



# Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

## International Fatherhood and Mentoring (FM) Newsletter



Fatherhood Initiative

**"A Mandated Program"**  
**Youth Leadership Conferences**  
**Big Brothers/Big Sisters**

Mentoring

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**PICTURES CLOCKWISE:** Divine 9 in person meeting with the Vice President of the United States, See story page 2; Three (3) Grand Basilei speak as one in Anchorage. The Grands were interviewed by Brothers Kwame Dow, (Outgoing) 34<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative and Darroll Love, 12<sup>th</sup> District, History Committee Chairman. See story, page 7; Sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) District, Brother Abraham J. Turner, Major General, U.S.A., Retired. See Story page 37.

**CLICK HERE to Read Newly Released Statement on Supreme Court's Decision on Affirmative Action by: Collective Fraternity Political Action Committees of the Divine Nine @:** <https://files.constantcontact.com/661ff179701/b13f2060-b1e2-4930-ac7a-fe8df320c4e7.pdf>

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The General charged brothers to *"work with Generation Zers, engage in voter registration and continue to GOTV,"* Story page 37

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Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!

## The Divine 9 at the Table



### IN PERSON MEETING WITH KAMALA HARRIS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

**Washington, D.C.** – Monday, June 5, 2023, Brother **Ricky L. Lewis**, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and the Divine 9, met on Capitol Hill with the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States, and her advisory staff. The meeting was described as fruitful and engaging.


The Council of Presidents (COP) had the opportunity to engage with the Vice President on several issues as they relate to African American Families and Communities. Among the prevailing issues discussed were: Florida, Affirmative Action, “Woke,” CRT, and Economic Policy of the Biden Administration for African Americans.

According to a report to the Supreme Council of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., after brief remarks, the Vice President invited questions: GB-42 Lewis asked the Vice President about organizations getting “*push-back*” about going to Florida. Vice President Harris was quoted as saying, “*Don’t abandon Florida, go and fight! Our Black community need us to show up and advocate. Our community should not feel we left them alone! Empower them! Show them we are not going to be defeated.*”

VP Harris encouraged the D9 to continue speaking out against racism and other issues affecting our communities and our organizations. Accompanying Bro. GB-42 to the in-person meeting with the Vice President were: undergraduate Bro. Ryan Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Grand Basileus; and Bro. Derrick Ivory, International Social Action Chairman.

During the meeting, the D-9 leadership advocated for: Funding for D-9 organizations to continue their community service work; Mental Health from Alpha Phi Alpha; Voter Registration and Mobilization from Sigma Gamma Rho; Affirmative Action from Delta Sigma Theta; SBA economic issues from Zeta Phi Beta.

The Divine Nine Council of Presidents (COP) consist of leaders of the four international sororities and five fraternities\*: Alpha Phi Alpha, (Fr)-1906; Alpha Kappa Alpha, (So)-1908; Kappa Alpha Psi, (Fr)-1911; Omega Psi Phi (Fr)-1911; Delta Sigma Theta (So)-1913; Phi Beta Sigma (Fr)-1914; Zeta Phi Beta (So)-1920; Sigma Gamma Rho (So)-1922; Iota Phi Theta (Fr)-1963.

\*Fr = Fraternity; So = Sorority 

### Re: Supreme Court Decision on Affirmative Action:

“Our nation’s colleges and universities should be engines of expanding opportunity through upward mobility. Practices like legacy admissions and other systems expand privilege instead of opportunity.”

Joseph R. Biden, 46<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America, 6/29/2023.



## International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee

See the Websites: <http://www.omegafandm.org>  
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## Happy Father's Day

**B**rothers, I trust that everyone had a great Father's Day. I also hope that you had an opportunity to see the International Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Father's Day Celebration Video from Districts around the Fraternity done by brothers who are fathers.

We thank and truly appreciate their participation in the activity. Their comments were very revealing on the roles, and thoughts of fathers as they expressed their feelings. If you did not see the production, is it available on **YouTube**. I also express great appreciation for the work of the committee and the IHQ staff in producing this Father's Day Celebration Video.

Brothers, many chapters are stepping up and getting involved in helping fathers in their local community. Some brothers have asked for suggestions on what kind of activities they can get engaged.

### BELOW ARE SUGGESTIONS UNDER THE FOUR TENETS

**Awareness Programs:** Hold public Awareness forums that address issues facing fathers, i.e., town hall forums, barbershop gatherings, men's locker room talk, men's ministry meetings. Invite public officials to participate.

**Advocacy:** Conduct meetings with community leaders; conduct funding petition drives, hold political roundtables with elected officials on legislative issues, meet with fatherhood leaders,

attend political hearings on fatherhood, on Omega Political Action Days; chapter visits to City, State, Federal agencies to meet on behalf of our initiative efforts.

**Partner with others:** Chapters can and do work in partnership with others; community organizations, city and state agencies, institutions, social service groups including: schools, churches, sports teams, social and civic clubs, and others.

**Celebration:** Host and/or create partnership efforts to celebrate, honor, recognize, and salute fathers, i.e., a fatherhood breakfast, lunch, or dinner program honoring Fathers for community service, school involvement. Host a salute to Omega Dads in the Fraternity. Give out Fatherhood Certificates.

One final charge: we **place as a high priority for Father's** the importance of voting – this may be the greatest gift a father can give to his children.

**So, let's get out the vote (GOTV)!**



*In Friendship,*

*Brother Robert W. Fairchild*

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

**September 15, 2023**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2023, Submit information for July, August, September, 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)**

## Fatherhood and Mentoring: MATH IS A LANGUAGE

### Brother Eric O. Johnson

1-11-Lambda Beta Beta, Currently Serving the Third District  
Alpha Omega Chapter, Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman  
International Father's Day Committee

Greetings Good Brothers,

I pray all is well with you and your families.

Spending quality time with Orlanda learning a language is quite pleasant, Mathematics! Yes, math can be considered a language as it has its own set of symbols, rules, and syntax that are used to communicate and represent numerical concepts, quantities, relationships, and operations. Like language, math allows people to convey and understand ideas, express abstract concepts, solve problems, and communicate information.

**TEACHING MATH TO ORLANDA** involves helping her

**REMEMBER**, just like with language learning, everyone learns math at their own pace. And, patience, persistence, and positive reinforcement can go a long way in helping your daughter or son develop a strong mathematical language foundation. 📖



Orlanda and Dad  
(Brother Eric O. Johnson)

... **developing math skills**,  
your son or daughter will be  
able to communicate,  
reason, and problem-**solve** ...

understand the symbols and concepts, learning the rules and operations, and using them to solve mathematical problems, which is like learning a language. By *developing math skills, your son or daughter will be able to communicate, reason, and problem-solve* using mathematical language, which is an essential skill for many aspects of life, including academics, careers, and everyday living. So, in a sense, teaching math to your children is like teaching a language. The language of numbers and mathematical concepts.

**AS ORLANDA BECOMES MORE PROFICIENT IN MATH**, she will be able to use this language to understand and solve increasingly complex mathematical problems. Just like with language, practice, and exposure to a variety of math problems and concepts will help your child become more fluent in the language of math. Encouraging their curiosity, providing opportunities for hands-on learning, and making math fun can also enhance their mathematical skills and language development.

### *In Friendship*

**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.*)

\*\*\*\*\*

**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*)

Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!



## STORY TIME – From a 2020s Bruhz: It's all about Mentoring

by Elliott N. Kelly, Jr.

**T**HERE IS A 14-YEAR-OLD BLACK BOY FROM LOUISVILLE. He is one of the most distinguished among his age group. He is brilliant, handsome, charming, kind, nurturing, empathetic, creative, and, an amazing orator. He has a 3.9 GPA, is a varsity athlete, and is in his school's marching band. He has been writing and delivering speeches since he was 11 years old.

He has been to conferences with the country's highest achieving students amongst his age group and has been identified as a standout individual. Everything in this young man's life points to success! All these things point to guaranteed success, right? He MUST be on the proper trajectory... surely, he stays out of trouble! There is no way he cannot succeed!

**NOT TRUE. This young man is from the West End of Louisville – an under-resourced community that experiences the myriad of issues that come with crowding and poverty.**

He fears that for all the potential and talent he possesses, he may not be able to do anything with these assets. He doesn't know who to turn to about his experiences and obstacles. His mother and father separated when he was still young, so he now lives in an emotionally turbulent single parent home. He doesn't feel loved at home; he is often alienated and treated differently, so he isolates and minimizes himself to fit in and disappear.

In the young man's eyes, his life could go in many directions – he could succumb to his environment and become content with a life expected of a young black man from his neighborhood. Or he could take advantage of the many opportunities and gifts that he has and achieve greatness.

**AS THE YOUNG MAN IS WRITING HIS STORY**, what narrative will be written in the remaining chapters of his life? Which reality will come into fruition? Most importantly – what will decide the difference in his direction?

**NOW, SOME INFORMATION ABOUT MYSELF.** I am a graduate of the University of Louisville with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Minor in Pan-African Studies. I work at a local arts agency. I am a wrestling coach, musician, poet, and public speaker. Most importantly,

I am a mentor and have worked with many mentoring organizations in West Louisville. My job as a mentor and youth advocate is to ensure that these young people are not only given tools and resources, but also consistent access to people from whom they feel safe enough to learn.

**I AM 24 YEARS OLD. CONSIDERING MY AGE**, I often get questions about whether I have enough ability, aptitude, and experience to effectively mentor young people. I used to question these things myself, but after spending over 8 years pouring into those coming behind me who navigate the same terrain that I once traversed, I see my age as a superpower in my mentoring.

My age and proximity to youth are more helpful than hindering. They have kept me humble, made me a better listener, and taught me many lessons about what it means to be an effective mentor and why many of the most effective are closer in age to the people in whom they invest.

**THE FIRST THING THAT I LEARNED;** mentorship must be more horizontally integrated than vertically. In economics, there is a set of terms called vertical and horizontal integration. Vertical integration shows a level of depth or expertise, while horizontal integration is more about the wide breadth of relationships.

It is less about an area of expertise and more about an ability to provide a safe space regardless of what form the relationship takes. An effective mentorship must be one that is a safe space to experience the pains that come with growth; a gentle space to engage


with the abusive nature of life's many hardships.

**SECOND**, mentors must not only be relatable, but nurturing and understanding. In any effective mentorship, the mentee should determine the nature, pace, and direction of the relationship.

Many young black males, including myself, often feel ostracized by those who are older because the lessons become more about what to do, which often leaves the individual out of the equation. When mentors are younger, the relationship is more likely to have a foundation of listening and tailoring mentoring to the needs/desires of the youth.

**LAST, AND MOST IMPORTANT;** younger mentors are much more likely to be transparent about obstacles and shortcomings than older mentors. A mentor's mistakes and missteps are often the building blocks of how the mentee can grow, develop, and comprehensively be better. To get a mentee to buy in and give trust, the mentor must earn it with transparency, which younger mentors are more equipped to provide.

**NOW, BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY.** That 14-year-old young man's name is Elliott N. Kelly, Jr. I was able to overcome many obstacles and sidestep many distractions not because of some special talent that I possess, but because people loved and cared about me enough to invest in me. I have been blessed with amazing mentors who continue to give me a safe space to fail, and a nurturing environment that allows me to stand back up each time I fall.

**MY MENTORS HAVE NOT BEEN SCIENTISTS**, doctors, physicists, lawyers, or any other high-profile, high-earning individuals. They have been younger men who are still navigating their own path but care enough about me to reach back and give me what I wanted and needed. 



### OMEGA PSI PHI LIGHTING THE WAY: THE GRANDS “SPEAK AS ONE”

by

Brother Kwame Dow, Immediate Past 34<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative, Brother Darroll Love, 12<sup>th</sup> District History Chairman,  
Brother Dr. George D. Taylor, 12<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman

**A**t his first District meeting three years ago, brother Kwame Dow, 34<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative, introduced the ***Omega Lamp Edifying Initiative*** into the District Meeting agenda. This was a means of keeping members informed about the history and workings of the Fraternity. The **78<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> District Meeting in Anchorage** was no exception. Guided by brothers Dow and Darroll Love, 12<sup>th</sup> District History Chairman, three Grand Basilei, (two previous and the present) in attendance engaged the 12<sup>th</sup> District Meeting attendees in conversation.

Centered around questions asked by brothers Kwame Dow and Darroll Love (*What inspired you to become an Omega and what are standout memories from your intake process that we should sustain? What inspired you to pursue becoming the Grand Basileus? Which prior Grand Basileus influenced you the most during the time you served and why? What advice would you give your brother entering the fraternity 20 years from now?*), the discussion was informative and enlightening.

The opportunity to engage these three giants in Omega was not to be missed. Forty-one (41) men (Founder Love served twice) have risen to the ranks of Grand Basileus and to have 3 in one room was nothing short of spectacular. While brothers Dow and Love asked questions of the Grands, the opportunity they afforded the brothers of the 12<sup>th</sup> was equally as engaging.



**East visits West: They spoke as one!**

**L-R: Grand Basilei Knox, Lewis, and Ray**

Brother Randy Bacon (Beta Mu Mu) asked what Brother Grand Ray saw in him all those years ago to give him an opportunity to serve as a young Omega Man. Or, Brother Melvin Jones (Phi Iota) asking Brother Grand Lewis about the reality of the Grand Basileus role vs what he expected and how he had to adjust. With every question Grand Basileus Ray, Knox and Lewis were thoughtful and generous in their response.

For many in the room this was a once in a lifetime event and a moment they will share with Omega Men to come. “I’m sure the story will begin, ‘I remember being in Alaska and listening to 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus Ricky Lewis, 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus Antonio Knox and 39<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus Andrew Ray share their love for Omega with the Brotherhood,’” said brother DR Dow.



“If we had a few thinkers, we could expect great achievements on tomorrow. Some Negro with unusual insight would write an epic of bondage and freedom which would take its place with those of Homer and Virgil. Some Negro with esthetic appreciation would construct from collected fragments of Negro music a grand opera that would move humanity to repentance. Some Negro of philosophic penetration would find a solace for the modern world in the soul of the Negro, and then men would be men because they are men.”

From the book, MIS-EDUCATION OF THE NEGRO, 1933, by Bro. Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

### Just A Thought: “Back to the Good Ole Days”

**T**HE SUPREME COURTS’ DECISION to strike down Affirmative Action programs relating to Race Based college admission policies, in my opinion, is just another clear example of bigotry masquerading as fairness.

The recent SCOTUS decision appears part of a devious plot that has many moving parts. Let’s put aside for a minute voter suppression, gerrymandering and spurious state legislative laws being put forward, and, the facts that unarmed black men, women and children are being hunted and gunned down by police and citizens who suffer no consequences for their acts. Now add to that list book banning, trumped up anti critical race theory resistance, color neutral education campaigns in primary and secondary schools, the elimination of diversity, equity and inclusion in post-secondary institutions, no student loan relief, and now no consideration of an applicant’s race in college admissions review.

Those who are hailing this Supreme Court ruling as a victory are using verbiage such as: Back To The Good Ole Days, Affirmative Action Has Run It’s Course, and A Color-Blind Society.

Let’s start with the **Back To The Good Ole Days** phrase. My father always told me to be wary of those who talk about the Good Ole Days. He used to tell me that the only thing good about the Good Ole Days for Negroes, was that those days were gone!

What about: **Affirmative Action Has Run Its Course?** What a strange thing to say since laws were passed that made it illegal for blacks to read and/or write. Blacks faced dismemberment of a hand if they were caught writing and the loss of an eye if discovered reading. When the sacrifices of our people, many of those we know and a countless number of those whose names we will never know, were able to achieve school desegregation, *de facto* segregation remained in place to perpetuate non equal access to education.

Those who claim Affirmative Action is unfair because it discriminates against white people and Asians, must not have a full grasp of history or math, or suffer from selective amnesia. Approximately *fifty years of Affirmative Action does not balance out approximately 350 years of exclusion*. White folks were not disfigured or murdered for attempting to gain an education. Asians may have been unfairly interred during WW II, but they weren’t lynched for seeking knowledge.

**A Color-Blind Society** was a reality when the colonies were being established around the mid 1600’s. Wealth or station

was not determined by the color of a person’s skin, but rather by the amount of land they owned and the number of indentured servants who worked for them. Many blacks were considered indentured servants not slaves, and after paying off their debts they would be released from indentured servitude to acquire property and have indentured servants of their own.

That all changed in Virginia when the slave laws were passed in 1661. Many black folks had their property and assets taken. Then came the Virginia Slave Code in 1705 which defined all slaves as real estate, made slavery a permanent condition through the mother, and forbade slaves, free and colored people from physically assaulting white persons. The enslaved were denied the right to bear arms or move freely without permission.

**PROPONENTS OF THE DISMANTLING OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION** operate from the fallacious premise that Affirmative Action is basically white folks giving black folks something they haven’t earned, when in reality, they are the ones that have a documented history of taking assets and opportunities they didn’t earn. Besides black people, Native Americans can attest to that as well.

A quote that is often misstated is Martin Luther King Jr’s, “*Judge a man not by the color of his skin, but by the content of his character.*” I am baffled by many of those that use that phrase to disparage dialogue about Blackness. They put the emphasis on “*the color of his skin*” portion of the statement whereas I put the emphasis on the content of his character. I would be proud to be judged on my blackness as opposed to being judged on the hypocritical, lying, devious, immoral, and cowardly content of *their* character.

**Athletes are exempt from the ruling. Ironically, they may wind up generating revenue for colleges and universities that refused to accept students like them 50 years ago.**

**"With let-them-eat-cake obliviousness**, today, the majority pulls the ripcord and announces 'colorblindness for all' by legal fiat. But deeming race irrelevant in law does not make it so in life," wrote Justice Ketanji Brown-Jackson in her dissent. 6/29/2023



Brother Dr. Carl A. Blunt

*Those who are hailing this Supreme Court ruling as a victory are using verbiage such as: Back To The Good Ole Days, Affirmative Action Has Run It’s Course, and A Color-Blind Society.*

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



## “When They Grow Up, the Piñata Hangs Alone”

By Brother Larry Hammond, Sr.

**F**OR MANY YEARS, SOME GOOD FRIENDS of ours would host an annual Halloween party. The celebration had grown to become very ornate over the years with party goers wearing elaborate costumes and a contest that included some very nice prizes; plenty of food and refreshments; and an enormous Piñata for the children. Over the years, we noticed that the number of children participating in the breaking of the Piñata was dwindling until one year, recently, when it became time to shatter the Piñata, it hung alone; the children had all grown up.



**PRIMARILY IN SPANISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITIES**, the Piñata is a decorative figure made of paper mâché that contains toys and candy that is suspended from a height and broken open by blindfolded children as part of a celebration. Now, because of our Halloween experience, the Piñata, represents another kind of celebration to us. To our Halloween party friends, my wife and I, the Piñata now represents the reality that the children grew up and that they have moved on in life. They are making their own life choices and enjoying their life experiences. Contemplating this reality, you realize that as a father you have done your best and given them love and support and promoted the values that have prepared them for their next set of adventures.


In June, we once again took the opportunity to celebrate fatherhood on Father’s Day. My Chapter here in Pasadena, CA, Zeta Tau, celebrated by holding its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Father’s Day Walk. This festive get together of fathers and families, with food, music and fun (*and, yes, we do walk*) has been a mainstay event for our chapter.

This year, however, there was a distinctive difference from previous years. While the fathers enjoyed the activities and the fellowship, there was the noticeable absence of our children. For me, mine were accounted for; my oldest lives in Maryland, the next one was vacationing in Palm Springs and the youngest lives in Chicago. As we all talked about our lives and what our children were doing, we realized that they grew up - another Piñata moment.



Bro Larry Hammond, Sr.  
VIH Consulting

**FATHERHOOD STORIES ARE OFTEN MENTIONED** in the context of raising children in the early years. The challenges associated with fumbling your way through the growing years and then launching them into life tends to dominate the familial dialogue. However, the fatherhood experience continues to evolve. You get to watch them grow and change. Some will start families of their own and some will even make you a grandfather. Some will go on to do things that will absolutely amaze you and some will continue to make you more and more proud every day.

For those of you still in the early stages, **the Piñata stage** comes far too quickly. So please cherish this time now. For those of us that are in *the Piñata stage* just know that you have played your initial role as a father and now **you stand in your new roles of supporter, advisor, confidant, and friend**. Keep making it count; create as many new memories as you can and even when they are off living their lives, let them know that when the Piñata hangs alone – they never are! 

## History Bears Witness to the Truth

*“A Good Man Leaves an Inheritance to His Children's Children” Proverbs 13:22*

Brother Charles "Chuck" Clemons, M.Div., 12<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain

**H**APPY FATHER'S DAY BROTHERS! The one day a year, when the Nation collectively celebrates fathers with ties, Backyard Barbeques, and being a “King” for a day. The daily efforts of Fathers and Mentors in Omega are acknowledged and celebrated year-round!

AS WE REFLECT ON THE LEGACY OF OUR FATHERS, I am struck by what they have left behind. For some, our dads were like the lyrics from the Temptations, “Papa was a rolling stone, wherever he laid his hat was his home, and when he died all, he left us was alone.” For me, I feel like James Brown's “Papa Don't take no Mess!” Was the theme song and title soundtrack for my father. Hopefully, as we pivot to apply our own life lessons as fathers, we are committed to leaving an inheritance to our children's children.


THE WISDOM BOOK OF PROVERBS invites the reader to ponder what inhabits the constitution of a “good man.” Many Scriptures will contrast good from evil, and ultimately, that goodness comes from and is directly related to His God. Jesus Christ who invites us into an abiding relationship produces His goodness in us the way a branch bears fruit by abiding in the vine (John 15). From this abiding relationship with His God, the good man prepares for future generations of children. We see this in the example of Abraham, Isaac, and

Jacob (Israel). They dug wells, accumulated wealth, and they each transferred the covenant with God to their children.

**Brothers, what social, financial, and spiritual inheritance are you planning to leave to your future family (Children's children)?**



Charles "Chuck" Clemons

BY DIGGING WELLS, THE PATRIARCHS not only had access to clean water but also blessed their community. By accumulating wealth and successfully transferring it, they secured the future financial stability of the following generations. And, by teaching and living in covenant with God, they modeled what a godly life looks like in practice, securing the blessing of God upon them. May it be so in our generation, that we would be those kinds of good men. 

## In Friendship

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

### An Evening Thought: Salvation by Christ, with Penitential Cries ...

**“Salvation comes now from the Lord; Our Victorious King. His holy name be well adored, Salvation surely bring. Dear Jesus give thy spirit now, Thy grace to every Nation, That hasn't the Lord to whom we bow, The author of Salvation. Dear Jesus, unto Thee we cry, Give up the preparation: Turn not away thy tender eye: We seek true Salvation.”**



A poem by **Jupiter Hammon**, who is said to be the first published African American poet. He was enslaved in Queens Village, Long Island, circa 1760. From the book, *THE NEGRO CARAVAN*, by Sterling A. Brown, Howard University; Arthur P. Davis, Virginia Union University and Ulysses Lee, Lincoln University, Circa 1941.

## From Around the Districts

Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!  
Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

### **Alpha Nu Chapter Hosts Annual Father's Day Event**

**Fairfield County, CT** – Alpha Nu Chapter held its 2023 Annual Father's Day Event with the theme "A Recognition and Celebration of Outstanding Father Figures in Our Communities." On Saturday June 10th Alpha NU Chapter hosted its virtual Father Days program in recognition of outstanding father figures in the lower Fairfield County of CT. The fathers that were recognized were Mr. Charles Davis (Canaan Institutional Baptist Church, Norwalk), Mr. Guy Fortt (Union Baptist Church, Stamford), Mr. Robert Jackson (Bethel A.M.E, Stamford), Mr. ta Henneghan (Calvary

Baptist Church, Norwalk) and Brother. Ralph Gattison (First Baptist Church, Milford).

Since 1965, Alpha Nu Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has been actively involved in the Fairfield County community and committed to making a difference in the lives of all people. One of the fraternity's several initiatives is our International Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative. Chapters throughout the First District are conducting programs and events that promote the role fathers and mentors have influenced the lives of their children. ///

### **Granville Academy**

#### **Omega Psi Phi provides Mentoring to Waterbury Area Youth**

**Waterbury, CT** – Granville Academy of Waterbury was founded in 1992 by brothers Earnest Mosley-Lambda Rho chapter and his brother Judge Maurice Mosley.

Granville was designed to give students 6th grade through 12th grade an introductory knowledge of business and STEM. Granville is open to students within the Waterbury School District and outside the

city of Waterbury. Lambda Rho chapter of Omega Psi Phi has been mentoring students from Granville since its inception. Class size varies and can be aware from 20 to 40 students.

Ninety-five per cent (95%) of Granville graduates enroll in college or university. For example: Yale, University of Connecticut, Howard University, and North Carolina A & T. ///

### **Iota Chi Supports Fatherhood**

**Roxbury, CT** – The Black Men and Boys Commission along with the brothers of Iota Chi Chapter hosted Black men from across the city Boston on Juneteenth to fellowship and network over brunch. Great community leaders such as former councilor Tito Jackson and Roxbury's native Dr. Rufus Faulk. Mayor Michelle Wu also joined to share some words of inspiration.

Men also were given the opportunity to hear from Black men who work in the financial industry and share some gems about how to build and maintain financial success through financial education.

Thank you to the brothers of Iota Chi for attending the event and pushing the work of Fatherhood and Mentoring. ///

**"Colleges and Universities should not be places where students just learn to make as much money as they can as fast as they can. They should be places where people learn what their roles in society can be, and how they can help to advance the cause of human progress and human compassion and what it really means to be proud Americans. History lessons can be real blessings, but only if we have learned them."**

From the book,

BLESSED EXPERIENCES: Genuinely Southern, Proudly Black, by James E. Clyburn, United States Representative (D-SC).



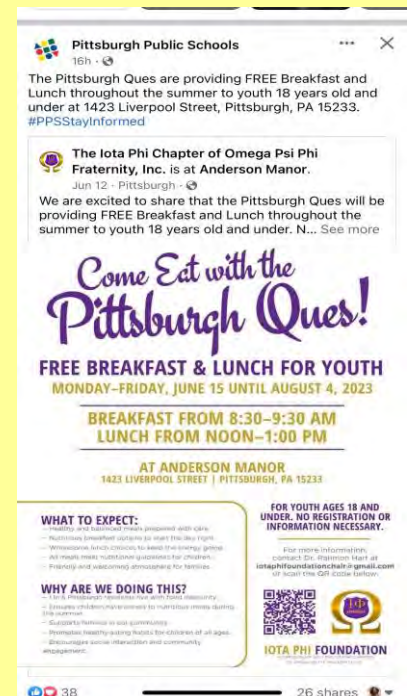
## 2<sup>nd</sup> District: Brother Donald Williams, Jr., Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania,

### 75<sup>th</sup> Second District Conference, Donald Williams, II, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee, former 25<sup>th</sup> Basileus, Mighty Mu Nu



**Photo Left: 75TH SECOND DISTRICT CONFERENCE, FATHERHOOD AND MENTORING TEAM WITH CORRIDOR REPRESENTATIVES.** Pictured Left to right: Matt Stevens, Corridor 4 Chairman; Donald Williams, FMC Chairman; Vince Stutts, Corridor 2 Chairman; Amir Shareef, 1st Vice Basileus; Reggie Laster, Beau Biden Foundation Representative; Harrison Potts, Corridor 3 Representative; and Leon Smith, Corridor 4 Representative. **Photo Right: 75th Second District Conference, Founder's Banquet in Pittsburgh, PA.,** amazing night of celebration where brother Donald Williams, II, received the 2nd District, 2023 Committee Chairman of the Year and brother Walter Neighbors received recognition for Basileus of the Year Mu Nu Chapter. Also shown current District Representative, Delrecole "Rico" Gales and the 37th District Representative and Chapter Brother Kelvin Ampofo.



**Pittsburgh, PA** - On April 22, 2023, the 75<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> District Conference was held in Pittsburgh. It was an amazing experience renewing friendships and reconnecting with Bruhz. Brother Matt Stevens reminded me that this was our first in-person chat *after countless Zoom meetings and phone calls* to discuss Fatherhood and Mentoring activities.

After taking the picture with the DR, I wanted to celebrate as the sports teams do by hoisting the plaque over my head because this award represents (1) every Chapter having a mentoring program, and (2) we are stronger working together and making a difference collectively as "one team" impacting our communities through mentorship programs.

**OUR FATHERHOOD AND MENTORING COMMITTEE** worked tirelessly to soar to "next level" mentoring during the COVID pandemic. Our generation will continue to work together to change the world and communities through mentoring Dads to be effective parents and to help young people, especially young males reach their full potential. Congratulations to Gamma Mu Nu Chapter, Delaware for receiving the Grand Basileus Award recognition.

The Corridor 2, FMC Chairman Vince Stutts's *next-level leadership* Cleo Click recipient, flew nine (9) young people to the Grand Conclave in Charlotte, NC. Brother Stutts stated that this trip to Johnson C. Smith University was our student's first-time visit to an HBCU!

Next, the 2<sup>nd</sup> District will team with Reggie Laster who is connected to the Beau Biden Foundation. The goal for the FMC Committee is to *raise awareness* by implementing a Risk Management approach that trains, certifies, and protects the brotherhood, mentees, and Omega brand across the district. Our outcome will be an annual training certification and district policy letter.

When our grandchildren ask: *What was the pandemic like and what did our fraternity do during the pandemic*, the response will be: **Omega Men and Chapters showed families and youth how to proceed and succeed in a crisis.** Our leadership will be examples for others to follow on how to be post-pandemic leaders and mentors.

**Next Level: Mentoring Leadership Matters and Mentoring Saves Lives!**

Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!



## 2023 Game Changer Conference for Young Males

Mu Nu Chapter Community Leadership

**Montgomery County, MD – The 2023 Spring Game Changer Conference** for Young Males was phenomenal, incredible, and amazingly successful, with approximately 500+ males impacted. The second in-person conference was filled with educators, community leaders and county dignitaries. The theme was: “The World Is Shifting! Being Focused Forward is a Game Changer: How Will You Pursue Excellence?”

The all-male conference included a record attendance and presence of Black men from fraternities, local Churches, and mentors in action in Montgomery County. Sharing knowledge and wisdom made a huge difference in uplifting and inspiring young males to do their very best.

The participant's spirit and high energy were evident from start to finish where young males were paired with men in the life skills portion. The young males rotated from station-to-station to learn: how to tie ties, do 30-second interviews, a proper handshake, and a fitness station. The students were excited to keep and take home the tie that they learned how to tie.

The men from the mighty Mu Nu Chapter in Montgomery County provide outstanding leadership under a collaboration model that brought together community stakeholders and businesses. Students participated in life skill stations and age-appropriate

breakout workshops for elementary, middle, and high school aged. The sessions focused on character and instructions on how to conduct themselves as young males in the home and at school.

A parent roundtable saw recorded attendance with standing room only. Parents received valuable information on the theme of how to create an academic warrior and become an effective advocate for their children. Teamwork makes the dream work when committed stakeholders are intentional about working together.

Welcome remarks were received from Mu Nu Chapter Basileus Walter Neighbor, the Universities at Shady Grove, Dr. Jeffrey Ash, the first Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, (Omega Man). Montgomery County Public School District Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Patrick Murphy.

Stacey Herring was dynamic as Master of Ceremony who introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Joey Jones. Taking center stage, he asked students how many wants to go "PRO?" He commanded and kept the attention of everyone, fellow educators, mentors, and students, giving away money for correct responses to questions throughout his presentation. It pays to listen and follow instructions was the underline takeaway for attendees.

Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!



The conference concluded with an interactive panel discussion on “How to be a Better Young Male” and the essay topic: The World is Shifting, and Being Focused Forward is a Game Changer. Students celebrated and received cash prizes, certificates, and medals.

Brother Williams, founder of the Game Changer Conference for young males, could not thank everyone enough for working together to help uplift the community and shift a positive narrative in the Black and Brown community that impacts the next generation of promising young leaders. The all-male conference is a vehicle that helps to accomplish the collective objective of promoting student’s wellness, success, and positive life learning outcomes.

Brother Williams was extremely excited to celebrate the 11-year teaming partnership. Team members included: UCF “Aim High-In-Life” Youth Development Organization, Montgomery County Public Schools System, National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) of Montgomery County, The Universities at Shady Grove, and Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the home of two District Representatives, 34<sup>th</sup> Milton Dewy Harrison, and 37<sup>th</sup> Kelvin Ampofo.

Mu Nu was chartered on May 23, 1970, in Montgomery County, serving tirelessly for 53 years of community leadership and engagement, providing scholarships, founder of GBTLA (Saturday School) Bridge Builder Mentoring for Middle School students.



Finally, there is a strategic partnership with the former 44<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America, Barack Obama, under his administration’s Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring program.



Pictured with Brother Stacey Herring, dynamic Master of Ceremony at the podium. At right, Mu Nu Chapter Vice Basileus Dr. Lorenzo Prillman, MCPS Principal chairs the Essay Contest last seven years. The students wrote on the essay topic with Theme: The World is Shifting! Being Focused Forward Is a Game Changer: How will you pursue Excellence? Students celebrated and received cash prizes, certificates, and medals.

**Key Message:** It is extremely important for leadership in every community to work together to reset, restore confidence, and reimagine a better community through mentoring and community engagement. We aim to uplift, encourage, and help families and students, especially young males to be better. It is extremely important for Black and Brown men to be engaged as effective parents in their children’s lives and help young people, especially our young males reach their full potential.

**Next Level: Mentoring Leadership Matters and Mentoring Saves Lives!** 

**Be A GAME CHANGER!**

**“Getting people to focus their attention on tough problems can be a complicated and difficult task, particularly in large organizations or communities where ... ways of avoiding painful issues ... have developed over many years .... In leading, you need to hold steady in the face of ... distractions, counteract them, and then redirect attention to the issue at hand.”** From, Leadership On The Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading, Ronald A. Heifetz and Marty Linsky





**Third District 90th Annual Founder's Banquet | Ernest Everett Just Award Recipients**


**I**n keeping with the Third District's Fatherhood and Mentoring Program (TDFM), several chapters in Northern Virginia executed community outreach initiatives for youth ages of 8 to 22. The Third District Mentoring Curriculum (TDMC) provides pre-college mentoring to youth in focus areas; i.e., STEM, Career/Military Readiness, financial literacy with focus on hard trades such as construction, masonry, HVAC, culinary, and mechanical vocation.

**Third District Mentoring Program (TDMP)** is composed of 700+ students from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to graduating seniors in college. Members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., (OPPF) ranging from Four-Star United States Military Officers, Program Directors of Cyber Security Companies, Teachers, Principals, Musicians, YouTubers, Game Developers, and entrepreneurial serve as mentors guiding and investing in the next generation of leaders.

Third District Mentoring Program (TDMP) affiliate **Third District Foundation**, and TDFM, have been recipients of funding from the Northern Virginia chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA-NOVA) since fiscal year 2021 in the amount of \$30,000. AFCEA-NOVA has over 6,000 individual and corporate members: the NOVA chapter boasts the largest membership in the AFCEA International community. They connect members and events to enhance and provide an ethical setting to connect with Government. AFCEA-NOVA hosts several IT Day conferences annually featuring speakers on information technology from the Army, Navy, USMC, Air Force, DOD, and other Federal agencies. **For info: [3rddistrictfoundation.org](http://3rddistrictfoundation.org), a 501 (c) 3.**

Recent highlights and accomplishments of Third District Mentoring Program (TDMP) with the support of AFCEA-NOVA, shows remarkable and unmatched strides creating pathways from middle school to careers in US Government in areas of STEM. Those accomplishments over the past two years have yielded 2158 hours of mentoring to 1422 students primarily in Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington, Falls Church, and Spotsylvania counties. Fairfax and Prince William Counties school districts caters to approximately 300,000 students within the Northern Virginia community, Fairfax County being the largest school district in Virginia and one of the largest in the United States.

Third District Mentoring Program (TDMP), has created partnerships with state Colleges and Universities including Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA CC), George Mason University, Old Dominion University, Norfolk State University, Hampton University, Virginia Tech, and Virginia State University. These partnerships have yielded over 20 pre-college initiative field trips, 200+ hours of STEM related courses, 45 hours of Financial Literacy, 300+ hours on career and military readiness programs within TDMP.

The support TDMP has received from AFCEA-NOVA has yielded a proof-of-concept prototype by creating pathways for students from middle school to college to careers in STEM supporting the United States Government (USG). This outcome was on full display at the Third District 90th Annual District Conference held in Richmond, Virginia from March 30th to April 2nd 2023. 



Bro. Jamell Satchell, NOVA-AFCEA Representative, Rickey Taylor (ODU), Jordan Simmons (NSU), Elijah Gartrell (ODU), Michelle Larkin, AFCEA-NOVA VP of Education

**T**HE ANNUAL THIRD DISTRICT CONFERENCE featured speakers from **Bro. Ricky L. Lewis, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**, **Bro. Conrado B. Morgan**, Third District Representative, **Mr. Glenn Youngkin**, Governor of Virginia and **Ms. Makya Little**, 19<sup>th</sup> District Candidate (Northeastern Prince William and Southeastern Fairfax Counties).

Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA-NOVA) representatives, Ms. Michelle Larkin (VP Education) and Mr. Jamell Satchell were recognized for their outstanding support and vision as community sponsors in helping develop and create a pathways program to support, encourage, and motivate school age students within the NOVA communities to seek fields and careers in STEM supporting the USG.

Third District Mentoring Program (TDMP) recognized three brilliant students who are direct benefactors of the pathway programs supported by AFCEA-NOVA. These students guided and mentored by agile programs within TDMP produced 3 collegiate scholars that are majoring in Electrical Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering, and Cyber Security Engineering, from Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University. Students received \$1000.00 scholarships on behalf of TDMP and AFCEA-NOVA in recognition of the student's scholastic and professional accomplishments in the areas of STEM.



Mr. Aaron Works, Mr. Jamell Satchell, Elijah Gartrell, Michelle Larkin  
Third District 90th Annual Founder's Award Banquet | April 1, 2023

Mr. **Elijah Gartrell** enrolled in Omega U mentorship program in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Potomac Middle School. He continued in the program in his middle school years and became the president of the largest TDMP at that time. He continued his presidency in Omega U through high school years at Potomac Senior High School graduating in the class of 2021 with over 10 college acceptances.

While at Potomac Senior High School (Dumfries, VA) Elijah was an all-around student and athlete. Academically he was president of French Honor Society, the SCA Community Chair, President of Omega U, and a holder of a 3.03 GPA. Athletically, he was on the basketball team and received All-Region Honors in Track & Field. Most impressive of all, he interned with Congressman Clyburn for two summers under the Congressional Internship Program. Through his experiences he sharpened his leadership skills, communication skills, and showed the ability of time management.

Post-graduation Elijah committed to Old Dominion University (ODU) majoring in Cybersecurity. In his first year of university, he ran track, participated in the ODU Cyber Club, NATO Cybersecurity Case competition (2021), undergraduate cybersecurity research for the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative, and secured two internships to MITRE & IHS Automation where he received return offers for both companies; all while averaging a 3.6 GPA. In his sophomore year, he participated in the NATO Cybersecurity Challenge, the Innovate Challenge under Commonwealth Cyber Initiative, offered by NSA for a Cybersecurity Internship.

Currently, in his sophomore year he continues to do the same. Elijah is currently 1/3 undergraduate researchers in the ODU Cybersecurity Labs, as he specializes in AI. He is also participating in the Innovate Cyber research program, researching cyber hygiene. He is actively working towards establishing his own cybersecurity club at ODU for local schools in the area.



Bro. Jamell Satchell, Mr. Rickey Taylor, Ms. Michelle Larkin, Bro. Baron McKeithan

Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!



**Mr. Rickey Taylor**, member of Young Men of Distinction Program, is a 2021 graduate of An Achievable Dream Middle and High School and an honored mentee. During his tenure at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, Rickey excelled both in the classroom and athletics. He was a stellar Young Men of Distinction participant throughout his academic career (2014-21) and served as the organization's President from 2019-2021. Rickey played basketball in the Kevin Swann Christian Basketball League, where he displayed sportsmanship and leadership abilities. In the classroom, his academic prowess was demonstrated as he maintained a 3.0 GPA and participated as a member of the Achievable Dream Middle and High School 3.0 club from 2017-2021.

Rickey is a third-year college student at Old Dominion University Majoring in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Mechatronics. He is proudly serving his country through military service as a reservist in the United States Air Force as an Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems Specialist. As an Airman, Rickey showed *esprit de corps* at Sheppard Air Force Base's Teal Rope Program. The Teal Rope worn on the shoulder of the dress uniform symbolizes the training and volunteerism the student has undergone to be able to assist peers in dealing with sexual assault. Rickey is also pursuing a private pilot's license and looks forward to joining the aviation and aerospace industry in some future capacity.



Michelle and Jamell stand with parents and student scholarship recipients at the Third Districts 90th Annual Founder's Banquet on April 1, 2023

Rickey continues to give back to his community as a Mentor Assistant at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School Young Men of Distinction as well as serving as a speaker and special guest for several youth organizations within the Southeastern Newport News community. Rickey continues to be a man of all seasons displaying leadership savvy and is a beacon and role model to current Dreamers, YMOD, his peers at Old Dominion and the U.S. Air Force.




Bro. Abdull Wallace, Bro. Jamell Satchell, Mr. Jordan Simmons, Ms. Michelle Larkin

**Mr. Jordan L. Simmons**, member of the Golden Fold Mentoring Program, Green Run Collegiate High School honors. He was selected as the keynote speaker for the 2022 Green Run Collegiate "International Baccalaureate Graduation Ceremony. Jordan is committed to serving his community from mentorship he has received since middle school from a TDMP. His support includes annual feeding of the homeless to low-income families through their annual Thanksgiving & Christmas basket give away.

Jordan is a freshman at Norfolk State University where he is majoring in Electrical Engineering. He belongs to several organizations that include Dozoretz National Institute of Mathematics/Applied Science Scholars, Institute of Electrical/Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and NSU Student Government Association, serving as the Freshman Parliamentarian.

The TDFMP is extremely grateful for the emotional and financial support in creating chances and opportunities for the 2100+ students within the Northern Virginia Communities and Third District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated. The TDMP was established in 2011 under the direct request of President Barack Obama at the 100<sup>th</sup> Centennial Conclave held in Washington D.C.

The program is currently chaired by Bro. Michael Frazier. The program continues to grow and provides a medium in closing STEM educational and collegiate attendance gaps for minority students in the Northern Virginia region.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., is a predominantly African-American organization founded in 1911, the first at a historically black university, by three Howard University students. Since its founding, the organization has chartered over 750 undergraduate and graduate chapters throughout the world. Third District OPPF has 43 chapters currently under the leadership of Bro. Shawn Lacey, District Representative. 





MANUP | Goodwin Hall | Blacksburg, Virginia | April 15, 2023

Mentoring Programs from Third District Fatherhood and Mentoring (TDFM) were hosted by students from of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) – Virginia Tech (VT) Chapter. TDFM Chapters included Upsilon Nu (Richmond), Pi Lambda Lambda (Prince William County), and Psi Alpha Alpha (Fairfax County). NSBE students provided over 100 students a robust lecture and lab on mechanical engineering (ME).



Upsilon Nu | Pi Lambda Lambda | Psi Alpha Alpha @ Virginia Tech

The day was established with a wonderful foundational **knowledge of mechanical engineering** and how it relates to other industries, most popular due to current events, the biomedical field. VT NSBE students

discussed at length with the eager youthful participants that engineers design, manufacture, and administer life-saving medical equipment that include, pacemakers, artificial/robotic limbs, and robotic surgical assistants.

Advisors and professional engineers discussed with students the important role ME play in the fight against the Covid-19 virus. Michael Frazier, discussed with several of the students the central role MEs had and still have in planning/designing ventilators to gain insight on how the virus is transmitted. Additionally, Frazier explained to students that STEM and the advancements made in technology, as it relates to ME, have greatly advanced the field of biology and medicine by applying fundamental engineering principles to build useful tools, devices, and systems for the biomedical field.




Omega Mentors from Upsilon Nu, Pi Lambda Lambda, and Psi Alpha Alpha| April 15, 2023



**NEW CAMPUS BUILDING | MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROJECT**



The VT PCI Mentors divided students into teams to participate in the design challenge. Students had to work together to design and build a device that can safely rescue a puppy (stuffed animal) from a well from a height of one meter. Conditions were set with the students understanding the limited oxygen in this simulated exercise, as well, the criticality in which the puppy needs to be rescued under three minutes. The winning team consisted of several MANUP high school students from Northern Virginia winning the completion, comprised of 8 teams, with a time of 4 minutes 47 seconds. 

**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROJECT | APRIL 2023**



**OMEGA U @ VIRGINIA TECH | APRIL 15, 2023**

**Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!**





## Omega STEM Project

**Charleston, West Virginia, Thursday, April 27, 2023,** marked the first day of the 82nd Fourth District Meeting in Charleston, West Virginia. This district meeting was hosted by Xi Alpha, Theta Psi, and Gamma Lambda chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. While brothers throughout the district (Ohio and West Virginia) were making their way to Charleston, the host chapters partnered with the Midian Leadership Project located on Charleston's Westside to host a S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) activity. Midian is a center that provides leadership, athletic, educational, and other assistance to our city's most at risk youth. Therefore, we partnered with Midian to give our youth the opportunity to participate in S.T.E.M programs that are relatable and fun.

Brothers throughout the 4th District descended upon the **Midian Center** to discuss careers in S.T.E.M. and

provide activities for the center's youth. The first activity was building solar cars. The youth, along with the help from the Omega men built solar cars from Kits provided by the host chapters. After the cars were built, each team placed their cars in the sun and waited for them to charge. Thereafter, the teams would race the cars against one another. The children not only got a lesson in engineering but observed how solar technology affected their cars' performance. Next, students were tasked to think like engineers. The student's objective was to build a stable structure using marshmallows and wooden sticks. Overall, this was a very successful event, the students got to learn new skills, had fun, and most importantly got to see people who look like them host a S.T.E.M. activity. This provided a great start to the 82nd Fourth District meeting. 📺





## Omega Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative Program

**DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE 82<sup>ND</sup> FOURTH DISTRICT** Meeting in Charleston, West Virginia, brothers took time out to provide uplift to an elementary school. Edgewood Elementary is a unique school in Charleston. While located on Charleston's Westside, an at-risk area of the city where many Black people are concentrated. Edgewood is filled with a mix of students from across various racial and socioeconomic backgrounds and is located atop a hill, which makes it often forgotten about when it comes to the interest of civic and fraternal organizations. Therefore, it was very important to have brothers from across the Fourth District show up for students who do not often see educated, professionally dressed, and organized Black men.

Our activity/discussion was with the school's fourth and fifth grade students and was focused on college and career advancement. Brothers provided the students with information regarding their background and how they navigated past obstacles and landed in their current careers. In addition, we answered the children's inquisitive and entertaining questions. The discussion was fruitful, and I believe the students provided as much uplift to us as we provided them. At the end of our program, Brother Jerry Leftwich, the 4th District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman, provided the school with a plaque in recognition of their service to students. A great event which provided perspective on how much our presence can impact the communities we serve. 🏆



## **Celebrating Father's Day in Omega Fashion**

Nashville, TN – Gamma Phi's Fatherhood and Mentoring Committees took time out to participate in the Gamma Phi Fatherhood Golf Classic. The event is a partnership between the FMC and Scholarship committees.

The day began with recognizing the Father of the Year and The Father Figure of the Year. The awards were given to Bro. Randy Crawley (Father Figure) and Mr. Alfred LeBlanc Jr. (Father of the Year), who was nominated by his sons, students at H. G. Hill Middle School.



Every year the focus of the event is to recognize outstanding leaders and fathers in the community, raise money for the chapter's scholarship fund and introduce the neighborhood youth to the game of Golf. It is an event near and dear to the Men of Gamma Phi, to celebrate the uplift of our youth and to use the event to thank the community for their hard work and scholarship.

After recognizing the Fathers, it was time to award the efforts of the Principals from I.T. Creswell and H.G Hill Middle schools who have been instrumental in the chapter's efforts to Mentor Nashville's youth. Principal Trellaney Lane was honored for partnering with the chapter to begin a Mentoring program at IT Creswell.




**Alfred L. LeBlanc, Jr.  
Gamma Phi Father of  
the Year**

Principal Lane reached out to Bro. Stanfield and the rest is history.

Principal Carrie Jones has worked with the chapter hand for the past three years. The Rite of Passage program partnership has been instrumental in identifying, educating, and leading the school's youth to be better a version of themselves and better prepared for the next stages of life.

The highlight of the yearly event is the Scholarship Winners showcase. The years' scholarship winners are invited to the event with their parents. They are then loved with good food, good music, golf, and friendship.


The scholarship winners and the men of Gamma Phi ended the day with a group picture. You could feel the good vibrations filling the air as everybody says their goodbyes and ready themselves for next year! 

## **MAY "RITES OF PASSAGE" FIELD TRIP TO BIRMINGHAM**

ON WEDNESDAY MAY 17, mentors of the Gamma Phi Chapter, loaded a bus of mentees at H. G. Hill Middle School departing to Birmingham. The itinerary included a visit to the Civil Rights Museum Institute and Miles College.

During the trip, it was learned that several of the mentees had never traveled beyond the state boarder of Tennessee and some had never been out of Nashville. The visit to the Museum was an extraordinary experience. One of the mentors, Brother Julius Hill commented, *"I had the opportunity to witness the light bulb go off with a number of the young men in attendance."* He observed that reading history from a book in the classroom is simply not like seeing it close and in person.

**Chaperones:** Dr. Bernard Ray – Staff, Derrick Leonard – Staff, Darnell Felton – Staff, Dominic Hudson – Staff, Michael Bennett – Mentor, Julius Hill – Mentor, John Burwell – Mentor, Wm Terry Copeland – Mentor, Alfred LeBlanc – Parent

**Students making the trip:** Lamarcus Smith, Chris Crowder, Charles Mitchell, Justin Nicholson, Michael Starks, Keyshun Gordon, Joshua Piper, Tony Suong, Ra'Shawn Wynn, Julian Whiteside, Vondrick Ware, Bradford Hill, Duncan Holt, Sean Williams, Nicholas Covington, Dalton Hughes, Genald Saint Pierre, Elijah Guerrier, B.J. Bean, Jaiden Woodland, Chris Nelson, Alfred LeBlanc, Parker LeBlanc, Cory Bean, Melvin Tre Starnes, Salim Hassan, Kaden Howlet, Timothy Williams, Emmanuel Shaw, Wilmer Leon, Aiden Glancy, and Carter Landenberger. 



## Trying to Walk in Daddy's Footsteps

By Nyles Fleming 5-Psi-17

**Garner, NC** – In society today the media writes the narrative of a lot of black men, especially young black men under the age of 30. So many of my peers didn't grow up with their father in the home nor got firsthand guidance and advice from their father or man that took interest in their interests. Having my father in my life, all my life has kept me on the right side of our justice system that has shown us not to be favorable to men of color. Having my father around to give me guidance and to protect me from the negative lens of society has been huge in my life. I'm blessed to say that my father's protection allowed me: 1. To dream and remain as a child 2. To be connected to life learning experiences 3. To experience different things to find out where I best fit in society by using my God given talents to the fullest.

My father has served as an example to me and other young black men that: *you write your own narrative and not let society write one for you.* My father instilled in me early in my life some core principles that didn't make sense to me until 2017 when I became a member of the greatest fraternity in world Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., through Psi Chapter. Those core principles were our four cardinal principles of our beloved fraternity: **Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift.**

Those life lessons taught me the power of knowledge and that sometimes we need to educate ourselves before the success process starts in our life. He showed me that education extends beyond the classroom; but when he and I participated in a Father Son Book Club when I was in elementary school, that experience allowed me to see my father's appetite for black literature. The powerful history of our people opened my eyes to the barriers we have overcome and the achievements that followed.

This education gave me the confidence to know that there was nothing in life I could not achieve. What I learned and notice the most was his giving back to the **Helping Hands Mentoring Program.** Daddy provided uplift in our home and in the community. He took me and other youth in my elementary school instilling in them the same love and values

**My father has served as an example to me and other young black men that: you write your own narrative and not let society write one for you.**

he gave to me. He took us all on our first college tours and made community service a weekly routine. Displaying this level of involvement in family and community has given me the blueprint on the life I wish to lead.

**NOW AS I AM TAKING ON MANHOOD MYSELF,** I have even more appreciation for my father's love and guidance. As I step back and reflect on my own endeavors and accomplishments it brings me pride to know that I am walking in the light of my father. Working with the Oprah Winfrey Scholars Program in college I was able to give back on a global scale traveling to South Africa and Zimbabwe helping fight many of the Social Justice issues our people share in tandem.

While in Africa, I felt a sense of pride reflecting on memories of my father carrying out missionary work in Ghana, West Africa and Port Elizabeth, and South Africa. Even as I think about the family I will start the future, through my father, I know what it takes to be a loving husband and leader. There will be a day where I too will have the opportunity to raise a child and I am forever grateful to have a father that has taught me the invaluable rewards of black fatherhood.



## 6<sup>th</sup> District – Father of the Year

**South Carolina** – Brother Errol Thomas was a double winner at the 6th District Annual Meeting. He serves as the Program Director for Sigma Pi's mentoring program Titans of Omega Male Mentor Academy was named the 6th District's mentoring program of the year for 2023. Also, Brother Errol Thomas was named the 6th District Father of the Year. Brother Thomas received a plaque, check, gift bag and two tickets to a Carolina Panthers home game. Congratulations Brother Thomas and Sigma Pi Chapter for your great work in South Carolina.





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

Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi

### 7<sup>th</sup> District - 2023 Youth Mentee High School Senior Graduates Salute

The 7<sup>th</sup> District - Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentoring Committee is honored to salute our Class of 2023 - Youth Mentee Senior High School Graduates from across the great states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. On behalf of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council, we wish our graduates continued success of their selected university/college, military, and profession of choice. In addition, we salute the 7th District Family Village consisting of State/Local Chapter Youth Mentoring Chairmen, Omega Brothers, Parents and our many Community Partners for their committed service in mentoring our Youths to succeed in life. The 7th District continues to pray and provide guidance for their continued development as young men/women, and academic scholars entering their freshman year of college in the Fall of 2023 and/or chosen profession.

#### Submissions by Chapter:

Sigma Phi Chapter - AL (9), Eta Nu Chapter - FL (1), Alpha Phi Chapter - AL (8), Sigma Alpha Alpha & Iota Upsilon Chapter - MS (1), Rho Alpha Chapter - AL (12), Beta Mu Nu Chapter - AL (3), Lambda Iota Chapter - GA (3), Mu Beta Beta Chapter - GA (4), Sigma Alpha Chapter - FL (1), Psi Mu Nu Chapter - FL (3), Psi Kappa Kappa Chapter - AL (1) XI Omicron Chapter - AL (1), Delta Mu Mu Chapter - GA (20) & Upsilon Gamma Gamma Chapter - GA (1).

#### Submissions by State: Alabama (34), Georgia (28), Florida (5), Mississippi (1)



**Terrance Watkins**  
Lanier High School  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
Troy State University



**Matthew David-Lee Jones**  
Park Crossing High School  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
TBA



**Jakori Lamonte Jihad**  
Jeff Davis High School  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
Armed Forces



**Bryce Brown**  
Booker T. Washington - M  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
Tuskegee University



**Kameron Selmar**  
Park Crossing High School  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL



**Macahrl Washington** -Parker  
Brewbaker Magnet  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
Tuskegee University



**Jonathan Wright Jr.**  
Tallassee High School  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
Tuskegee University



**Jason Tatum**  
Macon East Academy  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter - AL  
TBA



**Dorian Moore**  
Vallant Cross Academy  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter- AL  
TBA



**Jahshal Reid**  
South Plantation High School  
Gentlemen of Influence  
Eta Nu Chapter - FL



**Thomas Abernathy**  
Minor High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter - AL  
Lawson State Comm College



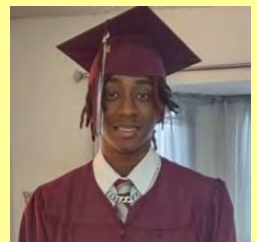
**Ernest Dunkin, Jr**  
Wenonah High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter - AL  
Fire Fighter Academy



**Cameron Bradley**  
Huffman High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter - AL  
Alabama State University



**Javier Terrell Mixon**  
Clay-Chalkville High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter - AL  
Alabama A&M University



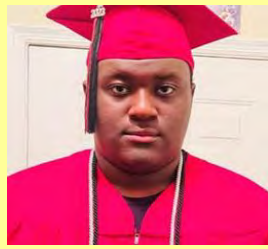
**Elijah McKol Edwards**  
Gardendale High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter - AL  
Lawson State Com

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**Jaevon Narcisse**  
Moss Point High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Sigma A A / Iota Upsilon  
ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY



**David Hunter**  
Shades Valley High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter - AL  
Alabama State University



**Randy Rawls**  
Huffman High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter - AL  
Miles College



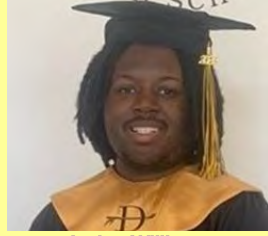
**Isalah Wrenn**  
Shades Valley High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter - AL  
U Alabama at Birmingham



**Christopher Davis Jr.**  
AL School of Math/Science  
Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
Alabama A&M University



**Bryce Midell**  
CF Vigor High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter -  
U of South Alabama



**Jaylen Williams**  
WP Davidson High School  
Mobile Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
Tuskegee University



**Fred Reed Jr.**  
Saraland High School  
Mobile Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
Alabama A&M University



**Matthew Roland**  
John L. LeFlore H S  
Mobile Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
Bishop State Com College



**Kody Duckworth**  
CF Vigor High School  
Mobile Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
Bishop State Com College



**Jacobele Scott**  
Mattie T. Blount HS  
Mobile Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
Alabama A&M University



**Darrell Copeland Jr.**  
Mattie T. Blount High School  
Mobile Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
Bishop State Comm College



**Kameron Ball**  
John L. LeFlore High School  
Mobile Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
Alabama A&M University



**Malachi Turner**  
Baker High School  
Mobile Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
U of South Alabama



**Ashton Kidd**  
Mattie Blount High School  
Mobile Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
Alabama A&M University



**Malachi Howard**  
Murphy High School  
Mobile Omega Lamplighters  
Rho Alpha Chapter - AL  
Marion Military Institute



**Cameron Edmund**  
Northside High School  
Omega Lamplighter  
Lambda Iota Chapter - GA  
Columbus State University



**Ian Michael Averett**  
Northside High School  
Omega Lamplighter  
Lambda Iota Chapter - GA  
University of Alabama



**Khameron Jamos Hill**  
Northside High School  
Omega Lamplighter  
Lambda Iota Chapter - GA  
Huntingdon College



**Tyler Floyd**  
Thomas County Central H  
Bridge Builders Mentee  
Mu Beta Beta  
Peru State College



**Adam Hopkins**  
Thomas County Central High  
Bridge Builders Mentee  
Mu Beta Beta Chapter- GA  
University of Colorado



**Quincy Clark,**  
Thomas County Central  
Bridge Builders Mentee  
Mu Beta Beta Chapter- GA  
University of Pikeville



**Jadyen Alston**  
Thomasville High  
Bridge Builders Mentee  
Mu Beta Beta Chapter- GA  
Albany State University



**Dameon L. Finley Jr**  
Alabama School of Cyber  
Tech. & Eng.  
Sons of Royalty  
XI Omicron Chapter - AL



**Ronald Ford Jr.**  
Cross Creek Com HS  
Omega Lamplighter  
Upsilon Gamma Gamma  
Augusta University

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**Jerrell Sanders**  
Miami Carol City Senior High  
Omega Lamplighter  
Sigma Alpha Chapter - FL  
Bethune-Cookman University



**Javares Anthony, II**  
Hoover High School  
Black Rhinos of Alabama  
Beta Mu Nu Chapter-AL  
Tuskegee University



**Kamari Hollis**  
Pelham High School  
Black Rhinos of Alabama  
Valdosta State University  
Beta Mu Nu Chapter-AL



**Morgan Lankford**  
Pelham High School  
Panther Pals; Delta Gems  
Beta Mu Nu Chapter-AL  
Tuskegee University



**Chance Mitchell**  
Bridge to Success Academy  
Uplift in Action Mentee  
Psi Mu Nu Chapter - FL  
Florida State College



**Dillon Croft**  
Bridge to Success Academy  
Uplift in Action Mentee  
Psi Mu Nu Chapter - FL  
Florida State College



**Shamar Howard**  
Bridge to Success Academy  
Uplift in Action Mentee  
Psi Mu Nu Chapter - FL  
Florida State College



**Zavien Brown**  
Hazel Green High School  
The Gold Standard Mentoring  
Psi Kappa Kappa Chapter - AL  
Calhoun Community College



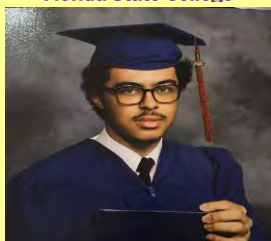
**Amari Adimu**  
North Cobb High School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Florida Institute of Technology



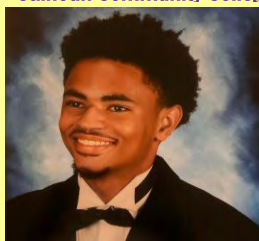
**Brandon Alexander**  
Ogburn Academy  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Georgia State University



**Cole Bigelow**  
Hillgrove High School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Florida A&M University



**Diego Carraway-Van Goodman**  
Tapestry Public Charter School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Oglethorpe University



**Sondravious Cheatham**  
WestLake High School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Alabama State University



**Matthew Cook**  
Charles R. Drew Charter School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Alabama State University



**Chance Everett**  
Brookwood High School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Morehouse College



**Elijah Harris**  
South Gwinnett H S  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter-  
Georgia State University



**Trabeous Howard**  
Dutchtown HS  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Air Force



**Demetrius Nelson-Thomas**  
South Gwinnett HS  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
U.S. Army



**Amir Nolen-Shabazz**  
Riverwood International  
Charter High School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA



**Jalen Peters**  
Hampton High School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Middle GA State University



**Reginald (RJ) Priddy Jr**  
Landmark Christian School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
North C Central University



**Nicholas Richard**  
Union Grove High School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Southern Crescent Technical



**Darlon Richardson**  
Westlake High School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
TBA



**Langston Robinson**  
Landmark Christian School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Troy University



**Chase Shannon**  
McEachern  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Clark Atlanta University

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Justice Thompson  
Cobb Learning Academy  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
TBA



Derrick Walker  
Maynard Jackson High School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
Savannah State University



Kyle Woods  
Grayson High School  
Black Rhinos Mentoring  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter- GA  
North Carolina A&T



## Midfield High School Black Rhinos "Certified for Success"

Submitted by: Beta Mu Nu Chapter - AL

On April 26, 2023, the Lifting As We Climb Foundation (LAWCF) Black Rhinos of Alabama had 14 mentees at Midfield High School to be accepted into the Academy of Craft Training through the Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT). The Academy of Craft Training is a public-private partnership between the Alabama K-12 school system and AIDT. This program introduces high school students directly to the construction industry where they gain early training and certifications in several career and technical education (CTE) fields. The school celebrated the acceptance of the students in the Academy by holding a signing day program in the gym. The signing program included praises and remarks from Midfield City School Superintendent, Dr. Shun Williams, and the Academy of Craft Training, Mrs. Linda Poindexter, and Mr. Russ Cofield.

Our Black Rhinos mentees we would like to recognize and congratulate are: Building Construction: Cornelius Amison, Chase Davis, Sheldon Jones, Austin McGhee, Antonio Pope. HVAC: James Blanks, Joshua McHenry, Kynath Terry. Interior/Exterior Finishes: Deon Davis; Charles Furniss; Xavier Goodgain; Jamarcus Speights; Camron Thompson. Welding: Myron Shorter, Lifting As We Climb Foundation, 501(c)(3), in conjunction with the Men of the Beta Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., are committed to giving back to the community in support of the Fatherhood and Youth Mentoring Initiative. With this educational opportunity and new skills set acquired, these young men are already looking towards a brighter successful future. For more info on the **Lifting As We Climb Foundation 501(c)(3)**, please visit <http://omegalawcf.org>



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## **No Story, No Glory...**

### **Omega Lamplighters Andrew A. Jackson Sr. Chapter Award Ceremony**

**Submitted by: Bro. Barrette Walker**

**State of Georgia Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman**

Omega Lamplighters Andrew A. Jackson Sr. Chapter Award Ceremony held May 20, 2023, in Augusta, GA at Shelly Jones Center. Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring State Chairman Brother Barrette Walker was Guest Speaker. The Theme was No Story, No Glory. There were over seventy attendees which included

Lamplighters, parents, grandparents, community members and Brothers from State of Georgia Organization of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Five leadership awards and two One Thousand dollar's scholarship were given to senior lamplighters who will be attending college in the Fall.



**State of Georgia Council members in attendance: Region 4 Representative Brother Claude "Chuck" Walker, State Chaplin Brother Mahondas Martin AAJS Omega Lamplighter Chapter Chairman - Brother La'Ron Eurbank**

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

Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota



### 8<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Brother of the Year

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BROTHER MICHAEL GRAHAM** Kansas City area. Brother Graham has mentored Delta Delta 1992 for being selected as the 8th District Fatherhood and Mentoring Brother of the Year. The 8th District recognized Brother Graham for his outstanding work and commitment to the youth in the Greater Omega! We honor your commitment and congratulate you Brother Michael Graham as the 8<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Brother of the year!



### 8<sup>th</sup> District Chapter of the Year Upsilon Omega St. Louis Missouri

**CONGRATULATIONS BROTHERS OF UPSILON OMEGA** for winning the 8th District Fatherhood and mentoring Chapter of the year! Their outstanding work with the Omega Squires program will serve as a template for the entire District to follow. Because of their success with the Squires the 8th District has mandated that all mentoring programs in the 8<sup>th</sup> to be called the Squires program. Congratulations and continue to flood the world with positive images of Omega.





## **With the First Pick of the 2023 NFL Draft...**

Walter Hunt, Ed.D.


9 – Fall 20 – Rho Beta Beta



**Houston, TX, April 27, 2023** - While leading up to the 2023 NFL draft, there was still some level of uncertainty based on the numerous mock draft variations and rumors still floating around about which team was selecting a particular player and at what position in the draft. However, one thing that was for certain was the fact that the Rho Beta Beta Chapter was, and remains, intently focused on reaching their goal of reclaiming at least 100 brothers back into Omega during the fiscal year.

On Thursday, April 27, 2023, from 6PM-9PM, the Rho Beta Beta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Reclamation and Retention Committee held their Draft Party/Reclamation and Retention Initiative. The event occurred at LA Burgers & Daiquiris, located at 3755 N. MacGregor, Houston, TX 77004. The evening kicked off with menu specials and light refreshments to accommodate a packed house, all eagerly awaiting the outcome of the first round and wondering how their team's respective pick(s) could potentially impact their teams win/loss record during the upcoming football

season. While the goal remained centered on connecting with brothers who recently joined the chapter and reclaiming 100 brothers back into Omega, there was still a little something in the air. That something could only be described as team spirit as brothers from all walks of life were intently focused on this one event, hoping their team made the pick(s) that would set their team up for success for years to come.

With fellowship abound, the conversations centered on everything from personal topics, such as home life, real estate, businesses, churches, and schools, to football-based conversations centered on wins and losses, Super Bowl victories, and desired head coaching changes. What made the event even more memorable is overall comradery and brotherhood. As the first round of the 2023 draft ended, I could not help but to lament others that this reclamation event can only be described as a success as there were approximately 60 bruhs in attendance. In addition, there were two reclaimed into the fold. At this rate, we feel confident that our goal of reclaiming 100 brothers is close at hand and well within our reach! 

## Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee Xi Rho Chapter

By Demetrius Jones, LM #11744.



Psi Alpha Chapter Mentoring - Picture in Front of Saltgrass

**West Memphis, AR** – Xi Rho Chapter along with its undergraduate chapter, Alpha Zeta, partnered in hosting the Youth Leadership Conference on the campus of Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR. The YLC was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, and kicked off Alpha Zeta Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Brother S. Earl Wilson, International Chairman of Fatherhood and Mentoring, was the YLC host. This event featured, respectively, a Financial Literacy seminar presented by Regions Bank, and a forum addressing private citizens and their interactions with police officers, presented by representatives of N.O.B.L.E.

The Financial Literacy presentation provided information about budgeting, credit scores, financial scams, and savings. However, the topic that received the most interaction from the audience was policing. Several students spoke about their personal experiences and interactions with police, including detainment.

Brother Wilson provided refreshments and pizza for the students in attendance. Based upon the feedback, the subject matter was relevant, well received and the conference was a very successful endeavor.



### “Psi Alpha Chapter Mentoring”


Written By: Bro. Rick Tanner

**SAN ANTONIO, TX** - The month of May brought a close to the on-campus mentoring initiative for the 2022-2023 school year at George Gervin Academy. The month was action-packed and filled with great sessions with the mentees.

The first two weeks in May consisted of wrapping up STAAR testing for mentees. Those sessions focused on lessons learned and reinforcing the year's messages about accountability, integrity, and being prepared for tasks assigned. We also focused on preparing them for the summer and discussing their plans, goals, and aspirations. The common theme expressed to the mentees during these sessions was to always challenge themselves to improve, even during the summer vacation months.

The May 18<sup>th</sup> session consisted of a much anticipated and talked about mentor vs. mentee basketball game. The mentees asked for this end-of-year activity during our first session and the mentors gladly obliged. The event was a fun for everyone involved. The mentoring group proudly beat the mentors in four games of 3 on 3.

The school year ended on May 25<sup>th</sup> with our end-of-year luncheon. The mentees and Gervin Executive staff were treated to a luncheon at **Saltgrass Steakhouse**. Five of the ten mentees were able to attend the event. The Psi Alpha Mentoring team provided shirts and ties for each mentee, and they were very excited to dress up for the occasion. Each young man tied their own tie as a follow-up to a previous mentoring session. Each mentee was given a certificate of completion of this year's program, as well as a journal to document their summer activities and goals for the upcoming school year.

Thanks to the Psi Alpha Scholarship Foundation and the mentors for sponsoring the luncheon. Plans are underway to expand the mentoring program at George Gervin Academy next school year. 



## **Psi Alpha Chapter Fatherhood Initiative – Bro. Archie “Ice” Peay, Jr.**

By: Bro. Archie “Ice” Peay, Jr.



**Brother Archie Peay**

**SAN ANTONIO, TX** - On April 7, 2023, Bro. Archie “Ice” Peay Jr. received notification that he was selected as the Blacks in Government (BIG) Meritorious Service Award winner for the entire Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC), with his package going forward for the Air Force Materiel Command’s (AFMC) competition.

The Blacks in Government Meritorious Service Award honors military members and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees, men, and women, who have supported the DoD mission, and overseas contingency operations, or whose attributes best epitomized the qualities and core values of their respective Military Service or other DoD Components.

During this period, Bro. Peay served in multiple roles. In his professional career, he served as Chief of, the Crypto Contracting Division, Air Force Life Cycle Management (AFLCMC), Cryptologic & Cyber Systems Division (CCSD), San Antonio, TX from January 2006 thru February 2023. He was subsequently promoted to Division Chief and now serves as Chief of the International Airborne Battle Management Command and Control Contracting Division, AFLCMC, Hanscom Air Force Base, MA.

During his off-duty time, Bro. Peay serves in multiple roles as well -- Chairman, of Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee (FMC), Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Deacon, Cleft of the Rock Church; Chairman, Cleft of the Rock Momentum Men’s Group; and Volunteer Official, USA Boxing.

## **Psi Alpha Chapter Omega Gents**

By: Bro. Robert (Stryke) Barton

### **SAN ANTONIO, TX -**

On May 20, 2023, Bro. Robert (Stryke) Barton Chairman, Psi Alpha Chapter Omega Gents, and Bro. Cuney Mclean Vice Chairman, Omega Gents, facilitated the Chapter’s Omega Gents Etiquette Lesson/How to treat and speak to a woman/How to grill steaks and serve their mother.




**Omega Gents - Kids Behind the Barbecue Pit**

This outstanding event was presented and facilitated by Bro. Kenneth Fowler. After the etiquette brief, the nine (9) Omega gents were escorted outside where they learned how to properly start a fire for a BBQ grill. Taught by Bro. Darius Lyons, Omega Gents learned how to prepare the charcoal, put the accelerant on the charcoal, and safely light the grill.

While waiting for the charcoals to turn gray; we took the Omega agents back into the kitchen where they started to prepare the steaks that they were going to grill for their mothers; who were arriving to the frat house at 1:30 PM for their meal prepared for them by their sons. Bro. Robert (Stryke) Barton supervised and organized the assembly line for the preparation of the steaks to be seasoned, so they would be ready for the grill when the fire was at the appropriate temperature.

After preparing their steak, the Gents went back outside to Bro. Darius Lyons where he supervised the grilling of their steaks. Once the steaks were grilled, the Gents prepared a plate that included: steak, salad, macaroni and cheese, Hawaiian roll, and whatever desired beverage. They served, waited on their mothers, and were directed to engage in dialogue about what they learned and spoke about during the etiquette briefing that was given by Bro. Fowler.

It was a phenomenal event as well as inspiring for all participants. The mothers enjoyed being waited on and the meal that was prepared by the sons. The mentors engaged in dialogue with the mothers and Omega Gents. The Omega Gents decided their end-of-the-year celebration would be a basketball game; Omega Men versus Omega Gents. 

**Let’s GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!**

### Tenth District YLC Sparks Interest Bro. Cyrill Weems



**Minneapolis, Minnesota** – The Tenth District held its Spring 2023 Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) in conjunction with its District Council meeting in Minneapolis. The District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee facilitated an exciting YLC with the support and attendance of District Representative Sean T. Long, District KRS Marcel Clarke, District Counselor Rick Jones Sr., host Chapter Epsilon Rho- including its Basileus, Ronnie King and a host of other brothers. To increase our impact, the District gifted the school with Gift Cards for their use. The school immediately decided to re-gift them to families in need.


Omega-Men powerfully assembled at Osseo High School, which had a room of 60 young men from grades 9 through 12 waiting to hear from us and what we had to share with them. During the introductions of the Omega brothers, we asked the 60 young men how many knew about Omega Psi Phi and what we do. Sadly, we did not have one who knew who we were. This school had a diverse population and African Americans were not the dominant demographic. We were even told by some students that they had not seen such a large group of professionally dressed Black men in suits before. Before getting into the YLC presentation and discussion, we gave them a brief overview of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Our topic of focus for the YLC was “Situational Awareness- How to Get the Best Outcome from Any Situation.” Our expected take-a-ways we wanted the young men to understand better or further were 1) They control the tone and level of their involvement in any situation. How they respond and react to situations determine (in most cases) how

the other person will respond and react to the situation. 2) Understand the players in any situation & quickly understand what each one needs to get out of the situation. This helps you understand what to say and not to say. 3) Know your role in all situations. Be prepared to Lead, Follow or Support. 4) The Key to Success in all situations is “Your Response” to the situation. The Better you respond, the Better the situation will be for You.

After a great discussion on Situational Awareness and incorporating Decision Making, we opened the floor up for questions. We received tons of questions related to Situational Awareness and Decision Making from the students. However, the most surprising and outstanding question we received from this group of 60 young men who had not heard of Omega Psi Phi before was... “ARE YOU ALL COMING BACK TO SHARE MORE WITH US?”

The local chapter took that as a challenge and immediately began working to establish a mentoring relationship with the school. 



# Tau Mu Nu Continues the Development of Mind, Body, and Spirit

Brother Lynn Sanders

Tau Mu Nu Chapter



**Macomb, MI** – In keeping with our commitment of service to the community, Tau Mu Nu Chapter located in Macomb County, is building a bridge with our male youth through the Project Manhood Mentoring Program, “Omega Academy-Macomb.”


The O.M.E.G.A. Academy-Macomb (One Man Eager to Get Ahead) is a male mentor program designed to provide guidance and support for middle school-age students 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Michigan Math and Science Academy, Macomb County.

The purpose of the O.M.E.G.A. Academy-Macomb is to provide uplift to African American male youth through the expectation of scholarly excellence and leadership development. The O.M.E.G.A. Academy is devoted to the total development of African American males as they transition from adolescents to men.

Mentors and mentees meet throughout the academic year in mentoring sessions and community outings. Topics of the mentoring sessions are designed to coincide with the cardinal principals of Omega Psi Phi

Fraternity, Inc., Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. The program has served 20 youth since our inception in 2022. Topics of discussion include financial literacy, health and hygiene, social justice, and service projects.

Two highlights of our program include etiquette classes that focused on life skills, such as shoe care, tying ties, knowledge of proper dining etiquette, and profession soft skills. Also, the mentees had the opportunity to explore the cardinal principles creatively through a two-part session entitled “Creating Your Ideal Self” taught by world renowned artist Brother Rashawn Rucker Tau Psi '01. This session utilized the arts as a means of self-expression, through drawing and reflection.

It is Tau Mu Nu Chapter’s goal to increase the number of schools annually in the Macomb County Area. 

## Omega Y.E.S. Mentees' Holds a Mock Trial in Cook County Court

Bro. Darius McKinney  
Omega Y.E.S Mentoring Program



**Chicago, IL** – Rho Gamma Gamma Omega Y.E.S. Mentoring Program continues to service young African American males in the Chicago metropolitan area. The program is mentoring participants to make positive life choices and to accept responsibility for their education.

The Mentorship program helps mentees learn how the judicial system works; the program took mentees (and parents as guests) to Cook County Court for a mock trial. Hosted by the Honorable Judge Brother Steven G. Watkins at the Cook County Judicial Circuit Court in Chicago, mentees, and Brothers designed and produced a mock trial on retail theft.


Weeks before the actual mock trial took place, Brother Keith L. Spence, Esq., reviewed the process of a court trial with the mentees during Omega Y.E.S. sessions. Brother Spence also discussed with mentees the different roles and responsibilities that are in a courtroom, and the different terms with their meanings that are used during a court case. Mentees and Brother Spence practiced a few times before the actual mock trial day. During practice sessions, Brother Spence made it perfectly clear to mentees, “The only ways I want you to ever be in court, are either as the judge, or as a lawyer.”

On the day at Cook County Court, mentees were very excited to be appearing before an actual Circuit Court Judge to perform their mock trial. During the mock trial, mentees acted out all other major roles in the court room including the defense lawyer, the prosecutor, sheriffs, and witnesses. Brothers played the roles of the

person accused of retail theft, his accuser, and made up the jury. Parents of the mentees were in the audience watching the mock trial; they were very proud of all their sons’ performances.

Brother Christopher Burney, who organized the mock trial stated, “We are very grateful to have the chance to show these young men how to be leaders in our community.” Mentees and Brothers produced a dynamic mock trial that was a true learning experience for all.

At the end of the session, the Honorable Judge Brother Watkins said in his courtroom, “I am very, very proud of these young men who came to demonstrate their leadership abilities. They are our next generation of leadership. We as parents, family members, and Brothers must do whatever it takes to mentor and develop these young men to their full potential. I never want to see any of these youth in my courtroom for the absolute wrong reasons, unfortunately like I see so many others in my court.”

At the end of the day, the mentees had a great day learning the judicial system in Cook County Judicial Circuit Court in Chicago, Illinois. The Rho Gamma Gamma Omega Y.E.S. Mentorship Program continues to mentor African American male youth to have increased self-value, and a stronger sense of community awareness. 

## Omega Y.E.S. Honors Mentees' Moms on Mother's Day Weekend

Bro. Darius McKinney  
Omega Y.E.S Mentoring Program


**Chicago, IL** – Brothers of Rho Gamma Gamma hosted a Mother's Day Breakfast during Mother's Day Weekend to honor the mothers of the Omega Y.E.S. mentees. The chapter extended its deep appreciation to the young men who attend the Omega Y.E.S. Mentoring Program, and for listening to and honoring their mothers.

Brothers and mentees with their moms gathered at the RGG Inc., Center for a Saturday morning full of great breakfast food, music, and discussion. A special moment during the breakfast was when corsages were given to the mentees to put on the hands of their mothers – which led to emotional reactions by their mothers.

Brother **Christopher Burney**, who organized the breakfast, made a brief speech about Omega Y.E.S. He said, "We continue to mentor your sons to have increased self-value and a stronger sense of community awareness when they are in school, when they are in the community, and when they are at home. We want them to be strong Black leaders, and to have a clear vision of what success will look like for them in the future."

**BROTHER WARREN COTTRELL SAID TO THE MOTHERS**, "Just as much as these young men are excited to attend programming, we as Brothers and mentors are just as excited to see your sons, and to instill the principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift into their everyday thinking and everyday lives. As their moms, we hope you see a change in the way your sons act at home and in the community."

Many mothers had outstanding comments about the Omega Y.E.S. Program that they shared during the breakfast celebration. One mother said, "My son came home from his first Omega Y.E.S. meeting and told me 'Ma, they understand me.' I was overjoyed that he felt he received the support and understanding that he needs to achieve."

Another mom stated, "I am so proud that my son is receiving true mentoring from strong Black men, we mothers are very grateful that you Omega Men do the things you do for our sons, and that you all truly care about their futures." Mothers in attendance all indicated that they see great positive changes in the way their sons are functioning in their everyday life at school, and especially at home. The Rho Gamma Gamma Omega Y.E.S. Mentoring Program hosted a spectacular Mother's Day Weekend Breakfast. 





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

Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming



L-R: Brothers William Earl Edwards, Jr., Esq., 35<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> DR, and William Earl Edwards, III. See story next page.: Photo on right, Plenary Session

### NOTES FROM 79<sup>TH</sup> 12<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT MEETING

By Brother George D. Taylor, Editor, FMC Newsletter

**Anchorage, AK** - May 7, 2023 – In a robust and exciting election, Brother William Earl Edwards, Esq., former 12<sup>th</sup> District Counselor, was elected 35<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative. Other officers elected were: Brother Edward Young, SoCal Area Representative, ran unopposed for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative; Brother Nickolas (Nick) Thompson, re-elected 12<sup>th</sup> DKRS; Brothers Raphael Irving, 12<sup>th</sup> DKF and Damon Martin, Esq., 12<sup>th</sup> District Counselor, ran unopposed. Undergraduates elected Brother Maurice Mason, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Representative.

forth the four Cardinal Principals and the order in which they are listed.

Second, he charged the Fraternity to go out and make a difference – *“in our own neighborhoods, schools, and governmental entities.”* He spot-lighted the shootings in Nashville and the bravery displayed by state legislators Justin Jones, Justin Pearson, and Glory Johnson, all legislators in Tennessee. *“Who needs an AR-15, it’s a killing machine,”* he said.

Third, the General challenged older brothers to escalate efforts to mentor younger brothers. He charged brothers to *“work with Generation Zers [the most diverse generation of Americans to date in a variety of demographics]; engage them in voter registration and continue to get out the vote (GOTV). The deck is stacked against us,”* he said.

**IN CONCLUSION, GENERAL TURNER** told the brotherhood to be more observant. *“Notice what our politicians are doing that restrict voting, misleading robocalls, gerrymandering safe and favorable districts that often leaves out our voices and votes.”* He cautioned some to, *“not feel to safe sitting out in the very blue state of California.”* All must make sure, he said, *“we elect people who will vote your way.”*




Bro. Abraham J. Turner, Bro. Nate Rivers, Gamma Alpha Alpha, Host Chapter



Bro. Abraham J. Turner, Major General, USA, Retired

**DURING THE FOUNDER’S BANQUET**, Brother Abraham J. Turner, Major General USA, (Retired) gave a rousing keynote speech to a packed banquet room in Anchorage. The General focused on three themes: First, the founder’s intent, explanation, and rationale for setting

Following his speech, Brother Nate Rivers, Gamma Alpha Alpha host chapter, presented the General with a gift that was “unique to Alaska.” 

Let’s GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!

## GB 42: “KING FOR A DAY” INITIATIVE

Nine 12<sup>th</sup> District members responded to Brother Lewis’ request to tell him what they would do or change about the fraternity if they were made *“King for a Day.”* Those who stepped forward to the microphones and offered comments were: Bro. Joe Peay; Bro. Lawton Connelly; Bro. Eddie Sly; Bro. William Higgs; Bro. Dr. William Smith; Bro. R. C. Woodson; Bro. Kalin Pont-Tate; Bro. Maurice Mansion; and, Bro. Eddie Bickham.



### WILLIAM EARL EDWARDS, JR., ESQ., 35<sup>TH</sup> 12<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Most members of the Massive and Progressive 12<sup>th</sup> District have known him for the past 15 years as the single individual who kept the district well informed of policy, processes, and procedures necessary for the district to remain in good order. But who is he? What does he believe? And, at the end of his tenure, what will the district be able to say about him?

We asked the one brother we thought who could give us some insights into **Brother William Earl Edwards, Esq.**, 35<sup>th</sup> District Representative of the massive and progressive 12<sup>th</sup> District. That brother is William Earl Edwards, Jr.

#### SON TO FATHER

**William Earl Edwards, III**

**Ace–Tau Alpha Alpha -2017**

**(California State University of Bakersfield)**

#### Who is My Dad?

**S**ince the very beginning of my life, I’ve been surrounded by the great spirit of Omega. My dad is William “Earl” Edwards Jr., (04 - EM – 1990 – UC Santa Barbara). During the time of my dad matriculating through law school, he met my mother through one of their best friends at the time and Omega man, Aaron Hamilton (02-EM-1991). They then got married, and two years later I was born.


My dad and I Both grew up in Bakersfield. Bakersfield is a country town, and he wasn’t much of a city person. This led him to raising me with country values. Those values consisted of many things that aren’t too common anymore: Horseback riding, Chickens in the backyard of the house. Dogs, way too many dogs. Wrestling, yard work, deep sea fishing,

swimming in lakes, grabbing fish with your bare hands, and an open-door policy for friends and family.

Anyone who ever needed anything, was welcome in our home. That included foreigners from as far as Brazil, mothers and children that needed a place to stay, friends of mine, friends of my dad’s. And often, they would all be at the house, at the same time... To have a Brazilian, a separate family of three, a comedian from Memphis, me, and one of my friends from football, my sister Sydney, and two dogs, all in a lake fishing for catfish, that is something that you don’t see too often.

One thing about my dad that I can’t say is – “he’s never been there for me.” He has shown up to all my football games, all my musical performances, all my debate tournaments, and helped me achieve greatness in each one of those endeavors. He even played **World of Warcraft** with me when I felt alone sometimes during the summer. I never felt neglected or mistreated by my dad, but I found a desire to impress him in every way that I could. Which ultimately led me to having a large desire to join Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., which I then did in 2017.

**IN CONCLUSION, MY DAD HAS SHOWN ME** the way to go: mistakes to avoid, and how to be a strong, healthy, law-abiding, and intelligent black man. All which gives me pride to say: **I HAVE BECOME.**

**I am a professional Commodities and Indices Trader, along with being a Marketing Coordinator for Global Logistics and Fulfillment in Las Vegas, Nevada. I’ve written this as a thank you to my dad. I can’t repay him for everything he has done for me, but I sure can take him fishing. That’s something I know would mean the world to him. WEE, III** 





## Children's Institute - Fatherhood Initiative *in the Rams House - the Locker Room*

Brother Dr. George D. Taylor, 12<sup>th</sup> District FMC



Brother Keith Parker engages fathers in “locker room” talk.

Pictured above, Brother Parker recognized by the LA Rams Foundation at SoFi Stadium as a *LA Rams Playmaker* for his community work as Children's Institute – Director of Project Fatherhood. “Fathers involvement is a game changer”

**12<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Awards:** Tau Tau Chapter, 12<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chapter of the Year; Brother **Dr. Rodney Brooks**, 12<sup>th</sup> District Mentor of the Year – Tau Tau Chapter; **Children's Institute - Project Fatherhood** – Tau Tau Chapter, 12<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring, Corporate Partner of the Year. <https://youtu.be/AG7CKfEuugc>

**Los Angeles, CA, May 18, 2023** – The **Children's Institute – Project Fatherhood**, under the stewardship of **Brother Keith Parker**, held its meeting in the Locker Room of the Los Angeles Rams, a national professional football team. The invitees were fathers talking with fathers about father business.

The Children's Institute **Project Fatherhood** provides comprehensive parenting skills to men in caregiving roles. The participants are birth fathers, stepfathers, expecting fathers, new fathers, fathers with blended families, fathers of young adults, foster parents, and relative caregivers—using an innovative support group model.

The program was created by the late Dr. Hershel Swinger in 1996 to engage fathers in the care and upbringing of their children. Part of Dr. Swinger's philosophy and belief system was that *the connection*

between men and their children has been broken. He sought to repair and strengthen this connection, and thus developed a nationally-recognized program that is now replicated throughout Los Angeles County.

The *Locker Room* talk led by **Brother Parker** is a continuation of the efforts to keep fathers in touch with their families. Through support, parenting education and other services, fathers learn to be more loving, responsible parents and active participants in their children's lives. After twenty-plus years, more than 15,000 fathers and 23,000 children across Los Angeles County have participated in the program.

Info: [www.childrensinstitute.org/project-fatherhood](http://www.childrensinstitute.org/project-fatherhood)



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**“Rose Bowl Ques”  
ZETA TAU CHAPTER  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2023**

By Lindsey Bates,

Editor to the Oracle for Zeta Tau Chapter

**Pasadena, CA** – May 22 and 23, 2023, Zeta Tau Chapter presented its annual Omega Psi Phi Fraternity scholarship award of \$1,000 to a 2023 graduating senior. The awards are named after Eugene Quishenberry, Sr., who served for decades as Zeta Tau Basileus and was an avid supporter of Pasadena black youth and their education in the Pasadena community.



This year’s recipient from **Marshall High School** is **Isaiah Gilmore** a young man of many accomplishments who will be attending Humboldt State in Humboldt, CA. President of the school chess club, a member of a track and field club as well as the high school track and field team, treasure of the geography club. He volunteers at McKinley Elementary and Middle school for the Pasadena Educational Foundation. Art is a major hobby of his that he hopes to turn into a career in architecture.



This year’s recipient from **John Muir High School** is **Devan Cogshell** a young man of many accomplishments who will be attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga. A member of John Muir Football, basketball, track, and black student union. He was vice provost on an initiative to facilitate social justice for pre-college students. He participated in the Puente program - a college preparation writing program, that is also committed to developing and improving student quality of education. He is the lead singer in his church choir and works as an intern at Glendale Memorial Hospital. He is an artist, clothing designer and sometimes likes just hanging out with friends.



This year’s recipient from **Blair High School** is **Rereloluwa Ogunleye** a young man of many accomplishments who will be attending UC Davis in Davis, CA. A member of the Blair football and baseball team. As a Boy Scout giving back to the community, he refurbished the Blair baseball batting cages. He played the saxophone for the Blair band club as well as for relaxation and exploration of different genre.



**Let’s GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!**



## KAPPA XI CHAPTER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Las Vegas, NV** – The Kappa Xi Chapter in conjunction with the Uplift Foundation of Nevada (501c3) hosted Its Annual Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, May 13, 2023. The Scholarship Luncheon was held on the campus of the University of Nevada – Las Vegas in the Tam Alumni Center.

The Luncheon was well attended by Omega men, Scholarship winners' parents and friends who came to celebrate this year's group of Scholarship recipients. The program was kicked off by Master of Ceremony Brother Courtney Moore (Kappa Xi 2019) who introduced Brother Adrian Allen Kappa Xi Chaplain (Kappa Xi 2019) for the opening prayer. An outstanding rendition of the Negro National Anthem was performed by Brother Rick Austin (Kappa Xi 2023) for which he received a vigorous ovation. The Welcome followed and was provided by the Kappa Xi Basileus Brother Dr. Andre Denson (Kappa Xi 1985).

The attendees were adjourned for a tasty lunch of grilled lemon rosemary chicken, Classic Caesar salad, ginger honey glazed carrots, savory herbed rice, apple pie and iced tea.

Following lunch, the guest speaker Brother Dr. Carl Allen (Gamma Phi 1980) the Senior Medical Director at Optum Care was introduced. Brother Allen's outstanding message was one where he shared his modest Southern upbringing, the value of having self-confidence, and not accepting "no," the absolute need of putting in hard work and preparation to obtain your goals.

The Kappa Xi Chapter in collaboration with the Uplift Foundation of Nevada is awarding \$30,000 in Scholarships this year to Las Vegas area High School Seniors and previous winners now attending Colleges throughout the United States.

This year's recipients with the Colleges they will be attending were introduced by Brother Edsel Bester (Omega Beta Beta 1987) Scholarship Committee Co-Chair are:

- Garrett Hughes - Concordia University
- Justin St. Cloud - Morehouse College winner,  
*Dr. Andre Denson Scholarship*
- Isaiah Rayes - University of Nevada – Las Vegas
- Marcus Maxwell – Grambling University
- Malik Maxwell – Dominican University



The past recipients in attendance currently in college were also recognized during the Scholarship Program. They are:

- Myles Lowery – Langston University
- Chandler St. Cloud – Hampton University
- Symone Moore – University of Southern California
- Kieran Armstrong – Loyola Marymount University
- Dallas Smith – University of Nevada – Las Vegas
- Paul 'Jacob Barney – Univ of Nevada – Las Vegas



The Kappa Xi Scholarship Committee was lauded for an outstanding Program. The Committee includes Brother Edsel Bester (Omega Beta Beta 1987) Co-Chair, Brother Jerry Holliday (Lambda 1976) Co-Chair, Brother Paul Bennett (Gamma Mu 1987) and Brother Joseph Simmons (Eta Sigma 2009).

The Committee would like to thank and recognized Brother Dr. Andre Denson for his continuing financial support, Brother Ken Evans (Kappa Xi 1994) President of Board Uplift Foundation of Nevada, the Board Members of the Uplift Foundation of Nevada, Brother Russell Singleton (Nu Pi 2009) for volunteering his services and the Six Sons of Song (Kappa Xi Spring 2023) for coming out to work and support this important Chapter event.



## Omega Youth Leadership Academy Completes A Busy 2023 Q1& Q2



MLK March


**Phoenix, AZ** – The Omega Youth Leadership Academy with the assistance of the Phi Iota graduate chapter and Alpha Theta undergraduate chapter at Arizona State University completed a successful 2023 post-pandemic 1st and 2nd quarter slate of programs and events delivered both in person and via ZOOM.

The in-person events began in January with the MLK March, followed by a busy February with the OYLA volunteers attending a recognition event that was sponsored by the NFL Alumni during Super Bowl Week. Two weeks later the OYLA staff chaperoned students on the Annual **OYLA West Coast College HBCU Bus Tour to Los Angeles**.

This year's Annual event was partially underwritten by a grant from the Omega Life Membership Foundation. The action-packed 1<sup>st</sup> quarter ended in March with OYLA recognizing and awarding outstanding students and teachers with tickets to several Suns basketball games.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter began just as busy with OYLA conducting the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual **Living Above The Influence Youth Conference** in April, with the neighboring graduate chapters of Xi Nu Nu, West Valley, Delta Alpha Alpha, Tucson, and undergraduate chapters Alpha Theta at Arizona State, and Alpha Epsilon at the University of Arizona participating in the workshops.

In May, the 2023 scholarships were awarded, and the recipients were recognized along with teachers, parents, and volunteers. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter closed out with a June 3<sup>rd</sup> "Summer Kick Off" kick ball tournament sponsored by the OYLA Alumni.

The ZOOM programming carried out in between the in-person events consisted of a February "Color of History" Program and a May Parents Feedback & Comment Forum. The OYLA family and the community we serve are eagerly looking forward to the scheduled Summer and Winter programs and events. 





## Long Beach Ques: In The Neighborhood

Damon K. Blythe



**Long Beach, CA** - During the Spring of 2023, the brothers of PII chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Inc., continued our efforts to cultivate the minds of our future leaders. Partnering with both the Bridge Builders and Thoroughly Immersed Foundations (TIF,) we were able to share invaluable information via our weekly Thursday afternoon workshops. Led by Bro. Darryl Brown, EdD, PII brothers and other community leaders presented w/ passion and intent. Some of the presentation titles are as follows:

- Community Policing: A Discussion with Long Beach City Police
- Building a Budget and Saving
- The Dangers of Fentanyl
- Career Interests: Presentation / Discussion
- Life in the Navy
- The Importance of Dressing Professional/How to tie a tie

Finally, on June 8, Bros. Sean Scott (Basileus,) Carl Guillory (KRS,) James Turner (TIF,) Ethan Robinson (Chaplain,) Mark Norwood & Darryl Brown EdD (Immediate Past Basileus,) attended the Scholars Night at Jordan High School. On behalf of PII, five graduating seniors were awarded scholarships. The brethren of PII and its partners have now completed the 2nd year of our weekly youth initiative. We hope the impact we are having will be most instrumental in the holistic cultivation of the youth we serve.



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

Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Hawai'i, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, South Korea, St. Croix, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, United Arabs Emirates, United Kingdom

### Bahamas Beautillion Gentlemen's Club and Omega Psi Phi

#### Together Building *Stout-hearted Men*

By Brother Lamon Stubbs



Gentlemen's Club Participants at the Annual Beautillion Ball



L-R: Brother Lamon Stubbs - Director of the Gentlemen's Club program and the Late Brother Dr. Judson Eneas (Founder of the Gentlemen's Club)



Brother Dr. Michael Darville, Gentlemen's Club Committee member



Brother Alonzo Cunningham, Pi Xi Chapter Talent Hunt Chairman

**Nassau, Bahamas** – The Bahamas Beautillion committee is composed of volunteers led by Brother Lamon Stubbs of Pi Xi Chapter located in Nassau. The Organization was founded by The Late Dr. Judson and Mrs. Marcheta Eneas. Over the past 20 plus years, the committee has mentored over 1,500 young men, taking them through a process of manhood training.

The program begins in the fall of each year when applications are distributed to all the high schools in Nassau, Bahamas. Applications require twelfth grade students to submit an autobiographical essay, a list of their honors and community activities, two recommendations from a counselor, and a member of the community, in addition to a copy of their official transcript. The applications are then screened by an independent selection committee, and afterwards, the names are submitted to the Beautillion Committee for acceptance.

The Beautillion is a rite of passage for young men from a diverse set of social and economic backgrounds. We insure that for twelve to fourteen weeks; the young men are exposed to a variety of guest speakers from the community. They receive instruction on the Bahamian constitution and their role in the global community. Specialized training is also provided in the areas of conflict management and deportment. In order to produce men of character, attendance to social events such as art exhibits, plays and musical concerts is required.

Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!



In addition to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the Bahamas Beautillion has partnered with other organizations such as Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Nassau Chapter of Links, Toastmasters Club 1600, and Price Waterhouse Cooper. These organizations donate their time and scholarships year after year. At the end of the season, the young men are presented to the community, family, and friends at the Annual Ball in white tie attire as finished men of poise and character. Each year scholarships averaging approximately \$100,000 are awarded to the young men. These funds can be used to offset tuition and living expenses. In the past, several college-bound high school seniors received scholarships to Morehouse College, St. John's University, and Fisk University.



## Nu Gamma Gamma Organizes Soccer League

By Brother Marvin Nobles



Brother Marvin Nobles presents trophy to the winners of the Panama City and Colon Joint Youth Soccer League

**Republic of Panama** - Nu Gamma Gamma Chapter started working with a local church community in August of 2022 to organize a youth soccer league in Panama City, Panama.

Chapter Vice Basileus Marvin Nobles assisted team coaches with establishing a safe and secure outlet where young men can get away from communities with environments that expose them to gang violence, drugs, and abuse. Today, the league serves as a building block to the chapter's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative. The Brothers of Nu Gamma Gamma Chapter and soccer



Brother Harry Turner with members of the Panama soccer team presenting plaque to Mr. Ronaldo Buchanan

team coaches work in tandem to create goals and standards for youth participation.

Recently, Nu Gamma Gamma Chapter Basileus Harry Turner participated in Team Friendlies match between the youth of local Emmanuel Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church. During this event the league organizer and liaison, Mr. Ronaldo Buchanan was recognized by the Chapter Basileus for his efforts, time, and dedication to providing a positive and safe environment for youth.

Soccer is a passion and a tool to keep youth away from gang involvement, drug use and to provide them with the spark they are looking for after school. The young men are monitored for school attendance and reports in order to participate in the soccer program.



## Phi Gamma Gamma Volunteered at the Cole Kmet Pro Football Camp

By Brother Brian Jones



Brother Brian Jones assisting youth participating in football camp


Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!

**Kaiserslautern, Germany** – On April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> the Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter in the Kaiserslautern, Germany Military Community (KMC), volunteered at the Cole Kmet Pro Football Camp. Cole Kmet is currently the starting Tight End for the Chicago Bears. His camp in conjunction with the Defense Commissary Agency (DECA). was held for school age U.S. military dependents from across Europe. Over 150 girls and boys attended the two-day event.



Brother Anthony Polk and son Adrian

Brother Anthony Polk, SGG 2020, and the DECA Senior Enlisted Advisor, coordinated the volunteerism amongst the local community and chapter. Brother Polk and his son Adrian were also participants at the camp.

The Kmet Pro Football Camp focused on the fundamentals of the game for younger participants and more advanced skills for older youth. Brother Brian Jones, KB, 1985, who coached and mentored youth football in the KMC for several years, volunteered to work with the kids for the weekend. The camp was an outstanding opportunity for the U.S. European military community to see the Brothers of Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter working with youth and exemplifying Manhood. 

### **Upsilon Lambda Lambda Sponsored High School Talent Competition**

By Brother Randy Pringle

**Yokosuka, Japan** – Thirteen high school students from the local Commander Fleet Activity Yokosuka base community in Mainland, Japan competed for cash awards during the 2023 Nile C. Kinnick High School Talent Competition sponsored by the brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Performances by the participants included solo, dancing, comedy, and musical instruments.


Judges selected the following winners based upon originality, showmanship, presentation, and overall performance:

- 1st Place Winner \$300 – Hazel Howell
- 2nd Place Winner \$100 – Anthony Hombrebueno
- 3rd Place Winner \$100 – Noah Kruse



L-R: Mr. Robert Prince, Counselor at Kinnick High School, 1st Place Talent Show Winner - Hazel Howell, Brother Randy Pringle, Chapter Keeper of Records and Seal, 2nd Place Talent Show Winner - Anthony Hombrebueno, and Brother Michael Preaster, Talent Hunt Co-chairman.

The Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter also presented checks to each winner and gave a special thank you to the Principal, Assistant Principal, staff, and students of Nile C. Kinnick High School for the opportunity to sponsor the Talent Competition again this year.

Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is committed to providing funds to support our youth through displaying their talents and striving to achieve academic excellence. 

### **Upsilon Lambda Lambda Hosts 7th Annual Father & Daughter Dance**

By Brother Randy Pringle

**Mainland, Japan** - The Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted their 7th Annual Father & Daughter Dance on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at the Officers' Club on Yokosuka Naval Base.




Fathers and daughters attending Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter's 7th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance held in Yokosuka, Japan

**Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, and Community!!**



This year's theme was: "Ties and Tiaras." The event was sold out with 154 participants (83 daughters and 71 fathers) from the Kanto Plain communities in attendance. Each young lady received a special gift bag upon arrival. The evening featured live entertainment, special father-daughter photos, face-painting, a buffet meal, and "lots" of dancing. Chaplain Autumn Butler-Saeger, Commander, United States Navy CTF-71/DESRON 15 Command Chaplain gave the invocation and inspired the fathers and daughters with words of encouragement.

All fathers that attended this year's event were glad to once again have an opportunity to spend quality time together with their young Princesses, which strengthened their family bond. This event also left precious memories to cherish in the future.

Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter remains committed to uplifting our youth throughout the Kanto Plain communities of Japan. 

## Fatherhood Mentoring Flight Simulation AH-64 Apache Helicopter

By Brother Rick Ray




Brothers Juaquin Diaz, Javon Beck, Rick Ray, and Issac Gregory with mentees and with parents shown in picture below



**Honolulu, Hawai'i** - Wheeler Army Airfield, Wahiawa, Hawaii (April 22, 2023) - Project Aspiration meets on the 4th Saturday monthly, but this month a short notice invitation was accepted; and an EXCEPTION was as defined. Thanks to CPT Manning (U.S. Army), Commander, Delta Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Squadron, with extended hand from Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta Chapter secured the flight simulations center on Wheeler Army Airfield, providing a tutorial and familiarization of Army Aviation to our mentees.

This hands-on event, where five mentees and four Men of Omega encompassed two plus hours. Mentees sat in a real simulation cockpit to fly, shoot, and secure voice through combat communication devices. Mirroring active-duty Army Aviators who Train, Fight and Win to protect and serve this country!

Following flight simulation exercises, mentees rallied to CPT Manning's Squadron Hanger to embark an actual AH-64 Apache helicopter on static display. From there, mentees engaged in question-and-answer scenarios presented by the Squadron staff. The event culminated with pictures and CPT Manning presenting the mentees with Delta Troop commemorative stickers and pins.

To quote one of the mentees when asked did he have fun, his response with enthusiasm was... "I CAN DO THIS?!" This is why we, OMEGA MEN, lift as we climb! If they can see it, they can be it! Friendship is *truly* - ESSENTIAL TO THE SOUL! 

## Lambda Beta Beta Project Aspirations Fatherhood/Mentoring Program

By Brother Rick Ray



Brother Rick Ray, Lambda Beta Beta and wife Ms. Krista Ray with their son Cameron Ray receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in Aviation Management (Magna Cum Laude) at Hampton University on Mother's Day, Sunday May 14, 2023.


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**Honolulu, Hawai'i** – Mentee Cameron Ray, son of Brother Rick Ray, who served as member of Lambda Beta Beta's Project Aspiration Fatherhood and Mentoring Program when it began in 2011, recently graduated from Hampton University and is now a proud member and Basileus of Gamma Epsilon Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Cameron's future is to continue to be of service to his community and start a career in aviation and/or Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta started the "Project Aspiration" fatherhood and mentoring program in 2011.

The fathers saw a need to provide guidance to their sons and young men in the community of Honolulu, Hawaii with personal development from a teenager to adulthood. Based upon their experiences, obstacles, and challenges they wanted to provide a better life and future for youth.

Project Aspiration is designed to extend the cardinal principles of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., by cultivating and encouraging: Leadership development (Manhood), Scholastic achievement (Scholarship), Character building (Perseverance), and service (Uplift)

The aim is to develop the character and talents of middle and high school boys (grades 7-12) to become leaders within their schools and local community. The program is open to middle and high school boys in grades 6 – 12. Applicants must be currently enrolled in school, submit a completed general application form, a completed counselor/teacher recommendation form, a written personal statement (minimum of 250 words) which describes his desires to be in the Project Aspiration program, and a completed parental consent form and release. 

## Lambda Xi Awards Local School Teachers During Teacher Appreciation Week

By Brother Michael Robinson



**Ms. Brittany Bonner – Osan Elementary School on Osan Air Base with Principal and Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter**

**South Korea** - Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter in South Korea presented a certificate of appreciation and check to the following teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week: Ms. Destiny Jordan, Humphreys Middle School on Camp Humphreys Army Base, Ms. Brittany Bonner, Osan Elementary School on Osan Air Base, Ms. Ortabia Townsend, Daegu Elementary School on Camp George Army Base




**Ms. Destiny Jordan, Humphreys Middle School on Camp Humphreys Army Base with staff members and the brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter**

The Brothers of Lambda Xi are dedicated to carrying out the mission of its "SINSA DREAM" Fatherhood & Mentoring Program provide uplift and support to educators and youth in the local community.

As teachers prepared to close out the school year, the Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter were glad to provide a small token of appreciation to the three outstanding educators who go over and beyond in meeting the educational needs of our youth each day.



**Ms. Ortabia Townsend – Daegu Elementary School on Camp George Army Base with Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter**

In 1985, the National Parent Teacher Association established Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May. 

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## Lambda Xi Volunteers at Camp Humphreys Unified Special Olympics

By Brother Michael Robinson

**South Korea** – Three Brothers from Lambda Xi Chapter's "SINSA DREAM" Fatherhood and Mentoring Program joined over 70 local volunteers and military service members to support boys and girls participating in the 4th Annual Unified Special Olympics.

The event was held on May 3, 2023 at Camp Humphreys Middle School football field. Fifty-five (55) student athletes from schools at Camp Humphreys Army Base, Osan Air Base, and the South Korea Edaba and Dobang special needs school took part in track and field events ranging from standing long-jumps, softball throws and races of 25 meters to 400 meters.



Brothers Michael Robinson, Jesse Horton, and Lawrence Lovejoy assisted with the set up and breakdown of equipment. In addition, they cheered on the athletes during the various competitions taking place throughout the day. The Brothers of Lambda Xi enjoyed seeing the students light up with excitement

from the beginning to the end as parents, classmates, and supporters from the local community cheered participants on to victory. The bottom line of the day, everyone was a winner.

## Sigma Gamma Gamma and Tomodachi Bridge Builders Receives Awards

By Brother Cortez Pree



Tomodachi Bridge Builders Brandon Pree, Cortez Pree, Jr., David Washington, Jr., Jakai Matthews, and Brother Cortez Pree receives award from Help Oki Representative Mr. Christopher Nesbitt

**Okinawa, Japan** – On May 13, 2023, The Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter, and their Junior Omega Mentorship Program: Tomodachi Bridge Builders were presented with awards by the local Community Support Organization named Help Oki in Okinawa, Japan. Help Oki provides uplift to the local community via their food bank and community thrift store.

The Tomodachi Bridge Builders were presented with the Presidential Outstanding Volunteer Gold Medal. The Bridge Builders conducted numerous food, clothing, and toy drives as they provided the proceeds to Help Oki. Sigma Gamma Gamma received a letter of appreciation for providing oversight of the program in addition to providing countless man hours of support. Sigma Gamma Gamma and The Tomodachi Bridge Builders will continue to uplift the community of Okinawa.

## Sigma Gamma Gamma Host 2nd Annual Table Tennis Tournament

By Brother Cortez Pree

**Okinawa, Japan** – On May 1, 2023, the Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter hosted its second annual Table Tennis Tournament at Kubasaki High School in Okinawa, Japan. The event garnered 25 contestants and

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the Chapter awarded \$150 in cash to the top five winners. Brother Cortez Pree presented cash to Austin Scott (1st Place), Jesus Recinos (2nd Place), Kyyuen Chua (3rd Place), Aiden Sabido (4th Place), and Alex Rec (5th Place). Brother Cortez Pree served as the Chairman and coordinator for this event, and he was assisted by Vice-Basileus Brother Terence Harmon. Brother Pree stated the Chapter looks forward to hosting this event with all high schools in the future.



**Brother Terence Harmon returns a serve to Kubasaki student Isiah Thompson**



**Brother Cortez Pree presents cash to Austin Scott (1st Place), Jesus Recinos (2nd Place) Kyyuen Chua (3rd Place) Aiden Sabido (4th Place) and Alex Rec (5th Place)**

**Friendship is Essential to the Soul!**