She was awarded Omega Psi Phi - Psi Omega Chapter's Citizen Of The Year 2017. She has one daughter, Shernari Council, that is a 2018 honor graduate of Spelman. One word that describe Ms. Harmon's feeling about life. **GRATEFUL.**



**Douglas L. Jackson**  
Douglas L. Jackson was born in Aiken, South Carolina and was raised by his grandparents who adopted him. He is a graduate of Lucy C. Laney High School. After graduation Mr. Jackson attended Albany State University where he graduated Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and received his Undergraduate and Master Degree in Education. After graduation he worked in the Richmond County school system for 23 years. He spent 17 of those years as an assistant principal and his last seven years as an administrator at Lucy C. Laney High School. Mr. Jackson has currently retired from education.

State of Georgia Chairman Brother Barrette Walker—(917) 977-1641 Email: [walkerbarrette@yahoo.com](mailto:walkerbarrette@yahoo.com)  
State of Georgia Co-Chairman Brother Marvin Broadwater Sr.—(706) 315-6454 Email: [mbroadwaters@yahoo.com](mailto:mbroadwaters@yahoo.com)  
Large Graduate Chapters Representative Brother Earl Eubanks—(706) 832-2692 Email: [e.eubanks@gmail.com](mailto:e.eubanks@gmail.com)  
Region 4 Representative Brother Shawn McGuire, Sr.—(706) 951-7484 Email: [shawnmcguire@gmail.com](mailto:shawnmcguire@gmail.com)

The State of Georgia Fatherhood and Mentor Program conducted the first of three Youth symposiums geared towards education, youth violence, and mental health. The “Importance of Education” symposium was conducted on February 23, 2023, via Zoom. There were 70 participants that attended the symposium. The presenters shared why African American youth need to focus on education in the form of traditional and vocational education.

As the State of Georgia Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman (Brother **Barrette Walker**), my vision is to ensure that African American youth have leadership and information needed to become productive members of society through quality mentoring programs across the State of Georgia. As a committee, we will provide mentorship through symposia and workshops.

Now that Fatherhood and Mentoring is a mandated program. Our committee welcomes the challenge of leading African American males to become better fathers and mentors. State of Georgia Representative

Brother **David Jones**, challenges every chapter in the State to have a youth mentoring program that is geared to the development of young men in the areas of leadership, mental health, discipline, and uplifting communities across the State of Georgia. The State of

Georgia Fatherhood and Mentoring committee thanks committee members Brother **LaRon Eubank** – Large Chapter Representative and Brother Shawn McGuire – Region 4 Representative, for conducting the first mentoring symposium. ///

### Meeting & Mentoring Youths Where They Are Pi Iota Chapter - Tampa, FL

Submitted by: Bro. Cameron Simmons - FL  
FIMC State Chairman

Lead by Bro. **Al Sheriff**, Basileus and Bro. **Jean Coleus**, Members of the Tampa Police Department and Community Volunteers visited Middleton High School to mentor young men. The meeting discussions focused on the topics of self-awareness, time management, discipline, and communication. The speakers provided scenarios to engage the group in discussions of life skills and in making good decisions and to live a productive life. The Brothers of the Pi Iota Chapter thank all volunteers in attendance for their help in coordinating the mentoring session. ///



### Q Unit & GOI Mentees Fly High in the Sky at the 5th Annual Aviation Expo. Eta Nu Chapter - Pompano, FL

Submitted by: Bros. Antonio Burgess & Cameron  
Simmons - FL FIMC State Chairman

**Miramar, FL** – Brothers of the Eta Nu Chapter, 45 Q Unit and GOI (Gentlemen of Influence) Youth Mentees took part in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Aviation Expo at Miramar Regional Park Amphitheater. The mentees were able to speak with Black American Pilots.

On site were several schools competing in the robotics competition. Bro. **Rodney Hankins** had his school's robotics team



representing Plantation High School. The mentees had the opportunity to simulate flying a plane, speak to current pilots, and put hands on a real helicopter. There were plenty of other activities to participate in during the expo.

Mayor **Wayne Messam** of the City of Miramar took the opportunity to speak and take a picture with our



mentoring group. The mentees expressed their enjoyment of the expo and spoke of the awesome things the mentoring program has allowed them to see and do. As with the greatest fraternity on earth, having Omega Men in all most every profession, it was a special treat for the mentees to learn that one of the pilots at the Aviation Expo was an Omega Man.

The Eta Nu Education Foundation (ENEF) is committed to making a measurable difference in the lives of young people throughout Broward County. Currently 70-85 youths are mentored through the “Q-Unit” and the “Gentlemen of Influence” mentorship programs. We work personally with each of these kids to help them develop the proper skills that will help them be successful as they go through the educational process. ///



## “Fatherhood Talks”

Zeta Nu Nu Chapter - Miami, FL

Submitted by: Bro. John A. “Castro” Ramirez & Bro. Cameron Simmons - FL FIMC State Chairman

On Wednesday February 22, 2023, the first in person “Fatherhood Talks” was the first one held since 2020 at the Art and Culture Center/Hollywood in Hollywood, FL. The aim of this event was to bring awareness to the need of **being intentional as a father**. This was a free community event open to all fathers of the South Florida community, brother or not. This was a collaborative effort between Zeta Nu Nu, Zeta Chi, The Conscience Research Institute & The Art and Culture Center/Hollywood.

We started the evening by breaking bread while enjoying dinner from the world-famous **Tom Jenkins BBQ**, a local business owned by Brothers of Omega. Then **Amanda Smith** the education director at the Art Center had an art activity for the fathers about intentionality. She then gave the fathers a private tour of the current exhibit at the art center to get the fathers creative wheels going.

Using various mediums such as color pencils, charcoal, paints, or pastels the fathers were encouraged to create art that expresses their emotions associated with being a father. Afterward, the fathers collectively engaged in open healthy dialog about the duties of fatherhood. All participants were encouraged to take art supplies to do activities with their children at home. As a collective, we sang happy birthday to one Omega Brother and enjoyed a giant cookie cake donated by The Great American Cookie. ///



**“Exercising leadership is a way of giving meaning to your life by contributing to the lives of others. At its best, leadership is a labor of love. Opportunities for these labors cross your path every day, though we appreciate through the scar tissue of our own experiences that seizing these opportunities takes heart.”** Heifetz and Linsky, *Leadership on the Line*.

## Omega Sparks Date Night with Moms.

Sigma Phi Chapter - Montgomery, AL

Submitted by: Bro. James e. LoveJoy & Bro. Dee Pogue - AL FIMC State Chairman

The Omega Sparks Youth Mentorship Group took to the town for Date Night with their moms to attend the 2023 NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet hosted by Alabama State University. The opportunity to spend a night out with their moms came about at the courtesy of State Representative **Patrice "Penni" McClammy** (D) who donated a table to the Omega Sparks to attend the event.

Mayor **Steven Reed** greeted the Omega Sparks as well as addressed a well-attended event on the vision to continue to lead from the front. Brothers of the Omega Iota Iota Chapter attended and received the NAACP Community Service Award. The evening provided the grand opportunity for family bonding, community activist and empowerment. ///



**METRO MONTGOMERY COUNTY NAACP**  
*cordially invites you to our*  
**2023 FREEDOM FUND BANQUET**  
All hands in! When we fight, we win!

  
A HERITAGE OF RESILIENCE,  
PERSEVERANCE, AND LIBERATION

Date and Time:  
Saturday, February 11, 2023  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Location:  
Garrick-Hardy Student Center  
Ballroom  
Alabama State University  
915 South Jackson Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
Tickets: \$40

Guest Speaker:  
JaTaune Bosby Gilchrist  
Executive Director  
ACLU of Alabama

Cash APP Donations: \$NAACP  
<https://NAACP-5046Banquet>



Jerame Jones, Jr., WAKA/Alabama News Network, Emcee for the evening





## TUESDAY MORNING TEMP CHECK - VIRTUAL MENTORSHIP

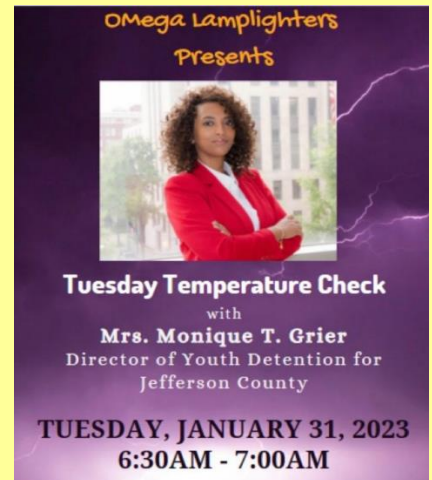
**BIRMINGHAM, AL** – During the pandemic, virtual mentoring became a tool for mentors to stay connected with the young men who participate in the Omega Lamplighter Program. We continue to use virtual mentoring as a means of staying connected on a weekly basis with the young men. And, we invite community leaders to log in and speak wisdom into the young men lives early in the morning. The Tuesday morning conversation have included topics, such as: financial literacy, entrepreneurship, youth violence prevention, and other important topics. ///

## MLK MEET A MENTOR DAY

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** – On January 16 2023, the Birmingham Omega Lamplighters partnered with the Negro Southern League Museum to host the MLK Meet A Mentor Day. We invited other local mentoring organizations to connect with young people. The brothers of Alpha Phi Chapter lead a panel discussion on the positive impact of mentoring. ///

## BIRMINGHAM LAMPLIGHTERS PRESENTS THE DR. A. M. BROWN PERFORMING ARTS EXHIBITION

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** – Charter Member of Alpha Phi Chapter, **Dr. A.M. Brown**, was an advocate for youth and the arts. The Birmingham Lamplighters inducted 13 students into the Lamplighter program. The Alpha Phi Chapter Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring program continues its mission to turn good young men into great young men. ///



## 8<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Alton Guidry, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring



### Meet an Outstanding Brother of the 8<sup>th</sup> D

**Omaha, NE - Greetings Brother Osuman Issaka!** Welcome and congratulations on your outstanding work and for being selected as the 8<sup>th</sup> District's featured story for this quarter. Brother Issaka is the 8<sup>th</sup> District Past District Representative and his work beyond borders has been phenomenal. In the 8<sup>th</sup> District our adopted moto is, **"We Do it for the Kid!"** Brother Issaka not only does it for the kids, he does it with the kids in his home country of Ghana. Welcome brother DR?

FMC: Greetings Brother, please state your tag and the name of your program?

**Brother O: Osuman Issaka, 1-Tau Kappa-99, The Simple Foundation NGO (Accra, Ghana)**

FMC: Where are you from originally and how did you end up in the states?

**Brother O: I grew up in Newtown, Accra, Ghana. I came here by way of Southside Chicago, IL through the missionary.**

FMC: Who were some mentors who left impressions on you and what have you taken from them to develop your style of mentorship?

**Brother O: Mrs. Moore (5th Grade Teacher), created leveling activities in the classroom to ensure my lack of the English language wasn't a barrier. High School Football Coach, never allowing any reasons or excuses to not compete or perform.**

FMC: Why do you think it's important for us to reach back and offer Fatherhood and Mentoring to youth from other countries?

**Brother O: It's important to give back to the community that birthed you, and to others that are in the circumstances you once lived. I believe giving back is not a choice, but a responsibility to humanity. We all have a small role in making this thing we call 'a world' better than we found it.**

FMC: Tell us about your *beyond borders* program and describe how it was started and how we, the brothers of Omega Psi Phi can assist you?

**Brother O: I founded SIMPLE FOUNDATION GHANA NGO to support orphans, the forgotten O communities, and youth. We support youth through academic excellence program, clothing drives, borehole, food pantry, medicine, and housing. Brothers in the Ghana Chapter can volunteer and support.**

FMC: What does the future look like for your program?

**Brother O: The future looks bright. We are looking to build a front-line medical center, soccer field, orphans housing, and farms.**

FMC: Are there any parting words you would like to add to our fathers and mentors?

**Brother O: Fathers and males are critical to the well-being of our youth. One word from you could inspire the next Noble Peace Prize winner. ///**



**“Young Leaders of Tomorrow”**

Written By: Bro. Orlando Richards



**SAN ANTONIO, TX** - On Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 9:00 am, Psi Alpha Chapter held its first in-person Youth Leadership (YL) and Omega STEM Conference in over three years at St. Philips College. The event was attended by approximately forty-seven (47+) youths, fifteen (15+) parents, and twenty-five (25+) brothers virtually and physically. The theme for this year's conference was **Building a Foundation for Greatness**.

The morning activities started with sign-in/registration, breakfast, and various speakers dealing with topics from Financial Literacy, Dos/Don'ts of social media, Building a Foundation for Greatness, Faith, and overcoming the fear of success, Mental Wellness, and Building on the Foundation of the Past.

The afternoon activities began with Brother John Sensely's introduction of automotive electronics, engineering and design, and an air-powered catapult system to the youth. Afternoon activities progressed and ended with **Dr. Marie-Michelle Saint Hubert** (Project

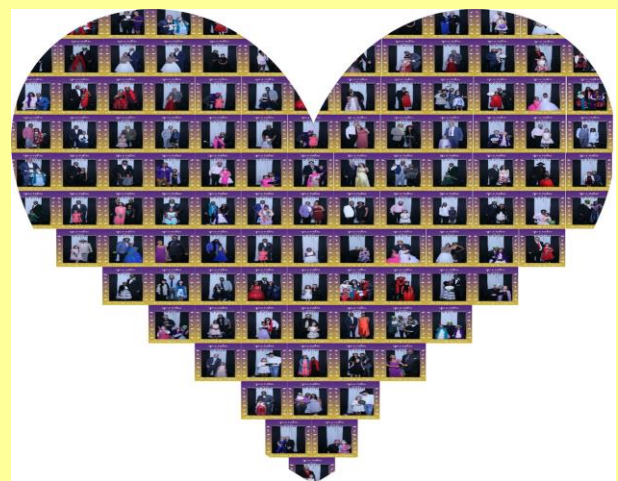
Sure) leading the STEM activities. The YL & STEM committee provided financial assistance through the award of three essay scholarships in the amounts of \$1,000, \$750, and \$500 respectively to essay award winners **AJ Hardeman, Jalen Hall, and Tyler Hardeway**. Additionally, six \$100 leadership awards were given out throughout the event to the attendees impacting lives for a total of approximately \$3,000 in monies.

Students and parents mentioned that the event was engaging. They expressed their optimism about the future growth and attendance of the event. The chapter appreciates all the assistance, partnerships, and fraternity leadership who attended from Brother Grand Basileus **Ricky Lewis**, IHQ STEM Chair Brother **Lee Willis**, IHQ YL Chair Brother **Keith Pemberton**, and IHQ YL Co-Chair Brother **John D. Cooper**, and others. (Picture Attached: Young Leaders of Tomorrow – Young Men in Youth Leadership Shirts)

**“Ties and Tiara's” –**

Written By: Bro. Scott L. Earle, Sr.

**SAN ANTONIO, TX** - On February 18, 2023, over 175 daughters with their dad's enjoyed an evening of bonding and dancing. This event had been in the planning stages since COVID-19 shut down our communities. Sometimes the only time a father dances with his daughter is when he is giving her away at her wedding. This is a shame. I have spoken to dads in the past who have stated these dances were the best night they and their daughters have had together. It really can be an unbelievable catalyst to bring fathers and their



girls closer together. The main objective of this event was to strengthen the relationship between fathers and daughters, thereby decreasing teen pregnancy, social dysfunction in girls, early substance abuse, as well as the instances of domestic violence that occur in many phases of our daughters' lives.

To witness dads of different races, socio-economic backgrounds, and various religious beliefs bonding together with their daughters was a beautiful sight. Fathers who would never socialize outside of this venue were brought together and saw they were similar in one common way and that was their love of their daughters.

Most people agree that "father" is a biological title and a little more. Any male parent is technically a father... simple as that. The title of dad is earned through hard work — nurturing, bonding with, and supporting your child for the long haul. On this special evening, the love of dads and daughters was showcased for all to see.

The classic song written and performed by the incomparable Luther Vandross, "Dance with My Father" was chosen for the last song. I pray that these girls hear these lyrics throughout their lives and when their dad's presence is not near, the memories from this dance will provide comfort throughout their journeys in life.

*"If I could steal one final glance, one final step; One final dance with him; I'd play a song that would never ever end; Cause I'd love, love, love to dance with my father again."* (Picture above, Ties and Tiaras - Daddy Daughter Dance – Heart Shaped Image) ///

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Fatherhood Initiative Forum**

### **Being a Daddy vs Being a Father and Raising Children in a Blended Family**

Written By: Scott L. Earle, Sr.

**SAN ANTONIO, TX** - On February 1, 2023 the Fatherhood Initiative Committee hosted a Roundtable discussion about topics fathers go through especially being a daddy vs being a father and raising children in a blended family. No topic was off limit and the dialogue assisted other fathers who might be facing the same things others have faced.

Many times we talk about the traditional family and the role of the father/dad but we don't always discuss the single dad; the dad who remarries and raises

children who he loves as his; the dad who has joint or shared custody and juggles raising children but still must have an amicable relationship with the mother; the dad who remarries and whose current spouse has to be amicable with the former spouse; and finally the father whose children are being raised by another father figure in the home with them while still being raised by his dad, not in the home.

I invited a father who said he was not worthy to attend; I told him all the attributes I see in him and although divorced, he is still a great dad. The stigma that you failed as a dad because of divorce is a myth. Most people agree that "father" is a biological title and a little more. Any male parent is technically a father... simple as that. The title of dad is earned through hard work — nurturing, bonding with, and supporting your child for the long haul.

The 37 men on the call openly discussed the following questions:

1. For men who were raised by a dad that is different from the father on their birth certificate, what was their impact?
2. Men who are dads to children but not their biological father, what is the relationship?
3. For men who are raising biological children and bonus children together, what is the recipe used to blend?
4. Men whose biological children are being primarily raised outside of their home and another father figure is assisting the child, what goes into this structure?
5. Men who remarried and their current spouse must co-parent along with their former spouse, what is the structure?
6. Men who have fought and won custody, what is your journey?
7. For men who are not married but raising their child out of wedlock with their girlfriend, is child support needed? I have a great story.
8. When blending a family how do you keep your biological children from being jealous of your bonus children?

The openness and candid answers shared is needed dialogue among men. The answers we heard were insightful and brutally honest. (Picture above: Fatherhood Initiative Forum "Scott Earle Sr.") ///



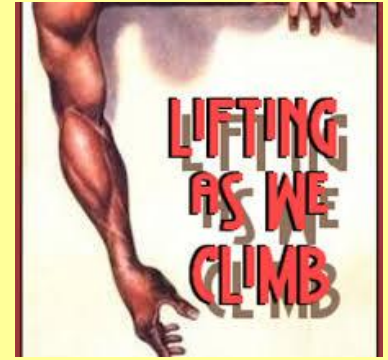


### 10<sup>th</sup> District QUE-Support Ongoing

Bro. Cyrill Weems

10<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman

The Brothers of the 10<sup>th</sup> District have remained intentional in their efforts to provide a platform for OUR BROTHERS to get the SUPPORT they may or may not know they need in the form of a roundtable-like conversations on various life-affecting topics. Throughout the Christmas Holiday season and since the beginning of 2023 the brothers have had multiple chats to “KEEP OUR BROTHERS LIFTED” in mind and soul.



Topics covered were: Parent Holiday Memories to Help Through the Tough Times, Financial Stress During the Holidays, Creating a Better You This Year, Why Did I Get Married, and Getting Older (Managing Aging).

These discussions are held every other Monday via Zoom and led by a few select brothers attending the call on that day. It is an open forum discussion. Brothers provide their experiences, understanding and perspectives on the topics and the discussion builds as further commentary is provided. Brothers varying in age, family size, skillsets, experiences, and backgrounds attend to share their stories/perspectives and also to hear from other brothers on how they have encountered and addressed the topics at hand.

Attendance, Participation and Value Perception are all HIGH regarding these discussion forums. The brothers in attendance continually share that they learn something from the calls even if the topic was not specific to their lives. Let us keep providing “safe spaces” for our brothers to “Lift Each Other as We Climb!!!!” Create a similar discussion for the brothers in your chapter’s area and keep it going. Our brothers need us and we need them. ///

### MICHIGAN

#### Full Spectrum Mentoring: Hard Skills, Soft Skills and Peer Bonding

John Tipton

Basileus- Rho Mu Nu

**Canton, MI** – Rho Mu Nu is working on Leadership Development with its male mentoring program, Omega Academy. In its second year, Rho Mu Nu’s Omega



Academy is home to 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders looking to build a new network of peers and a family of mentors that want the best for them. Omega Academy meets every other Tuesday for an hour and a half providing information packed mentoring on various topics and sometimes including a field trip in the mix.

This year, the sessions have covered a wide spectrum of topics. The recent sessions on Goal Setting

and Interpersonal Skills provided a mix of Hard Skills and Soft Skills. After the session on Goal Setting, the young men shared the importance of short-term and long-term goal planning on their immediate and future success. They also made it clear that understanding interpersonal skills can help them make better decision as they are faced with more challenging situations as they get older.

The mentees were recently afforded a prime opportunity to connect outside of the mentoring classroom setting. The group went to see the Detroit Pistons play basketball at the new Little Caesars Arena in Downtown Detroit against the Chicago Bulls. The mentees enjoyed a night out with their peers and mentors. The group instantly grew from 8 to 30 when we connect with Omega Academy from another chapter. It was clear that our young men were excited to meet other mentees from another Omega Academy mentoring program. Their pride in the program and them connecting based on a common bond (Omega Academy) was in full swing.

Social Media usage, conflict resolution, financial literacy and more is still to come for our young men during the remainder of the 2022-2023 session. Our mentors enjoy connecting with and pouring into our



young men and our mentees enjoy connecting with the mentors and being a part of our program. The skills they are learning in our program accompanied with the relationships they are building will help them become strong, positive, and productive young adults and ultimately accountable community leaders. ///

## MINNESOTA

### Grad and Undergrad Collaborate for the Benefit of the Kids

Bro. Jareck Horton, Epsilon Rho- 19'

**Minneapolis, Minnesota** – On the last day of February, Epsilon Rho (Graduate Chapter) and Xi (Undergraduate Chapter at the University of Minnesota) work together to put on an exceptional program for Anthony Middle School in Minneapolis, Minnesota as they placed a powerful end cap on Black History Month 2023. This was a night to highlight and pay tribute to Black Excellence in Black America and especially in the local Minneapolis community.



The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi were displaying excellence in Power and Leadership the whole night long. Mayor Bro. **Hollies Winston** gave the keynote address on Black Excellence. Then Associate Principal Bro. **Dempsey Miller, III**, of Epsilon Rho, provided the fascinating and rich history of our beloved Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. highlighting our commitment and service to the Minneapolis community. The history of Omega Psi Phi was accompanied by a massively enthusiastic Step performance by the Undergraduate brothers of Xi Chapter.



The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi wrapped the evening up by focusing on the real (s)heroes in the community and recognized one of long-term and committed veteran teachers, **Dr. Teri Prim Ricks**. It was a night sparkling with a seamless display of Friendship, Brotherhood, Leadership and Service by our brothers, both young and old as well as undergrad and grad. Just as our founders would expect it to be. ///

## INDIANA

Helping Fathers in  
the Community Get  
Back in the Game  
Roderick Grays, 2-FA-12  
Zeta Phi

### Fishers, Indiana

– During the First  
Quarter of 2023,  
Brothers from Phi  
Mu Nu () and Zeta  
Phi (Indianapolis,  
Indiana) Chapters



volunteered time and talent to a breakfast partnership with The Fathers and Families Center of Indianapolis. This life enhancing endeavor consisted of a panel of Omega men providing experienced advice to men from the Indianapolis community who were previously been incarcerated and trying to build a relationship with their kids.

The chapters provided breakfast and answered questions from participants to support them on their quest to becoming stronger fathers and productive citizens. This effort was led by Brother **Veaon Shelton** from Phi Mu Nu Chapter and Brother **Melvin Thomas** from Zeta Phi Chapter. ///

## ILLINOIS

Bro. Christopher Burney

1-Tau Theta-90

Coordinator, Rho Gamma Gamma's Omega YES Mentoring Program

### Off to a Strong Start in 2023



**Chicago, Illinois** – 1/21/23 - Omega YES and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois held a Mental Health and Wellness seminar for the mentees at the Blue Door Neighborhood Center in Morgan Park. There were health professionals from BCBSIL as well as our own Rho Gamma Gamma professional, Bro. Dr. Perrin Greene, who led the discussion for our young men. This was a great success and lots of great information was shared.

1/28/23 - Omega YES conducted a Community Clean and Shovel service project. Our mentees collaborated and organized a snow shoveling/clean up in the immediate neighborhood of our Omega YES Mentoring Center on 115th street in Chicago. Together, we shoveled snow, sprinkled salt, and picked up trash for our residential neighbors and businesses. Mentees also made and distributed hot chocolate to anyone in the neighborhood who

wanted a warm beverage on a cold day. We are very proud of our mentees commitment to the program and focus on service.

2/25/23 - Omega YES took our mentees to the DuSable Museum of African American History to culminate our Black History Month activities. Our mentees had an opportunity to go back in time and see the circumstances and conditions our ancestors endured during the time of slavery, Jim Crow, up through current times. We also had an opportunity to see exhibits of our past and modern-day heroes which led to fruitful conversations about the mentee's goals and aspirations. Learn more about Rho Gamma Gamma's Omega Y.E.S Mentoring Program at [omegayes.org](http://omegayes.org) ///



## 12<sup>th</sup> District: Brother George Taylor, EdD, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

**OMEGA BLACK VI**  
WRITER'S SERIES

Join Us to hear from exciting black writers on the journey to developing their published works and being successful writers.

**CHARLES J. CLARK JR**

Charles "LINK" Clark, a native of Cleveland, Ohio and career law enforcement officer turned author "LINK" has published two books with "My Brother's Shield" being his first and currently the 100 top sold in Walmart stores. "Secret Soldier" his second book and sequel to "My Brother's Shield" is an action pack story taken from "LINK's" undercover assignments. "Secret Soldier" continues the pattern of true events written into a fictional crime novel. "Secret Soldier" was published on July 20, 2022 and is part of a tri book series being authored for future collections. "LINK" is currently working on his third book soon to be published at a later date for his readers.

CLICK ZOOM LINK TO REGISTER  
THURS APRIL 6TH | 5:00PM-6:30PM PST  
BOOKS AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM

zoom KE

**OMEGA BLACK VI**  
WRITER'S SERIES

Join Us to hear from exciting black writers on the journey to developing their published works and being successful writers.

**LINCOLN BUTLER, SR.**

A retired educator, Butler enjoyed a successful career as a classroom teacher and school principal at all levels. His campuses were often recognized for major School Improvement Performance. A Literary Materials Center called Butler's Reading Well was dedicated in his honor. Recipient of many prestigious awards including Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year, Elementary Educator of the Year, and Citizen of the Year (Omega Psi Phi). Butler was also inducted into the African American Educational Hall of Fame where he was displayed in the African American Museum in Dallas, TX. In his book, "My Journey", Butler discusses his humble beginnings and shares with the readers the many disappointments and obstacles faced along his journey. Things that could have easily ended GREAT but he refused to quit! He was determined to see it Through! Weaved throughout "My Journey" are motivational nuggets called Lessons Learned to help inspire and encourage readers to never give up.

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**OMEGA BLACK VI**  
WRITER'S SERIES

Join Us to hear from exciting black writers on the journey to developing their published works and being successful writers.

**DR. DUBOIS TEDDY MC MILLAN**

Dr. Dubois Teddy McMillan is an educational leader who has conducted extensive research on self-efficacy and racism. He uses evidence-based strategies to impact student outcomes. He was a recipient of the Man of Valor award by the NAACP Los Angeles Youth Council in 2018. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science and African Studies from California State University, Fullerton, and his doctorate from the University of South Carolina. He has authored three books and enjoys conducting research and inspiring growth. In his latest book, "The World's Earliest Book on Becoming Antiracist", he examines the color-coded brand of racism from the beginning of the age of exploration to modern times. He divides racism into five functional layers each chapter delves into a layer and gives the reader the opportunity to reflect on their own thinking and experiences with systems of inequality with the goal of disrupting racism. The book has been a huge success. It reached #1 on Amazon in two categories as a new release and has opened opportunities for speaking and training engagements.

CLICK ZOOM LINK TO REGISTER  
THURS APRIL 6TH | 5:00PM-6:30PM PST  
BOOKS AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM

zoom KE

**OMEGA BLACK VI**  
WRITER'S SERIES

Join Us to hear from exciting black writers on the journey to developing their published works and being successful writers.

**CHARLES J. CLARK JR** **DR. DUBOIS TEDDY MC MILLAN** **LINCOLN BUTLER, SR.**

**THURSDAY APRIL 6TH**  
**5:00PM TO 6:30PM PST**

zoom KE

CLICK ZOOM LINK TO REGISTER

**Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM PST**

**Register free webinar:  
Omega Black Writers Page on Facebook or Instagram,  
or the following link:**

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HitANtc-R5ODDC0w6ovniQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HitANtc-R5ODDC0w6ovniQ)**

**All registered attendees are eligible to be entered in a  
random drawing to win an autographed book!!"**

**Thanks much, see you there!  
Brother Jerry Holliday, 702-748-5268**



## Omega Gents (Mentoring)

Chairman: Eric Curtis 702-630-0733 [Djecko702@gmail.com](mailto:Djecko702@gmail.com)



**Las Vegas, NE** – Daniel James started the Omega Gents Club in 1989. James and other members of the Kappa Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., created the group to mentor boys in troubled neighborhoods. The club started at Jim Bridger Junior High School, and eventually switched its focus, targeting high-school males.

The Gents boast an outstanding graduation rate. Many have earned academic and athletic scholarships to college. Former members have graduated college, and obtained advanced degrees. Gents must maintain a 2.5 GPA and exhibit respect for self, education, authority, service, and respect for the community.

**Structure:** The Omega Gents Club (Omega Gents) is a partnership between the nonprofit Uplift Foundation of Nevada and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Through relationships with secondary and postsecondary institutions, community agencies and businesses, the groups help high-school-age young men become developer leadership and life skills. Activities include weekly study halls and grade checks, bi-monthly meetings, quarterly events, yearly summits, leadership seminars and academic supervision (grades, scholarship, and college applications, S.A.T., A.C.T and Proficiency exam preparation) to keep them on the path to success.

**Gent's Motto:** "Building Tomorrow's Leaders, Today"

**Mentoring:** PM = PM (*Positive Mentoring leads to Productive Manhood*)

### Program Goals:

Goal #1: Develop character and leadership; improve chances of positive life outcomes.

Goal #2: Boost academic proficiency and scholastic aptitude of mentees.

Goal #3: Increase the percentage of mentees passing proficiency exams.

Goal #4: Instill the value of service; Gents annually complete 500 hours.

### Group Principles:

- To motivate young men to do their best
  - To emphasize academic, social, and physical development
  - To instill the importance of civic services
  - To teach (reaffirm) respect for authority
- Program Points**
- Personal and educational development
  - Citizenship and leadership refinement
  - Cultural enrichment
  - Positive social expression
  - Maintaining productive relationships
- Milestones**
- More than 700 young men have completed the rites of passage program since 1989.
  - A 100 percent high school graduation rate and good college-going rate.
  - Dozens of Omega Gents have attended and graduated from college.

### Schools that Gents Have Attended/Graduated

**From:** Arizona State University (Phoenix), Grambling State (Grambling, La.) Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge), Nevada State College (Henderson), Southern Utah University (Cedar City), Texas Southern University (Houston), Wiley College (Marshall, Texas) Florida Institute of Technology ///



## Zeta Tau Chapter “Rose Bowl Ques”: Massive and Progressive 12th District

Submitted by Brother Lindsey Bates

**Pasadena, CA** – Celebrating our Black Heritage and History has become an integral part of our lives. Celebrating Black History in Pasadena, California involves parades. Saturday, February 18, 2023, the Rose Bowl Ques of Zeta Tau Chapter participated in the Pasadena Black History parade. The men of Zeta Tau were joined by the Omega men of Omicron Mu and Zeta Rho Chapters.

Logistically, the men of Zeta Tau coordinated parking at the historic Jackie Robinson Park and

provided shuttling to the assigned start location in the parade.

Some walked the 1.5-mile route while others road. The crowd loved our Omega banner and brothers periodically throwing the hooks up as the crowd cheered and ask for some steps/hops. Given the average age it was best to continue waving and throwing hooks. Divine nine was represented by Zeta Phi Beta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and Delta Sigma Theta. Following the parade all returned to Jackie Robinson Park for fellowship and uplift. ///

## Capitol City Ques Introduce the Gents

Brother Abraham Samuel, Basileus LM#2980

**Sacramento, CA** – Epsilon Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., created the Capitol City Gentlemen (Gents) youth program with the intent to mentor. The cardinal principles of Omega played an integral part in developing a mentoring program in the Sacramento region. Our goal is to teach and encourage African American youths to positively define, plan, pursue, and achieve higher education and/or be productive citizens.

The youth we service benefit by experiencing personal development essential to their long-term success. Our Gents develop academically, socially, and emotionally as they grow through various support services. The youth are exposed to new positive



experiences that reinforce critical life skills. Gents also develop a sense of community by participating in a wide range of service projects. They build the confidence necessary to visualize, believe and pursue their dreams.



Finally, Gents complete our program with a network of friends to provide ongoing support.

The Gents' education experiences include programs and workshops such as; Self Identity, Self Esteem & Self-Assessment, Health & Well-being, Goal Setting & Planning, Academic Achievement & College

Preparedness, Developing Positive Relationships, Etiquette & Respecting Women, College Campus tour at Cal Berkeley and Football game, Career Days/Corporate Visits, Community Service, Social Outings, Financial literacy workshops, and camping trip. ///

## Inland Valley Uplift Foundation/13<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth and Parent Conference University of LaVerne, LaVerne, California George D. Taylor, EdD and Lindsey Bates, Zeta Tau Chapter



**THE INLAND VALLEY UPLIFT FOUNDATION**, assisted by members of several SoCal Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Leadership and Parent Conference Saturday, March 18, 2023 on the campus of the University of LaVerne. The conference was welcomed to the campus as in the past by university president **Dr. Devorah Lieberman**.

President Lieberman told the group as she welcomed them to campus that it was a special treat for her last year as president of the university to again encourage the youth to hold firm to their dreams and forge ahead as they seek to uphold the values being taught by the Foundation and members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. At the end of her presentation to the group, conference coordinator and leader, **James Wilson**, presented president Lieberman with a special Plaque to commemorate her enduring support of this conference.

Conference coordinator, Wilson, said this was one of the largest and well attended conferences sponsored by the foundation. He thanked the members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for their support and assistance making this one of the most successful conferences. The students were provided significant science, technology,

and career-oriented content by **Michal Haynes**, **LAQMD**, **Craig Mobley**, **Dr. Mel Palmer**, **Dennis Martinez**, and **Keith Tate** which included STEM experiments, i.e., “**drone**” demonstrations and give-a-ways, self-reflection and surviving the stop.

There were sessions designed and presented to mothers and fathers. A highlight of the mother's session coordinated by **Ronnie Walker** and **Rob Edison**, was a special presentation by **Dr. Corliss Bennet** on the

requirements necessary for college admissions and the process for getting into college. Other topics covered in the mother's session were: College Funding, Mental Health, and Cultivating your Career Experience. Participants were: **Carole Hart**, **Stephen Baker**, **Felecia Durrah** and **Charles Walker**.

A highlight of the father's session was the appearance and engagement by the newly appointed



**Chief of Police of the City of Pasadena, Chief Eugene Harris.**

In a relaxed circle of fathers, the chief joined the circle and listened well; he shared with the group how he became interested in law enforcement, spoke of the lessons he learned from his mother at an early age and was a great inspiration to the group.



Chief Eugene Harris, City of Pasadena, Police Department

During the barbershop open discussion, a question that came up, “Given the national exposure of Black men being shot at traffic stops, how do police de-escalate these events.” Chief Harris cautioned all to remind others to: “*not make long-term decisions on right-now emotions*” in stressful situations. More words from Chief Harris “Don’t blame the distraction, blame your focus.”

The father’s session began with a discussion of: **Leading with Confidence – Implications for Fathers**, by **Larry Hammond**, VIH Consulting. The

presentation outlined *how actions and decisions made by parents* influence how our children develop and become adults; the second presentation was on “**Effective Communication**,” led by **Daniel “Dan” Braxton**, who emphasized that *how we say* what we say – is as important as what is being said and by whom. The session on **The Courts and Custody** was technical and a *mini legal workshop* led by Attorney **Damon Martin, Esq.** The conference ended at 3:00 p.m. It was a long day of great work serving the present age.

Members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity present included: Michal Haynes, Rodney Jones, James Wilson, Dennis Martinez, Ronnie Walker, Rob Edison, Dr. George D. Taylor, 12<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain Charles Clemons, Lindsey Bates, Larry Hammond, Larry Quishenberry, Derik James, Steven Baker, Richard Nichols, Donald Mahoney, William “Bee” Thomas, Keith Parker, Dr. Mel Palmer, Daniel “Dan” Braxton, Tim Waters, William Edwards, Arthur “Bud” Coleman, Dr. Anthony Rice, Ed Young, Eddie Oliphant, Damon Martin, Esq., George Lee, Christopher McElrath, Daryl Charles, Paul Turner, John Hobbs, Eddie Connors, Keith Tate, Charles Walker, Thaddeus Culpepper and Devin Hope. ///

## Providing our Future Leaders with Tools for Success

Bro. Damon K. Blythe

**Long Beach, CA** – The brothers of Rho Iota Iota (PII) Chapter continue to impact African-American youth enrolled in the Math Collaborative of Long Beach Jordan (LBJ) High School.

Led by Bros. **James Rucker** (67 Lambda) and **Darryl Brown** (91 Epsilon Mu) the brethren share very important intellectual nuggets of wisdom on scheduled Thursday afternoons from 4pm - 5pm.





Thus far during academic year (AY) 2022 - 2023, the brethren have facilitated presentations on various topics including but not limited to the following: Emotional Intelligence; Drug Awareness: Fentanyl; How to create a Budget; Preparing for College; Career Options: STEM Careers, Careers in the Navy; LA County Sheriff - Via Establishing Relationships; Creating a Safer Community; A Discussion with Long Beach PD; LA Clippers "Black History" Presentation.

On January 28, 2023, Rho Iota Iota, in conjunction with the Bridge Builder Foundation of Los Angeles, Ca and both Phi Beta Beta Chapter, Inglewood, CA and Tau Tau Chapter, Compton, CA chaperoned 3 chartered bus loads of students to the annual Black College Expo. Students participated in an array of college and career prep presentations and forums. Additionally, several of the graduating seniors who came properly prepared, were given scholarships on site. This was an excellent opportunity for students to network with their peers,

determine what institutions they were most qualified to attend and learn tips and tools for collegiate success.

As the school year winds down for the youth of the LBJ Math Collaborative, PII brethren will assist graduating seniors with applying for college scholarships for both 2 year and 4-year institutions. High school Freshman through Juniors will write reflections on their academic year and begin setting short term goals for the upcoming year. With the PII remaining a weekly constant in the lives of these youth, they destined for success. ///



## 13<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Michael Robinson, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

### 13<sup>th</sup> International District Congratulates First Time Dad

By Brother Michael Robinson

**Seoul, South Korea** – One Brother from the 13th International District recently enjoyed the joyful and exciting experience of becoming a father for the first time.

Brother Christopher O'Sullivan of Lambda Xi Chapter in South Korea and his beautiful wife Ms. Saquoia Cheyanne O'Sullivan welcome their first baby, Nasir Raheem O'Sullivan, into the world on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, weighing 5.9 pounds.

Brother O'Sullivan stated: "Holding my son for the first time brought chills down my spine. To hold my heart in human form and to feel his chest raise with each breath was a moment in time I will cherish for the rest of my life."

When asked did becoming a father change your perspective on life? Brother O'Sullivan answered: "Absolutely, I see the world differently now. Everything I do, every accomplishment, every milestone God allows me to reach, will all be for my family."



The Brothers of the 13th International District sends their congratulations to first time dad: Brother Christopher O'Sullivan and his wife Saquoia on the new addition to their family. ///



## 13<sup>th</sup> International District Promotes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

By Brother Michael Robinson

**Bimini, The Bahamas** - During the month of January 2023, the brothers of the 13th International District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. featured the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) website in promoting the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Dr. King's achievements are well documented. However, few people know of the history and connection he had with the island of Bimini in the Bahamas.

The Brothers of the 13th International District are proud to host the upcoming 30th Annual 13th District Meeting from July 11 -12, 2023 and the Dr. Moses C. Norman, Sr. Leadership Conference to be held in Nassau, Bahamas from July 11 – 17, 2023. We are looking forward to fellowshipping with all brothers, family members, friends, and visitors. ///

## Lambda Xi Chapter Participates in Local School MLK Events

By Brother Michael Robinson



Brother London Brown facilitating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. presentation to the students at Osan Middle High School on Osan Air Base, Thursday, January 12, 2023.

**South Korea** - The Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter visited two schools in January to educate youth about the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each year, the theme for MLK Day of Service is A Day On and Not A Day Off! Students were asked; "What are you going to do on MLK Day, Monday, January 16, 2023?"



Brother Michael Robinson, Brother Shaun Stanley, Brother Randy Artis, and Brother Chris O'Sullivan at Humphreys Middle School with Ms. Cassandra Horne's 5th-grade class on Thursday, 12 January 2023.

On Thursday, January 12, 2023, Bro. Michael Robinson, Bro. Shaun Stanley, Bro. Christopher O'Sullivan, and Bro. Randy Artis visited Ms. Cassandra Horne's 5th-grade class at Humphreys Middle School located on Camp Humphreys Army Base. The students received a short presentation about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. followed by a classroom activity.

The Brothers of Lambda Xi with assistance from the teacher split the class up into three groups. Each group was given 3 minutes to discuss the following:

Activity 1: Dream Like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Activity 2: 10 Facts About Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., We Bet You Didn't Know!

Activity 3: Everybody Can Be Great Because Everybody Can Serve

Afterward, a representative from each group had to describe three highlights or lessons learned from the activity and share them with the entire class. Next, the students rotated until everyone completed all three activities.

Upon completion of the activities, each student received free MLK bookmarks and a copy of the three activity sheets to share with their parents, brothers, sisters, and friends. The Brothers of Lambda Xi asked students, now that they have learned valuable information about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "What is your dream?" Each student responded and signed their name on the "MLK I Have a Dream" card, provided by the brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter.

Also, on Thursday, January 12, 2023, Brother London Brown gave a similar presentation about the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



to the students at Osan Middle High School on Osan Air Base in South Korea.

Finally, on Monday, January 16, 2023, the brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter set up a display table at Camp Humphreys Exchange Lobby featuring photos and information about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students and parents that visited the display table received a free Martin Luther King, Jr. bookmark and educational

activity book consisting of various photos from Dr. King's journey for justice and peace. Over 130 students participated in the MLK Day activities held at local schools and the Exchange Lobby display table. The Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter are proud to share with our youth the importance of keeping Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Dream alive. ///

## Lambda Xi Chapter Participates in Black History Month Observances

By Brother Michael Robinson



**South Korea** - During the month of February 2023, the brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter participated in three Black History Month Observances held in different locations of South Korea. According to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, "Black Resistance" was chosen as this year's annual theme for Black History Month.

Today, as we look back at famous members in our history and those making stives toward social justice, we can clearly see how resistance has led us to success and progress. The lessons learned and strategies have assisted us with footprints in the right direction.

On Saturday, February 18, five Brothers from Lambda Xi Chapter along with various members of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Divine Nine set up Black History Month display tables at the 12th Annual Black History Gala sponsored by the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Omega Sigma Chapter and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Pi Eta Zeta Chapter. The event was held at the Morning Calm on Camp Humphreys Army Base in South Korea.

High school seniors from Osan, Humphreys, and Daegu received the following scholarships: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Pi Eta Zeta Chapter presented 1 Scholarship - \$1,920.00 and 2 Scholarships - \$1000 each. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Omega Sigma Chapter presented 3 Scholarships - \$1,000 each. On Friday, February 24, two Brothers from Lambda Xi Chapter and three members of the ROK Divine Nine participated in Humphreys Middle School Black History Month program.

Over 900 students from grades 5 thru 8 attended the event in the school's auditorium. The program featured Lift Every Voice and Sing, history of the Divine Nine, description of Black sororities and fraternities, a step presentation by Humphreys Middle School Girl's Step team, musical performances from the strings, band, and choir. Click on link to read article and view photos of the event highlighted in the Korea Stars and Stripes Newspaper on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

<https://korea.stripes.com/education/humphreys-middle-school-black-history-month-observance>

The Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter closed out the month of February with a Black History Month

Presentation at Humphreys Middle School on Camp Humphreys Army Base and Osan Middle High School located on Osan Air Base in South Korea. Both presentations featured Black Inventors and Inventions that changed the World. Click on link to read article and view photos of the event highlighted in the Korea Stars and Stripes Newspaper on Friday, March 3, 2023. <https://korea.stripes.com/education/osan-middle-high-school-black-history-month-presentation>

Each year during the month of February, the brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter take great pride educating our youth on the importance of knowing and understanding Black History. Today, we are finally starting to hear a new slogan being repeated around the world: “Black History Is American History!”

## Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter Brother Randy Pringle Supporting His Sons with Youth Basketball Team

By Brother Michael Robinson



**Mainland, Japan** - Brother Randy Pringle is a proud father who enjoys watching his two sons: Jayden and Alexander competing and doing their best to accomplish the goal of winning as a team on the Yokosuka Mini Basketball Club Frees in Yokosuka, Japan. He constantly reminds the young men of a statement made by Brother Shaquille O’Neal to the late Kobi Bryant: “There is no ‘I’ in the word team.” Playing together and using your strengths will pay off in the long run. Not only does this apply on the basketball court but also in life.

According to a recent article, “The Influence of Parents in Youth Sport” by Ms. Mary Quinton, she pointed out fathers that are providing positive involvement in the lives of their children will lead to the development of self-esteem, motivation, and social skills as they continue to grow up. Brother Pringle wants his sons to understand how to be competitive, but at the same time enjoy playing basketball and being a kid. ///



## SGG conducts Boyz 2 Men and Tomodachi Mentoring Event

By Brother Cortez Pree

**Okinawa, Japan** – The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma served as lead facilitators for their quarterly Boyz 2 Men(Torship) Program on January 16, 2023, at the Kitanakagusuku Community Center in Okinawa, Japan. Tomodachi means “Friendship” in Japanese, so

the chapter invited the young ladies to participate in this mentorship program. The agenda featured a cooking contest amongst the youth. The youth were paired together with the female and male members.



They cooked 3 meals that pertained to breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The breakfast meal consisted of eggs, sausages, and pancakes from scratch. Lunch included of spaghetti & meatballs, broccoli, mashed potatoes. A delicious dinner entailed steaks, green beans, and corn. All meals included vegan options. The winning team

consisted of Kwesi Toney, David Dew, Constance Perry, and Luke Pattman. The Chapter provided over \$300 in cash prizes. Brother Cortez Pree served as the chairman for the event. He stated, “the youth did a phenomenal job, and we look forward to hosting the cooking contest again in the future.” ///



### **SGG Hosted Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet**

By Brother Cortez Pree

**Okinawa, Japan** – The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter hosted their annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Banquet on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at the Habu Pit located on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The banquet featured performances by SGG 2023 Talent Hunt Winners (Lilyana Roque, Callesse Council, and Jayden Ware). Charlie Clay performed several

songs that focused on the accomplishments of Dr. King to uplift mankind. Christian Santiago recited his noteworthy essay to the crowd while the Tomodachi Bridgebuilders presented the public with unknown facts about Dr. King. The program concluded with a video of Dr. King’s speech titled: “If I had sneeze.” The public was very receptive of the program. ///

### **SGG Conducts Black History Bowl**

By Brother Cortez Pree



**Brother Cortez Pree with the Black History Bowl Winners**

**Okinawa, Japan** – The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter hosted their 6th Annual Black History Bowl on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at Kadena Middle School in Okinawa, Japan. The contest was conducted in a scavenger hunt style event as the students had to source through 300 questions. Brother Cortez Pree served as the chairman for the event. He stated, “the students were eager to learn knowledge about their heritage.” The Kadena Middle School Pandas were victorious as Jayden Ware was selected as the most knowledgeable student. Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter provided over \$200 in cash prizes. ///

**Friendship is Essential to the Soul!**