

# THE RACLE

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OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED  
SUMMER | FALL 2019

## *Omegas visit Ghana*

**DR. MARION**  
VIEWS SLAVE QUARTERS



**FRATERNITY PROMOTES  
"WATER IS LIFE" INITIATIVE**

**MANHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP, PERSEVERANCE AND UPLIFT**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Brother Rodney Jones of Tau Tau Chapter prepares for the morning Youth Leadership Conference sessions at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. *The Oracle*/Bro. M. Brown

Grand Basileus Message <i>Bro. Dr. David E. Marion</i>	7
Omegas visit Ghana <i>"Water For Life" Initiative</i>	10
Tau Tau's Youth Leadership Conference <i>Chapter's 26th Annual conference</i>	14
Omegas Visit the U.S. Capitol <i>Omega men meet with congressional leaders</i>	18
NPHC Council of Presidents <i>Part of the CBC activities</i>	20
Brother Dr. Moses C. Norman Leadership Conference <i>Atlantic City, NJ</i>	22
HALL OF FAME <i>Four Omega Men inducted into NABJ Hall of Fame</i>	26

## SPECIAL FEATURES

Undergraduate News-32  
District News-33  
Omega Chapter-57

# The Oracle

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# EDITOR'S NOTES

As we enter into the second decade of the 21st century, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity remains as America's top fraternal organization for leadership development.



One of my favorite Omega writings, "*Members Versus Men*," features the reason why Omega has remained steady over the years. The piece was written by Brother Walter E. Mazyck, and published in *The Oracle* in 1925.

## MEMBERS VERSUS MEN

"The Greek Letter Societies among our group appear to have entered upon a period of mad competition for obtaining members. Pledges are increasing in numbers. Scarcely a student on the college campus, but wears a pledge pin or a Fraternity pin. Are the Fraternities forgetting their original high standards? Can it be said that every man who enters college is of Fraternity material? If in any place, Omega has entered this mad race for members, pause and consider.

The Value Of Our Fraternity is not in numbers, but in men, in Real Brotherhood. Eight men thoroughly immersed in the true Omega spirit are far greater assets than eighty with lukewarm enthusiasm."

FIETTS,

Brother Dr. Milbert O. Brown, Jr.  
International Editor of *The Oracle*  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



## Founders of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



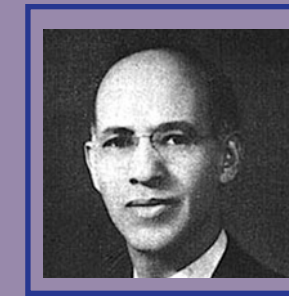
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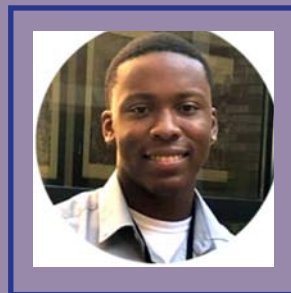
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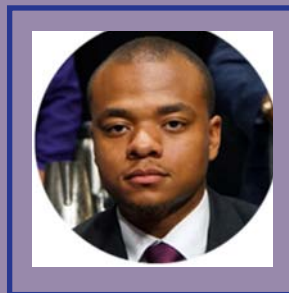
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Antonio F. Knox Sr.  
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**Dr. George H. Grace**  
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FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS

Dear Brothers,

While I will always endeavor to greet you in the mighty name of the Supreme Basileus of the Universe, I feel compelled in this communication to humbly pay homage to the powerful souls of our ancestors during this holiday season. As you are no doubt aware, Omega has been blessed to become further connected to the motherland of Africa in our most recent trip to Accra, Ghana. The incredible itinerary of this trip was only exceeded by the actual experiences themselves. Imagine, if you will, touching down in the land that you share a direct connection with, then being greeted with open arms by family you hadn't met before. Imagine the feeling of knowing that our beloved Omega is already a thriving part of this continent because of the work of the brothers of Tau Chi Chapter in Accra, Ghana.

Imagine the experience of seeing the commissioning of two wells (boreholes) that were funded by our beloved fraternity. Men, women, and children who had been getting their water from a man-made ditch, began to surround the well with buckets and other containers in anticipation of the faucets being turned on. Fresh water will now be available to them for generations to come. Then, try to imagine the plethora of emotions that sent powerful shockwaves to our very core when we traveled to the Cape Coast Slave Castle. We found ourselves standing in the very same spaces where our ancestors were brutalized. It is through their strength of character and determination of spirit that they not only endured but created a legacy of perseverance that all of Omega remains connected to eternally. I get emotional to this day thinking about the sacrifices they made so that you and I can enjoy the lives we have right now.

But living comfortably simply isn't enough and thanking them isn't sufficient. If we truly want to honor our ancestors, we owe it to ourselves and, more importantly, the next generation to pay forward the opportunities and blessings that were so graciously bestowed upon us. The one way that every single Man of Omega can do this, regardless of our finances or chosen profession, is through mentorship. What good is it to live the four cardinal principles as a lamp under a bushel? Our lights shine brightly not only for our consumption but to light the paths for others who have scarcely begun their journeys to have well-lit paths on which to walk long after we have been called to Omega Chapter. Each of us has an opportunity to give our lives eternal purpose beyond what we will be able to enjoy while we were here. I pray that none of us waste this chance.

Yours in Omega,

**Brother David E. Marion, Ph.D.**  
**41st Grand Basileus**  
**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**



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FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRST VICE GRAND BASILEUS

Greetings Brothers,

Thank you for attending the Inaugural Dr. Moses C. Norman Sr. Leadership Conference in Atlantic City. I am grateful and appreciative to Brother Dr. David Marion, 41st Grand Basileus for trusting me to lead the Inaugural Dr. Moses C. Norman, Sr., Leadership Conference.

Words cannot express the gratitude I have for Brother Kendal Smalls, 2nd District Representative, Brother Greg Ackles, Leadership Conference Marshal and the entire 2nd District leadership team and brotherhood for their untiring work to take on the challenges we faced and turn them into opportunities. We exceeded our registration goals; we executed the business of Omega with workshops that benefitted the brotherhood and we impacted the Atlantic City community with our Social Action project

The good Lord has sustained this brotherhood of like ideals and scholarly attainments for 108 years. We are thankful for the matchless and uncompromising vision of those three undergraduate students and their Graduate Advisor at Howard University. These three friends sought to associate under the motto: Friendship is Essential to the Soul. (Wilbur Thirkield, 8th Howard University President) wanted them to join that Black and Gold status group on campus. Our Founders knew that was a non-starter!

So, Brothers:

- We are blessed to be part of a global organization that, among other things, has built much-needed Borehole Clean Water Wells for impoverished communities in Accra, Ghana.
- We are blessed to be mentors to countless African American young men throughout the United States and the world.
- We are blessed to award millions in scholarship dollars to deserving students, as they matriculate to college.
- We are blessed to support black colleges and universities through our College Endowment Fund.
- We are blessed to donate much-needed blood through our annual Dr. Charles R. Drew blood drive.
- We are blessed to register thousands of voters, sponsoring political forums, engaging in voter education, and more importantly helping to...GET OUT THE VOTE!
- We are excited about the great work of all of our International committee chairmen and their committees for their tireless work to execute the goals and objectives laid out by Brother Dr. David Marion, 41st Grand Basileus.

As I close, let us continue to protect our brand and rededicate ourselves to the oath we swore to uphold; but we must continue to be forward-thinking, progressive and responsive.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve as your First Vice Grand Basileus. I am honored! God bless our beloved brotherhood and God bless the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Yours in Friendship,

Ricky L. Lewis, 35th First Vice Grand Basileus



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FROM THE DESK OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL RECLAMATION AND RETENTION CHAIRMAN

Brothers of Omega,

Greetings on behalf of Brother Dr. David E. Marion, 41st Grand Basileus, Members of the Supreme Council, and your International Reclamation and Retention Committee.

As we move into 2019-2020, let's make Reclamation and Retention a major priority of the Fraternity and for each Brother as we continue to promote our motto "Each One Bring One." We understand that Life Happens, and this may cause Brothers to depart for a short while from our beloved Fraternity, but we believe that your love for our illustrious organization will bring you home! As we continue to move Omega forward, there is no better time for you to return and no better place for you to be. Come home to where Friendship is Essential to the Soul.

As of October 31, 2019, 4,644 of our Brothers returned home. Brothers, as we move into the second year of our Reclamation and Retention journey, our goal is to reclaim 5,000 and retain 90 percent of our current financial members from 2018-2019. Omega has only scratched the surface of our potential to sustain and increase our membership levels, but we have even more potential and a greater purpose to exceed these totals. If every financial Brother makes a personal commitment to retain his financial membership and reclaim just one unfinancial Brother during this fiscal year, by the Grand Conclave in Tampa, Florida on July 17-21, 2020, we stand to double our numbers from 2018-2019.

For Brothers needing to get reclaimed and back active in the Fraternity, simply have them reach out to the local chapter in their area or go to the International website ([www.opf.org](http://www.opf.org)). Scroll down to "Get Reclaimed Now" and then follow the prompts to get financial. Brothers, as Omega Men, let's make this happen and commit individually and collectively to taking our membership numbers and this Fraternity to an even higher level.

Our communities worldwide need us and are looking for Omega Men to step up and lead. With over 150,000 initiated Brothers and 750 active chapters throughout the world, we have an opportunity to make an even greater impact in our society. Let's seize this opportunity and continue to drive voter education, registration and mobilization within our communities. Through our mentoring programs from coast to coast and abroad, we are making a difference in the lives of thousands of our young black men. Slowly but surely we are changing the graduation rates and sending more young men to college. We are advocating for increased funding for our public-school systems and are adopting and volunteering in schools to help increase their academic performance.

Our work with conducting Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives is being recognized by members in Congress and new partnerships are being developed with both corporations and government entities. Remember, the STRONGER our numbers, the BIGGER our voice. Brothers, we need your help with all of these programs and initiatives and our desire is simply to get the job done. Brothers, it is imperative that we all do our part to reclaim, retain, and contribute our talents to help take Omega to the next level.

Going forward, let's challenge every Brother to get and stay financial and be actively engaged in Omega. LONG LIVE THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

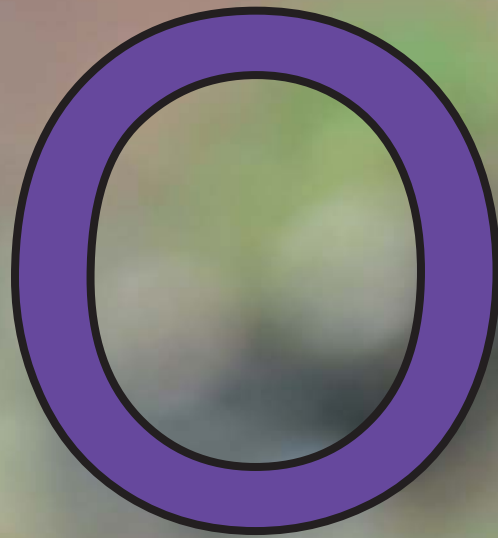
In Friendship and Fraternity,

*Brother Darryl Moore,*  
International Reclamation and Retention Chairman ([dmoinc66@yahoo.com](mailto:dmoinc66@yahoo.com))



# GHANA

## OMEGA'S "WATER IS LIFE" PROJECT



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated commissioned the construction of drinking water wells often referred to as boreholes for two impoverished communities in Ghana. A team of Omegas led by Dr. David E. Marion, the 41st Grand Basileus visited the West African country in August 2019.

"I was heartbroken to see and hear the things that we saw and heard when people don't have something as simple as water, that we here in the States don't put a lot of value on," said Dr. Marion, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Grand Basileus.

Each day, villagers in Borishe, a suburb of Akropong, Ghana, had to obtain their water to cook, clean and bathe from a nearby, muddy, disease-infested ditch. The United Nations estimates that roughly 115 people in Africa die every hour from diseases linked to poor sanitation, hygiene and contaminated water. Dr. Marion said that is why boreholes are essential to the quality of life for many Africans.

*Story continues on next page*







**D**uring their Ghana visit the Omegas from the U.S. were able to assist Tau Chi Chapter, also known as the Ghana Ques in commissioning boreholes in Akropong-Akuapem.

Akropong-Akuapem is located in the southeastern area of Ghana. The small town has over 15,000 residents and is ruled by Krontihene, Nana Offei Kwasi Agyeman. The ruler has an Omega connection. He is the father of Tau Chi's Basileus, Brother Dr. Carl Bampoe. The two commissioning and ribbon cutting ceremonies took place in Akropong in the Borishe community, and at the Akropong School for the Blind. Both locations were in dire need of water assistance.

Residents from Borishe were forced to travel on a daily basis to search for clean water which was not always available. The introduction of the borehole to the community now allows for clean water.

The clean water help prevents the presence of waterborne diseases that affect the communities such as cholera, diarrhea and others that cause early infant deaths, and blindness.

The Akropong School for the Blind is the largest school for the blind in Ghana and has been in existence for over 30-years. The school also serves as a boarding school for the blind students, as it is hard for them to commute to and from the school. There are more than 500 students at the school who stay in dorms with resident advisors that provide assistance. Parents are trained to also provide continued support when the students are home during their long summer vacation.

Brother Dr. Bampoe said that access to drinking water was critical, as the students were not able to gather water over long distances. Additionally, access to the nearby water from the borehole enabled the children to navigate the showers, as well as being able to clean their clothing. Dr. Bampoe also mentioned that the boreholes have assisted students immensely because they can now focus on their education, and not have to travel for water. Mahala Maku Narh, headmistress of the Akropong School for the Blind, praised the Fraternity for its work.

"The water situation in Akropong is currently better, but formerly we had serious problems when it comes to water," Narh told the Ghana News Agency. Narh also added "we have one borehole drilled by World Vision International, but that alone cannot do for all the staff and students in the school. Even people from the community sometimes had to fall on us for water."



Fresh water is obtained through boreholes that are narrow shafts drilled to extract water from below the ground. Villagers are able to fill their buckets and containers from an above-ground water source.

"The two boreholes will provide villagers with an endless supply of fresh, clean and portable water. When you put it into perspective, you are talking about water and everyone needs it to survive and for Omega to go over and give water, right now that is absolutely mind-blowing," Dr. Marion said.

Marion and other Fraternity members made the trip in August as part of an invitation from Nana Akufo-Addo, the president of Ghana, to participate in an economic business development summit. Omega men were welcomed to Ghana by a crowd of government dignitaries, tribal leaders, as well as dancers and drummers. Dr. Marion was among those invited to have dinner with the Ghanaian president. The visit was also a part of the "Year of Return," that commemorates 400 years since the first enslaved Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia.

Grand Basileus Dr. Marion said the Fraternity's ability to provide the area and its residents with a sustainable water supply made the trip invaluable and historic for the Fraternity.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** (Previous Page) Dr. Marion, Omega's Grand Basileus talking with dignitaries. (Center) People witnessing the operation of the water stations. (Below) Bro. Ricky Lewis, First Vice Grand Basileus surrounded by people from the community.

*Story continues on Page 54*



**B**rother Ricky L. Lewis birthed the idea of creating a program that would keep African American males off dangerously darkened streets. The Los Angeles Riots had begun, and society had quickly credited the destruction to young Black male hands.

Under siege was the movement of people in some areas of the city. Bro. Lewis, like many other Black men, was worried about the community, and the next generation of young Black boys exposed to this 1992 episode of violence.

Lewis witnessed the tempestuous chaos and the rise of the flames that danced around the city, but more importantly, he saw the unfulfilled spirit of boys needing guidance. "I could see the smoke, I could feel the fire, and I could hear the people," emotionally replied Brother Lewis.

It had been almost three decades since the Los Angeles Black community had experienced a rebellion. In 1965, that rebellion was known as the Watts Riots.

Story by Bro. Dr. Milbert O. Brown, Jr.,  
International Editor of *The Oracle*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRO. JAMES WITHERSPOON



**OMEGA  
TAKES  
GIANT  
STEPS  
IN  
YOUTH MENTORING**



26th Annual Youth Leadership Conference

**OMEGA MEN MENTOR YOUTH**



**YLC Story continues**

Similar to the Los Angeles Riots, the spark that ignited the explosion of the Watts Riots was the negative relationship between the Los Angeles police and an African American motorist. In 1965, the problem started when Marquette Frye was stopped by police, and that confrontation swiftly escalated into a fight. During the six-day riot in Watts, over 30 people were killed, and 3,400 were arrested. In 1992, after four white Los Angeles policemen were acquitted in the beating of Rodney King, an African American motorist, looting and rioting started in Los Angeles. For five-days, over 12,000 people were arrested, and 60 people killed.

At the time, 26-years ago, Lewis described himself "as just a regular Brother sitting at the house." Out of the fog of anger, smoke, and fire, Lewis wanted to do something. He held an intimate meeting at his South Los Angeles home with a few Tau Tau Chapter Brothers, and they together strategized how to save their community during this revolution.

Today, Brother Ricky Lewis is a little more than just a regular Brother sitting on the sofa. Currently, he is the Fraternity's First Vice Grand Basileus. Previously, Bro. Lewis served as the 24th Twelfth District Representative. "I am excited about this 26th Annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC). We have impacted the lives of 500 plus young men as well as their mothers and fathers this year," said the First Vice Grand Basileus.

It is estimated that over 8,000 young men have participated in the YLC since its inception. Also, more than 800 parents have attended and or been involved with the Los Angeles based conference. Lewis said that the program has assisted young African American males ages 13 to 18. Southwest College was the site of the first YLC in 1993. Later the conference moved to Compton College. As the annual event grew, the youth program was relocated to the campus of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles' South Central neighborhood.

PHOTOGRAPHS

On previous page--Brother Dennis Martinez, the 12th District Representative follows Brother Ricky Lewis, the First Vice Grand Basileus, down the stairs to another YLC session.

Left: Young boys wear the YLC tee shirts to the opening session.

Right/Top: A volunteer helps sign in several boys attending the conference.

Right/Center: First Vice Grand Basileus Ricky Lewis on the campus of the University of Southern California talks with Men of Omega.

Right/Bottom: A group of YLC participants standing near the Omega Psi Phi tent.

Brother Dennis Martinez, the 12th District Representative commented that "the Youth Leadership Conference allows Brothers to reach down and reach back. We talk about motivation. So many young men do not have things at home that motivate them. In addition to the YLC, it's Omega tutoring programs that help motivate young men in the communities we serve."

The conference focuses on pertinent issues facing males, such as self-esteem, goal setting, health & wellness, social and personal responsibility, family unity, academic growth, development, and conflict resolution. The goal of the conference continues to provoke our youth to think, achieve, and aspire to be leaders.

YLC Story continues on page 52





# Omegas Visit the U.S Capitol



Omega men convened over 40 legislative meetings with their respective Congressional Representatives and policy makers. The Fraternity sponsored a series of public plenary sessions on a variety of issues critical to the African American community.

“Omega Day at the U.S. Capitol is important because of the historical impact Omega men have made since being founded in 1911 at Howard University. America needs to hear from Black men,” said Dr. David E. Marion, the Fraternity’s 41st Grand Basileus. “Too often we are overlooked or not heard from. I believe Omega is the perfect organization to represent our community at our Nation’s Capitol.”

The purpose of the two-day event was to educate members of Congress on our fraternity and the legislative priorities the fraternity emphasizes. Members later took part in the Congressional Black Caucus activities.



Brother Patrick Smith, the 9th District Representative (left) and Brother Sam McKenzie, the 5th District Representative (center) share ideas after their meetings on the Hill in Washington, D.C.

Photographs by Brother James Witherspoon, the International Photographer for IHQ/Oracle Magazine

“Having a day on Capitol Hill isn’t new for most organizations,” said Sedrick Spencer, Chairman of the fraternity’s International Social Action Committee. “It just hadn’t been done in Omega at this magnitude. As Chair, I made it one of our top priorities. It was long overdue.”

Omega Day at the U.S. Capitol was the culmination of two years of political and civic engagement. During this time, Omega registered new voters, sponsored political forums, engaged in voter education, and helped to get out the vote.

The results were highlighted by a record number of African Americans getting elected to political office including the United States Congress. Spencer said the Fraternity’s gathering last September was critical as the nation approaches the 2020 presidential election.

“Our turnout was remarkable,” Spencer said. “The energy of having Omega men walking the halls of Congress was phenomenal. Several members of Congress expressed their excitement and shared why it is important for our presence to be seen, heard and experienced in the United States Capitol.”

During their visit, Omega men met with Congressional Members and their staff on a variety of topics that ranged from healthcare, housing, criminal justice reform, voter protection and student loan debt. “All these issues substantially impact our communities,” Spencer said.

Meeting with Congressional leaders, policy makers and federal executives is not new for the Fraternity. During his tenure as Grand Basileus, George Grace along with members of the Supreme Council met with members of Congress.

members of Congress.

In December 1924, a delegation of Omega men met with President Calvin Coolidge during the Grand Conclave. Afterwards, the delegation visited Arlington National Cemetery and placed wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the grave of Colonel Charles Young.

Before that, with World War I on the horizon, Omega men successfully lobbied President Woodrow Wilson to establish a facility to train African-American military officers.

Spencer said he is proud that the Fraternity’s tradition of political engagement continues today. Moving forward, the International Social Action Committee will implement standard operating procedures with the Community and Civic Engagement Committee on voter registration and mobilization.

Another goal is to encourage the Districts and Chapters to set aside one day each year to visit their state lawmakers.

Spencer mentioned he is grateful for the hard work and support of U.S. Representatives and fraternity members, James Clyburn and Hank Johnson. In addition, the committee members William Clayburn Jr., Yeberton Waktins, Dillon Iwu, Kwame Canty along with International Executive Director Kenneth Barnes and Kyra White at the international headquarters were noted for their exceptional work, he said.

Working with Brother Wesley Jarman, the Social Action Committee would like to compile its own congressional scorecard of every member of congress to educate our members on how their elected

officials vote, Spencer said.

“We are the world’s brightest and strongest organization of Black men,” he said. “Our community looks to Omega as leaders. We were heard and appreciated, and Congressional leaders and their staff want us back next year.”

## Father and Mentoring Initiative Session

In September 2019, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted its Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference titled the “Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative Forum” in Washington, D.C.

The theme was *Moving Fathers and Young Men Forward: Against a Climate of Racism, White Supremacy and Policies that are Attacking the Black and Brown Community*.

It was another outstanding, well attended and successful session. Brother Robert Fairchild and Brother Thabiti Boone organized the forum. U.S. Congressman (D-SC) Brother James Clyburn was the congressional host and sponsor of the forum. Brother Thabiti Boone also was the moderator of the forum.

The panelist included Brother Ben Crump, the Fraternity’s Grand Counselor and one of the nation’s most influential civil rights attorneys. The panel also featured Brother Earl Wilson, Omega’s International Chairman of the Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative and former Executive Director of Omega Psi Phi.

The other speakers were Joe Jones, CEO at the Center for Urban Families; Dr. Wizdom Powell, Associate Professor at the University of Connecticut and Dr. Ron Mincy at Columbia University.





**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES TO SUPPORT AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

# NPHC COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

The Council of Presidents of the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC) representing the nine historically Black Greek-Lettered Organizations, announced today its annual strategic priorities that will guide its collective efforts to address systemic issues affecting the viability of the African American community.

Under the leadership of Dr. Everett B. Ward, the council's newly-installed chairman and General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the council outlined its strategic priorities, including: voter engagement, 2020 Census, economic impact, minority business development, HBCU sustainability, and healthcare advocacy after its retreat and during the council's Sept. 12th meeting at Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. International headquarters.

"We are at a precarious time in the history of our nation," said Dr. Ward. "The serious nature of these issues in this current climate necessitates intentional

strategic action. We are committed to using the power of our 1.5 million collective membership to engender positive societal change."

In addition, the Council named Dr. Ward, and *Dr. David Marion, Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.*, the council's chairman and *vice chairman*, respectively.

The Council is also comprised of Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Beverly E. Smith, National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Valerie Hollingsworth Baker, International Grand Basileus of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; Andre Manson, Grand Polaris of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.; Reuben A. Shelton, III, Esq., Grand Polemarch of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Deborah Catchings-Smith, International Grand Basileus of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; Michael E. Cristal, International President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; as well as Vanetta Cheeks Reeder, National President of the National Pan Hellenic Council, Inc.

Each of the nine BGLOs best practices and resources will be leveraged as part of this strategic approach to create favorable living conditions for African Americans nationwide.

"We, as a council, and as distinct organizations, recognize that we can have a critical impact on the circumstances of our communities through our collective action," said *Dr. David Marion, the council's newly-installed Vice Chairman*. "These strategic priorities will directly inform our efforts to create opportunity and advocate for equity."

In other action, the Council also established a partnership with the National Council of Negro Women to provide financial support and technical assistance to that organization. All nine organizations also agreed to support NCNW's annual HBCU Hungry for Education Tour every fall.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated (NPHC) is currently composed of nine (9) International Greek letter Sororities and Fraternities: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

NPHC promotes interaction through forums, meetings and other mediums for the exchange of information and engages in cooperative programming and initiatives through various activities and functions.





2019 Brother Dr. Moses C. Norman Leadership Conference

# LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAYS



Omega Psi Phi's 41st Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion (center) talks with Bro. Dr. Dorsey C. Miller, the 35th Grand Basileus (seated) and Bro. Lloyd J. Jordan, Esq. (standing/right) at the Dr. Moses C. Norman Sr. Leadership Conference. Photo (below): U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, a Presidential candidate with Grand Counselor, Bro. Benjamin Crump.

In July 2019, over 1,000 Omega men attended the Brother Dr. Moses C. Norman, Sr. International Leadership Conference in Atlantic City, NJ. The conference's workshop training included Basileus, Keeper of Finance, Keeper of Records and Seal, and Protocol sessions. Some of the other sessions included Memorial Service, 990 Forms, Event Security, and Social Media training.

On the first two-days of the conference, the 13th District Meeting was held. On Thursday, the Fraternity held their community project called "Turning Point Day Center for Homeless" in Atlantic City.



PHOTO/CENTER: At the conference were three alumni members from Central State University's undergraduate chapter, "The Grand and Glorious-Eta Gamma." Included (L to R)-Bro. Derrick Brockman, Esq., Bro. Jesse J. Junius, former 4th District Representative, and Bro. Eric Woods, Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret).

One of the most well-attended public events was the address by U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, a 2020 Democratic Presidential Candidate. Senator Kamala said "Omega has raised a generation of leaders who have been committed to the principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift." She also added, "The members of this Fraternity have helped to shape the history of our country, and in so doing have fought as leaders on the front lines always for justice." Harris, a graduate of Howard University, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., was welcomed by several members of her sorority.

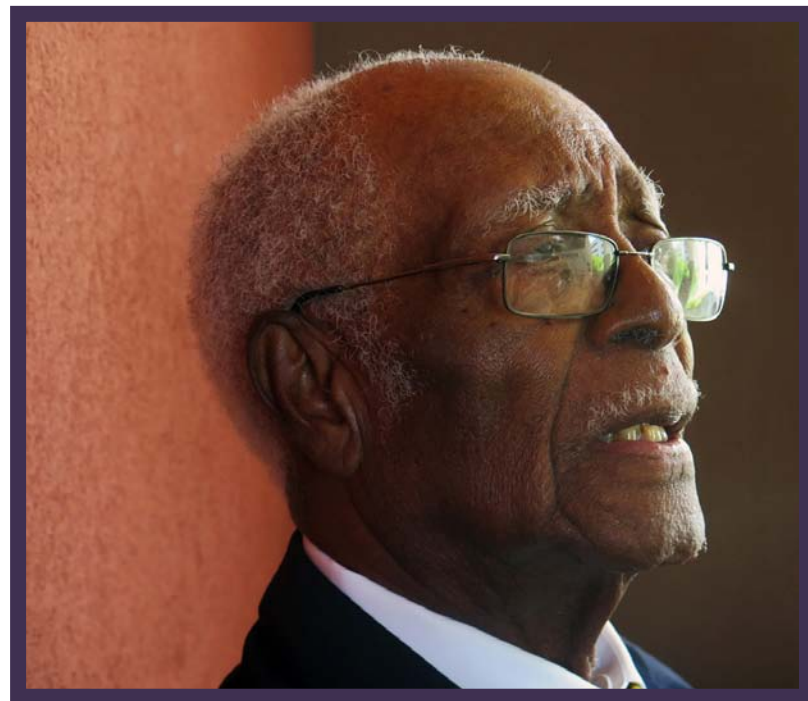


Other major programs included the Project Manhood: Fatherhood Initiatives and Programs directed by chairman Bro. Earl Wilson. Two former Second Vice Grand Basilei Bro. Brian Gundy and Bro. Robert Littlejohn with Bro. Ted Pauling conducted the Sexual Assault and Harrassment session.



**BROTHER WALTER HILL, JR.**

At 92-years of age, **Brother Walter Hill, Jr.**, is still attending conclaves and leadership conferences. During a quiet moment outside of the hotel, Hill is surrounded by Atlantic City's fresh ocean breeze. He said "I have more time to spend with the Brothers now because of the passing of my beloved wife." Brother Hill is a current member of Iota Beta Beta Graduate Chapter in the Sixth District.



Bro. Walter Hill, Jr., *The Oracle*/MB

Hill joined the Fraternity in 1953 through Xi Psi on the campus of South Carolina State College.

**BROTHER HENRY IDUOZE**

Each year Omega Psi Phi gives a scholarship to undergrad brothers who have shown high academic achievement throughout the year. Henry Iduoze is a 21-year-old senior from the Iota Beta chapter who received both the District Scholar Award and the International District Scholar Award. Brother Iduoze took home a total of \$15,000 in scholarships.

Brother Iduoze attends the University of Tennessee, majoring in mechanical engineering. The Nashville native has a 3.7 GPA. As the Basileus of the Iota Beta Chapter, Iduoze is a leader outside of the classroom. He has been awarded many scholarships at the university. Iduoze is also the entertainment chair for Me4UT, a leadership group that has

group that has the goal of enhancing campus diversity. He is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and TLSAMP (Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation). Henry Iduoze works as a mechanical engineer for Exxon Mobil during the summers.

"My life goal is to become a philanthropist and give back to my community by starting my non-profit organization focusing on developing African American children pursuing jobs in STEM, business, and literature," Iduoze said.

At the Brother Dr. Ronald E. McNair Undergraduate

Luncheon, **Brother Dr. Michael Bowie** was the keynote speaker. Dr. Bowie is the Clinical Assistant Professor, Director fo Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc., and the Community Engagement and Diversity Outreach for the University of Florida.

The recognition of scholarship recipients was presented by Brother Dr. E. Newton Jackson, Charles R. Drew Scholarship Commission Chairman.

Brother Mark E. Jackson, the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal presented the Recognition of Service Award recipients. Bro. Jackson also presented Omega men with Service Awards for 50-years of Service and above.

On the day before, the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Brother Mark E. Jackson also presented Service Awards for 25-45 Years of Service to several Omega men.



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
International Achievement Week Committee  
Bro. Christopher Norman - Chairman  
Bro. Bernard Clayton, Jr. - Vice Chairman  
2017-2018 Winners

Citizen of the Year Award  
7th District  
Honorable Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms  
Submitted by Delta Mu Mu Chapter  
Atlanta, GA

Graduate Chapter of the Year  
7th District  
Beta Rho Chapter  
Itta Bena, MS

Large Graduate Chapter of the Year  
2nd District  
Omicron Chi Chapter  
Plainfield, NJ

Undergraduate Chapter of the Year  
7th District  
Beta Eta Chapter  
University of Alabama

Ernest E. Just Undergraduate Advisor Award  
12th District  
Bro. Louis Cortez  
Advisor to Lambda Chapter  
University of Southern California

Photograph above: Undergraduate Scholars of the Year

Superior Service Award  
10th District  
Bro. Quinton M. Bellamy  
Nu Chi Chapter

Colonel Charles Young Military Leadership Award  
7th District  
Bro. R. Wesley Thrower  
Upsilon Gamma Gamma Chapter  
Fort Gordon, GA

Founders' Lifetime Achievement Award  
7th District  
Bro. Jonathan A. Matthews  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter  
Atlanta, GA

Undergraduate Omega Man of the Year  
10th District  
Bro. Jaren A. Kirkland  
Phi Chapter  
University of Michigan

Graduate Omega Man of the Year  
10th District  
Bro. Sean T. Long  
Chi Lambda Lambda Chapter  
Matteson, IL



# HALL OF FAME

FOUR OMEGAS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS HALL OF FAME



Brother Garry D. Howard stands on stage to receive his NABJ Hall of Fame award presented by NBC-TV Today Show host Craig Melvin; Sarah Glover, the National Association of Black Journalists' National President and host Oscar nominated actress Alfre Woodard in Miami.

**F**our members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity were inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Hall of Fame in an August 2019 ceremony in Miami.

The Omegas honored were: **Bro. Garry D. Howard, Xi Phi; Bro. Tom Joyner, Lambda Epsilon; Bro. Leon Dash, Beta, and Bro. Ronald Taylor, Psi Chapter.** All four brothers distinguished themselves in some aspect of journalism and reporting.

Omega's Brother Garry D. Howard is currently the director of corporate initiatives at *American City Business Journals*. Bro. Howard, a graduate of Lehigh University began his journalism career at the Trenton Times as a sports reporter. Before his current job, he was the editor-in-chief of the *Sporting News* coming

from the *Milwaukee Journal*. During his over 15-year career at the newspaper, he served as the Assistant Managing Editor for Sports. The Bronx native also served as the president of the Associated Press Sports Editors, and was the first African American to hold that position in the 45-year history of the organization

In 2009, the NABJ Sports Task Force awarded Bro. Howard the Sam Lacy Pioneer Award for his lifetime commitment to sports journalism. Howard appeared regularly on "The Page Panel" on "Quite Frankly" with Bro. Stephen A. Smith on ESPN2 in 2006.

Earlier in his career, Bro. Howard also worked at the *Rochester Times-Union*, *St. Petersburg Independent*, and deputy sports editor at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.



**B**rother Tom Joyner is one of the most recognized media icons of today. The legenday radio personality, entrepreneur and philanthropist graduated with a degree in sociology from Tuskegee Institute in 1970.

After graduation, the Tuskegee native began his radio career at WRMA-AM in Montgomery, Alabama and eventually worked his way to WLOK-AM in Memphis; KWK-AM in St. Louis, and KKDA-FM in Dallas

In the mid-1980s, Joyner was offered a morning drive time position at KKDA in Dallas and an afternoon spot at WGCI in Chicago. Any normal human being would have chosen one position - but Joyner chose both! His visionary plan was to fly thousands of miles every weekday between Dallas and Chicago.

Story continues on next page



Brother Leon Dash (far right) speaking before the NABJ audience as he accepted the Hall of Fame Award for "The Washington Post Metro Seven." Photo on right is Brother Ronald A. Taylor.

## Two of the Metro Seven Were Omegas Brothers Dash and Taylor Honored

**I**n 1972, seven African American journalists-Ivan C. Brandon, LaBarbara A. Bowan, **Bro. Leon Dash**, Penny Mickelburg, Richard Prince, Michael B. Hodge, and **Bro. Ronald A. Taylor** took a stand against alleged discrimination while working at *The Washington Post*.

They filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging that the paper was "denying Black employees an equal opportunity with respect to job assignments, promotional opportunities, including promotions to management positions and other terms and conditions of employment," according to writer Steven Gray in the NABJ Journal.

The group of journalists were heralded as the first in U.S. history to file this form of complaint with the

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Known as the Metro Seven, the group inspired other co-workers, including women employed at the paper and journalists worldwide, who would come after them to advocate for their own right to equal treatment in hiring promotion and compensation practice. Their action increased advancements in the areas of diversity and inclusion.

Brother Leon Dash is a professor of journalism at the University of Illinois. Dash is also the recipient of the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism. Dash's Pulitzer was awarded for his series featured in the *Washington Post* titled "*Rosa Lee: A mother and her family in urban America.*" Brother Taylor is semi-retired and working on a variety of new projects.



**JOYNER-** Because of his long hours and time spent in the air, Brother Joyner received the affectionate nicknames "The Fly Jock" and "The Hardest Working Man in Radio."

In 1994, Joyner persuaded entertainment power ABC Radio Networks to take his captivating style of radio nationwide and launched "The Tom Joyner Morning Show" into syndication.

Over the years, he has undoubtedly taken his radio program to unexpected heights. Catering specifically to the African American audience, his show has become a hot spot for celebs, companies and national leaders/politicians hoping to connect with the community.

Then-President Barack Obama and then-presidential candidate Hillary Clinton have been frequent guests on the award-winning show.

Well-known for his dedicated philanthropy and community activism, Joyner has led national awareness campaigns on voter registration laws, family/health initiatives, and minority discrimination.

Brother Joyner created the Tom Joyner Foundation to help keep students in historically black colleges and universities. Since its inception, his foundation has raised more than \$60 million.



## Selected As Minority Access National Role Model

# FULBRIGHT FACULTY BRO. DR. ADAMS HONORED



Omega's Paul Adams, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in the University of Arkansas' Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was named a Minority Access National Role Model in September 2019.

The goals of Minority Access Inc are to draw attention, recognize and honor role models to "inspire others to emulate them, and thereby increase the pool of scholars and professionals who will find cures for illnesses or solve technological problems or address social disparities."

Brother Dr. Adams was recommended for nomination by professor Wes Stites, former chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, who noted that Dr. Adams was an obvious candidate for such an award because of his tremendous scholarship and extensive mentorship.

Since his arrival to the University of Arkansas (UA), Adams has excelled as an advisor and mentor for over 70 graduate, undergraduate and honors students, many of whom came from historically underrepresented or low-income communities.

Dr. Adams, who also teaches in the UA's interdisciplinary cellular and molecular biology program, earned a B.S. in biochemistry from Louisiana

State University, and a Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from Case Western Reserve University.

Dr. Adams' research and scholarly activities have garnered more than \$3 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Foundation.

The many honors and awards he has received include: the Dr. Nudie L. Williams Outstanding Faculty Award for Diversity from the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences (2010); the Presidential Award for Excellence in STEM Research and Mentoring from the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCHE) (2013); and, the Northwest Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus Lifetime Achievement Award for service to the field of education and the community (2015).

Since 2017, Adams has served as principal investigator of an NSF grant that funded the Path to Graduation program for talented high school students from underrepresented populations to help them thrive and succeed at the university.

# Bro. Harris Earns A Star

In the Summer of 2019, United States Army Colonel Shawn Harris of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. The military ceremony was held at Clay National Guard Center's Force Headquarters in Marietta, GA.

Immediately after his promotion, Brigadier General Harris was deployed to Kosovo as the Chief of Staff of Kosovo Forces and will remain in Kosovo for one year. In this assignment, General Harris will serve as the highest ranking American on the ground and will serve as the Chief and Executive Coordinating Officer of a large multi-national headquarters.

He will be responsible for the leadership and management of military staff from 28 different nations. Brig. Gen. Harris will also be responsible for establishing and maintaining liaison with the United Nations' mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), NATO Headquarters in Tirana (Albania) and HQ JFC Naples.

Prior to his appointment as Brigadier General, Harris was charged with managing the day-to-day operations of the Virgin Islands National Guard (VING), as well as serving as the Joint Chief of Staff for the Virgin Islands National Guard. He facilitated programs and directives for the Adjutant General and coordinated efforts throughout the organization. In addition, Harris had direct oversight of the directorate staff and programs that included



functions related to personnel, operations, logistics, facilities, communications, and strategic planning. He also served as the Brigadier Commander of the 63rd Troop Command and was responsible for over 2,400 personnel and their corresponding families.

Bro. Harris hails from Blakely, Georgia and began his military career in 1984 by attending Boot Camp with the United States Marine Corps (USMC). Four years later, he enrolled in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. He graduated as a Second Lieutenant with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education with a minor in Military Science. Later, he went on to attend the Command and Special Staff College, Counterinsurgency Leaders Course and Combat Advisor/Mentor Program. Bro. Harris earned a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Grand Valley State University and later was selected to attend the United States Army War College where he earned a Master of Strategic Studies. He later studied at Harvard University where he received training in Leadership

in Homeland Security.

Brother Shawn Harris is married to Dr. Karla Harris. They have five sons, two grandsons and two granddaughters. Brother General Harris is a member of the Tenth District's Iota Pi Chapter located in Grand Rapids, MI. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Iota Omega Chapter in 1990.

## Theta Tau Honors Brother Dr. Jairrels

Recently, Brother Dr. Clarence Jairrels was honored by his chapter, Theta Tau, for his 70-years of service to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The dedication service was held at 17th Street Missionary Baptist Church in Anniston, Alabama.

The City of Anniston was the site where in 1961, several civil rights activists known as Freedom Riders were violently attacked and their bus was set on fire. Brother Jairrels with several other Omega men from Theta Tau stood in the forefront of civil rights activities in Anniston during the 1960s.

Dr. Jairrels was one of the charter members of Theta Tau Chapter in March 1959. Recently, the chapter was instrumental in erecting a historical marker in Anniston where the Freedom Riders were attacked and burned on Mother's Day, May 14, 1961.

Brother Clarence Jairrels was initiated into the Fraternity on March 4, 1948 through Gamma Sigma Chapter on the campus of Alabama State University. He is the only remaining charter member of the chapter.



# THE THREE GEORGES OF ZETA OMEGA

On a warm late summer Saturday afternoon, several Brothers of Zeta Omega Chapter gathered at the chapter house in Cleveland, Ohio. They are there to witness history in the making. As Brothers arrived, they immediately begin to greet the most senior Brothers in their ranks. Three Brothers came to share in a conversation about their lives and their service to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



PHOTOGRAPH: Zeta Omega's legends (L to R) Brothers George Whitehead, George Purefoy and George Waller.

Whitehead was among 12 members of the Lampados Club in 1940. He was elected the line's President. After one year, George did not have the \$22 initiation fee, which he reminds Brothers was a lot of money at that time. So after the line went over in 1941, without him, he persevered and continued

as the President of the Lampados Club for a second year; by then he had saved enough money for his fee and was finally initiated into Omega through Iota Psi Chapter in 1942. He was drafted into the Army, but returned to school after World War II. One of his fond memories was serving as the Dean of Pledges. As the dean, there were 50 members of the Lampados Club in 1946.

Having grown up during the Depression era, George Purefoy followed other student athletes from his hometown in Rankin, PA to Virginia Union. He too attended smokers for all the fraternities on campus and narrowed his options down to Kappa and Omega. He said the fellows he bonded with the most were Omegas, so that was his final choice.

When he entered the Lampados Club, there were a total of seven on his line. One of his line brothers was a religion major who was blind.

Their big brothers made no exceptions for him and also made sure that he was held to the same standards as the rest of his line brothers who were held responsible for him. Purefoy recalls his line in 1946 was the first one at Zeta Chapter after their big brothers had returned from service in World War II.

Purefoy said with a chuckle, that the Omegas return back to campus from service was something to behold. With a smile, Purefoy mentioned that he and his line brothers paid the price due to the return of several Omega members.

Once Purefoy became an Omega Man, his leadership skills were evident. Brother Purefoy was elected president of the National Panhellenic Council on Virginia Union's campus. One of the pastimes he relished the most from those days was after their chapter meeting when Brothers would go out on campus and serenade the girls in their dormitories with the Omega Sweetheart Song.

He also recalls one of his younger Zeta Chapter Brothers would enter government service and politics and become the nation's first elected African American Governor, Brother L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia. Upon graduation, Bro. George Purefoy began his graduate studies at Western Reserve University.

After the Waller family relocated from Selma, Alabama to Washington, D.C., George Waller grew up and attended, much to his surprise, segregated schools. Then, during his senior year in high school, his father moved the family again, this time to Cleveland, Ohio. There his father worked with his brother-in-law and George's uncle, W.O. Walker, who was the owner and publisher of the *Call & Post*, Cleveland's Black newspaper.

Once his family settled in Cleveland, George decided to attend Western Reserve University. There he saw the Alphas and the Kappas, but neither was really active on campus. He met an Omega by the name of Brother Cal Thomas, a founder of Phi Sigma Chapter, who would go on to become very active in the Fourth District. The District would name its

Annual Talent Hunt Competition in honor of Brother Cal Thomas. Brother Waller quickly took note that the Omegas' cumulative grade point average was always number one on campus, or at least within the top three. That accomplishment was impressive for him to join the Lampados Club in 1945. However, he was drafted shortly thereafter and left school for the United States Army. Once he had served his country, he returned to school, and the Lampados Club. Waller was initiated in December 1947. Brother Waller proudly wears the Omega Fraternity pin which once belonged to his uncle, Brother W.O. Waller.

Brother Waller fondly recalled the 1954 Grand Conclave hosted by Zeta Omega. At the conclave located in Cleveland, Brother Waller met Founder Dr. Oscar J. Cooper. Bro. Waller said Founder Cooper's comments 'just embodied all of the principles of Omega without even saying anything . . . it was just his presence. It gave Brothers a lift.'

The three stalwart brothers then began to reflect on their transition from graduating college, leaving undergraduate school behind, and relocating to Cleveland. Eventually each would become active in the local graduate chapter, Zeta Omega, which also is the oldest and largest chapter in the Fourth District.

Brother Purefoy was among the seven original signatories for Zeta Omega to purchase its house. Brother Purefoy joked that he told the Brothers who asked him to join them in signing for a chapter house, that might cause him to be put out of his own house. Brother Whitehead contributed \$500 toward the purchase of the house. His professional experience working for the State of Ohio Liquor Board would come in handy when

he helped acquire the state liquor license for the house. Zeta Omega was chartered in 1923, which means that Brother Whitehead, who was born in 1922, is actually one year older than the chapter.

*The Three Georges of Zeta Omega* reflect on lives well lived, including their service to Omega. They talk about how they came of age as young college men in the Lampados Club, where they learned to become men through the four Cardinal Principles.

Among their goals in life, one has been to help the downtrodden . . . in essence, to Uplift. When asked what they want to see Omega accomplish in its second century, the three legends noted that helping our communities achieve unity, togetherness, racial pride, self-respect, and self-discipline are very important. They also said that Omega "must continue to take leadership and getting people to turn out to vote . . . because we have seen what happens when we do not vote."

The three revered men of Omega say that we in the Fraternity must continue the Fraternity. They also added "a lot of organizations come and go, but Omega has been here a long time . . . it is up to the younger Brothers of today to keep Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. moving in the right direction."

Story by

Brother Damon Scott, Esq.

Zeta Omega Chapter's Public Relations Committee Co-Chair

Zeta Omega Chapter is blessed to have three Brothers on the roll who are at least 90 years old, and have at least 70-years in Omega. All three of the Omega men just so happened to be named George. Collectively, the three Georges have over 222 years of service to Omega.

Affectionately, they are known as "The Three Georges of Zeta Omega." During their time at the chapter's Fraternity house, "The Three Georges" reflected on their years in the Lampados Club, in the Fraternity, and on their careers.

**Brother George Waller, 1947, Phi Sigma, Western Reserve University**, is 92 years old and has been a member of Omega Psi Phi for 72 years. **Brother George Purefoy, 1946, Zeta, Virginia Union University**, also is 92 years old and was initiated 73 years ago.

**Brother George Whitehead, 1942, Iota Psi, Ohio State University**, is 97 years young after crossing those burning sands more than 77 years ago. He is the oldest living brother in the Fourth District. In his freshman year at Ohio State, 18-year-old Brother Whitehead decided to attend the smokers for the Alphas, the Kappas, and the Omegas. Young George Whitehead was impressed with how the Omegas conducted themselves and decided to pledge Omega.



*CITADEL CADET WORK WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES*

# DAYS STARTS MISSION WORK



*Brother David Days shares his arms and laughter with children from a community in Rwanda.*

**B**rother David Days is the son of Jamaican immigrants. His family came to America and struggled, but they overcame. Today, Brother Days is an undergraduate student and cadet at the Citadel.

The school established 1842 is a public college in Charleton, SC. The institution is also a military college referred to as The Citadel or the Military College of South Carolina. Because the school does not have an Omega chapter, Days was initiated

through Mu Alpha Graduate Chapter.

Last year, Brother Days completed two international missions. Days traveled to Rwanda, an east-central African country. as a member of the Charleston Wesley Foundation. Although Rwanda experienced widespread hate culminating with genocide in 1994, today the nation is moving toward greater reconciliation and unified humanity. While there Brother Days served by working with local organizations designed to combat poverty, disability and

malnutrition, especially among women and children who are living in impoverished communities.

Brother Days and his group led a Bible School in the neighboring area of the capital, Kigali. He also witnessed the remarkable reconciliations Rwanda people had since the 1994 genocide.

In Ecuador, Days constructed additional properties for several churches and schools across the Amazon and mountain region. The service was important because it helped to meet the physical and spiritual needs of families.

## TAU PSI CHAPTER'S OMEGA MEN FEATURED IN NCAA PUBLICATION

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Brothers Nick Leverett and Jaquell Taylor, both graduating student-athletes from North Carolina Central University (NCCU), were recently featured on the cover of the Summer 2019 edition of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championship Magazine.

Brothers Taylor and Leverett both outstanding football players graduated from NCCU in May 2019. Brother Taylor is in a management trainee program, and Brother Leverett is a graduate student at Rice University.

# GAMMA CHAPTER HISTORY

### BROTHER WILEY A. BRANTON (1923-1988) *Initiated into Gamma Chapter in 1936*

Brother Branton, a prominent attorney and civil rights activists, was an advocate of voting rights for all Americans. He achieved national prominence as the chief counsel for the "Little Rock Nine" in the 1957 Desegregation Case. He was the first Executive Director of the Southern Regional Council's Voter Education Project. The project was a cooperative effort that registered over 600,000 Black voter in 11 states and helped create the momentum for the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Branton also represented "Freedom Riders" in Mississippi and Blacks engaged in voter registration drives throughout the South. Bro. Branton served as the Dean of Howard University's School of Law from 1978-1983.

### BROTHER BENJAMIN E. MAYS (1894-1984) *Initiated into Gamma Chapter in 1919*

Brother Mays was born in Epworth, SC. His parents were slaves. Mays received his BA from Bates College in 1920. He later earned graduate degrees (MA, 1925) and the (Ph.D., 1935) from the University of Chicago. In 1934. Mays became Howard University's Dean at the School of Religion. Brother Mays was a central figure in the National Urban League, the NAACP, and the World Council of Churches. Mays is best-known as the President of Morehouse College where he greatly influenced student Martin Luther King, Jr.

### BROTHER HERBERT E, TUCKER, JR. (1915-2007) *Initiated into Gamma Chapter in 1936*

Brother Tucker established the first Black law firm in Massachusetts. Tucker was president of the Boston NAACP. He was also named Massachusetts' Assistant Attorney General. Brother Tucker worked with Boston's Freedom House and many other organizations. Tucker was an advisor to President John F. Kennedy. He also became a judge to the Dorchester Municipal Center and the Edgartown District Court. He was the Fraternity's 23rd Grand Basileus (1955-1958).

Information for this report was obtained from Bro. Carl Blunt's books "Omega Men of Distinction," and "Distinguished Omegas in Civil Rights." Brother Blunt was a former First Vice Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

**G**amma Chapter, the third chapter established by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was chartered in 1916 as a citywide Intermediate Chapter within the First District (New England Region). Its membership comprises college-educated men from various educational institutions throughout the city of Boston; these institutions include, but are not limited to: Boston University, Boston College, Emerson College, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), Northeastern University, Tufts University, and UMass-Boston.

Both undergraduate and graduate school programs are represented. Members of this prestigious organization have been influential at the national level as well as the local Boston metropolitan level. They have had a major impact and received widespread recognition across various industries and sectors of our society. "Gamma Brothers" are revered and respected for leadership in their chosen fields of endeavor and professions.

One of Omega's original Founders, Bishop Edgar A. Love, received his Bachelor of Sacred Theology from Boston University in 1918. Benjamin E. Mays who was a lecturer, writer, and president of Morehouse College, was made at Gamma Chapter June 5, 1919. The late Grand Basileus, Herbert E. Tucker who hailed from Martha's Vineyard, was a Circuit Court Judge. George S. Lima (Gamma'46), a Tuskegee Airman whose (military) roommate was Coleman Young (Ex-Mayor of Detroit), was a sparring partner to Joe Louis, and founder of The Black Air Foundation. He later established a chapter at Brown University in 1947. Wayne A. Budd (Gamma'60) was a former Federal District Attorney, Senior Corporate Executive, and Boston College Trustee. Richard L. Taylor (Gamma'68), a Boston University alum was also an Oxford educated Rhodes Scholar, a former Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation, and now a successful real estate developer and entrepreneur. As a chapter established for undergraduate students and recent college graduates, Gamma Chapter has often become a "pipeline of leadership talent" which has migrated into the formal membership of Iota Chi or Eta Phi Graduate Chapters.



## Mu Omega Chapter Events

Over 2000 flags placed on veteran graves



**M**u Omega's QueVets and other chapter members helped place more than 2,000 American flags on the graves of fallen veterans in May 2019.

QueVets Chairman Brother David Benson said "we were proud to plant flags on the graves of the Army colored troops who fought in the Civil War and trained at Camp William Penn. Their graves rest at the Philadelphia National Cemetery near Camp Penn."

**PHOTOGRAPH-** Brother Bill Harris, 97, and a World War II veteran holds several American flags to be placed on graves at the Philadelphia National Cemetery.

In June 2019, chapter held their Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive at the Mu Omega Fraternity House in Philadelphia.

Over 15 pints of blood were donated during the Nationally Mandated Program event.

## Pi Omega Holds Health Festival Day

**O**n June 15, 2019, Pi Omega held its 10th Annual "Staying Alive Health Festival and Community Day" at Matthew A. Henson Elementary School.

The school is adjacent to the Pi Omega Fraternity Center in the heart of the Baltimore African American community. One of the objectives of the health fair was to disseminate life-saving information to a large population of the community.

This year's health festival featured sponsorship from the Chesapeake Urology Associates; Pi Omega Foundation; Maryland Employees Credit Union; Coppin Heights Development Corporation and BES Technology, Inc.

The screenings included blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, as well as prostate disease (digital/PSA).

Each man that had a prostate screening received a bag of groceries. In addition, representatives from the City of Baltimore's Office of the Mayor's Employment Division provided job opportunities.

Some of the results of the health fair were: 64 screenings and recommended follow ups were made for blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes.

There were 20 dental screenings and recommended follow ups. There were 27 men screened for prostate disease of that number, there were 5 abnormal Digital Rectal Exams (10%) and 4 elevated Prostate Specific Antigen (normal is 4).

The chapter also participates in the Henson School's reading program and the members sponsor several field trips during the school year.



## Gamma Pi's Bro. Foy Helps Three Daughters Obtain Scholarships

**O**ne of the enduring stories about scholarship at Gamma Pi Chapter is how three young ladies attended Tennessee State University (TSU) on full scholarships thanks to a chapter member who is a TSU graduate.

Shayla Simmons, Kirsten Beverly and Victoria Gourdin are the daughters of Gamma Pi members Bro. Rodney Beverly (Zeta Omicron '90); Bro. Tommie Boone (Gamma Pi '11) and Bro. Terry Gourdin (Gamma Pi '11).

All three young ladies were directed to TSU by Gamma Pi's Bro. Harrison Foy, DVM (Rho Psi '67), an alumnus who worked through his personal friend President Glenda Glover to arrange for the scholarships. President Glover's husband is a member of the Fraternity and was also initiated at Tennessee State (Rho Psi).

"I am so proud of these young ladies. I plugged them into a template from my daughter, Dr. Mari-Ashli Foy and my goddaughter Myah Lipscomb, both honor students while attending TSU on full ride scholarships," said Bro. Dr. Foy. He also added that Trinity Gourdin, sister of Victoria Gourdin will be attending Tennessee State on a full ride scholarship.

## OTHER GAMMA PI ACTIVITIES

The senior residents of the Capitol Heights area look forward to seeing the Brothers of Gamma Pi in the fellowship hall at Gethsemane United Methodist Church. That can only mean one thing – it is time for the Annual Seniors Banquet. On June 8th, the Brothers attended the banquet, making this year's event one of the biggest and most successful ever.

The seniors arrived in cars, buses and vans, some clutching walkers or the arms of relatives as they are dropped off. They all move slowly, but they eagerly make their way into the fellowship hall. The staggered entrance of seniors is like a parade.

There were almost more people than seats as more than 100 seniors crowded the hall for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship. With an array of interactive trivia and other games, a hearty meal cooked in the on-site ovens, and musical entertainment from the Gamma Pi Chorale singing spiritual selections was a big hit. The event was topped off by a sermon. This banquet turned out to be an event to remember.

During the program, seniors remained active and engaged thanks to Bro. Bleu Colquitt, who served as emcee. Whether it was jokes, humorous observations or trading friendly barbs with the audience, he brought the party to life.

## Chapters Honor Judge

**L**ambda Upsilon and Nu Beta Beta Chapters participated in recognizing the Honorable Brother Judge James Y. Young of Nu Beta Beta. He was recently honored for his lifelong leadership and public service. Young attended Lincoln University and earned his Masters of Science from Pace University. He began his career as a teacher in the Englewood, N.J. school system before becoming a principal.

He was very active with youth as he coached various youth sports teams. Bro. Young decided to pursue a Juris Doctor from St. Johns University School of Law. After law school he was appointed as a Teaneck Municipal Court Judge. Brother Young is now retired and resides in Teaneck, New Jersey with his wife.





## Chapter Supports ReStore Program

**T**he Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Kappa Iota Iota Chapter are based in the Fraternity's Third District. On March 9, 2019, the Newport News, VA area chapter provided their support for the Habitat for Humanity ReStore Program.

Kappa Iota Iota's chapter members put their knowledge and skills together as they unloaded trucks, stocked store shelves, and repaired furniture. Other duties in which the chapter performed included metal scrap recycling and organizing the ReStore warehouse areas.

The ReStore is a home improvement store that sells furniture, and other home items at a discount rate. Generally, the ReStore provides a variety of items such as paint, wallpaper, and doors for do-it-yourself handymen.



## Third District Omegas Donate 20K to St. Jude

**T**he Third District of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., which comprises the Virginia and the Washington, D.C., areas, announced that it has concluded its 2019 St. Jude Children's Hospital fundraising campaign to support research and development for children's diseases and cancer.

Third District Representative Brother Kevin Brown proclaimed the St. Jude Game Day's Project Give Back, a big success. Project Give Back was a major success with the 43 chapters throughout the Virginia and DC area combining to donate \$20,729.

Brother Brown, who is the leader and spokesperson for the Fraternity in the Virginia and Washington, D.C., region gave thanks to his membership and acknowledged their hard work and sacrifice. He also wanted to give thanks to those persons not affiliated with the Fraternity but contributed to the campaign.

Bro. Brown expressed his appreciation for their support for this project and all of the philanthropic work of the Third District and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Brown also gave special recognition and thanks to Brothers Harvey L. Woodson, Jr., (Manassas Park-Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter), the Social Action Chairman, and Jeffrey Tarpley (Richmond- Upsilon Nu Chapter) the sub-Committee Chairman for the St. Jude Game Day's Project Give Back.

All of the funds donated will support the children and families currently being treated at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. St. Jude has a phenomenal 80% cure rate for childhood cancer. About 40% of the children treated at the facility are African American.



## Chapter Cleans Area

**K**appa Psi Chapter performed its Adopt-A-Block Clean Up Program in March 2019. Brothers gathered for morning fellowship as they volunteered in improving the appearance of the chapter's adopted block.

While volunteering, the chapter Brothers were able to engage with local neighbors. The mentees from the Kappa Psi's D.C. Rhinos, the chapter's mentorship program, were able to provide assistance.





# Zeta Omega Works to Stop Domestic and Teen Dating Violence



Zeta Omega's KRS Brother Kendric Jackson (center) mentors young boys at the "In Your Feelings? Teen Dating Summit" program held in Cleveland, OH.

In response to a tragic domestic violence incident that involved two prominent members of the Divine Nine family, members of the Greater Cleveland Chapter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council banded together to address both domestic violence and teen dating violence. This action took place in a series of three events that began in late 2018.

In December 2018, the Men of the Divine Nine (Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Iota Phi Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, and Omega Psi Phi) came together to confront domestic violence. A panel discussion, followed by a question and answer session, was organized to bring not only awareness to this issue, but also to provide education and resources that will benefit the community at large. The panel was comprised of

individuals who brought a unique perspective to domestic violence and who offered a wealth of information. Panelists, three of whom are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha, included two local judges, a former law enforcement officer, a licensed counselor, a local minister, and a representative from the Cleveland Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center (DVCAC).

The discussion was moderated by Zeta Omega Brother Ben Holbert (80 Psi Gamma), who is also the recently elected mayor of Cleveland suburban Woodmere Village.

He was joined by a member of Delta Sigma Theta who served as co-moderator. Several Zeta Omega brothers were present in the audience and participated in the question and answer session.

American Sign Language (ASL), as well as Spanish speaking interpreters, were available to ensure a broad range of attendees were able to receive the information. The venue for the program was the Cuyahoga Community College, Metro Campus Theater in downtown Cleveland; it was sponsored and supported by the Black American Council of Cuyahoga Community College. Approximately 150 members of the Greater Cleveland area attended.

Secondly, the Brothers of Zeta Omega Chapter partnered with the Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta (CGAC/DST) in co-hosting "In Your Feelings? Teen Dating Violence Prevention Summit." The event was held on February 2, 2019, to kick off Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

In order to address this very sensitive topic, CGAC/DST sponsored this informative summit to provide education and to begin a conversation with our youth. The event was designed to connect with both teenage girls and boys, as well as preteens.

In the spirit of bridge building, Zeta Omega invited the brothers of Phi Sigma Chapter (Case Western Reserve University) and Phi Theta Chapter (Cleveland State University) to join them in the summit. A total of 15 Men of Omega participated and facilitated breakout sessions for the boys and young men in attendance.

After the youth shared a continental breakfast, they heard welcoming remarks from representatives of Delta and Omega, as well as local elected officials from

the Ohio House of Representatives. The students and adults then discussed a teen movie entitled, "No One Would Tell." It chronicles the real life account of a 16-year old high school student who became very possessive and abusive toward his 14-year old girlfriend, whom he eventually murdered. The tragic story was the catalyst for smaller breakout group discussions about what a loving relationship looks like, as well as the characteristics of being a young lady and a gentleman.

A total of 84 youth, 27 boys and 57 girls, ages 10-18, in addition to 40 parents, participated in the day's activities. Among the Zeta Omega Brothers who volunteered their time were Brother Ronald Adrine (67 Eta Psi), recently retired Administrative Judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court, as well as Brother Terrance Mitchell (17 Zeta Omega), principal of Cleveland's Valley View Boys Leadership Academy, who impressed the youth with his talk.

Zeta Omega's work in promoting awareness of and education about domestic and teen dating violence culminated in the final event which took place three days after the teen summit. On February 5, 2019, the Men of Omega again partnered with other men of the Divine Nine to record a non-violence pledge for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. The collaborative work that the Divine Nine did with the Cleveland Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center (DVCAC) on the December panel discussion led to the idea of African American men taking a pledge of non-violence.

Story by  
Bro. Damon Scott, Esq., and  
Bro. Dell Robinson,  
Zeta Omega's Co-Chairs, Public  
Relations Committee



Brother Damon Scott shows young men the art of tying a tie at Patrick Henry School.

## Chapter Part Of 1000 Ties Program Mentoring Young Men

The Brothers of Zeta Omega became involved in the 1000 Ties Program through the efforts of Brother Jermel Carr who served as the chapter liaison in connection with the program.

Brothers went to the school and met with sixth, seventh, and eighth grade young men. Each grade was divided into two groups of approximately eight students, and two brothers were assigned to each group.

Chapter members mentored the young men on various topics including making a good first impression with personal introductions; properly shaking hands with a firm grip while making eye contact; body language, and effective dialogue. The session also included lessons on self-discipline; self-respect and respecting parents,

teachers, and adults. The mentees also were taught how to appropriately dress for both business and casual situations and business etiquette. The final two sessions included teaching the young men how to properly tie a tie and the various types of knots.

The program was spearheaded by an organization known as Getting Our Babies to College 101 (GOBTC). GOBTC also offers interactive workshops and individual consultations to families and students to help them to start preparing in middle school for post-secondary education.

These workshops are conducted for parents to get a hands-on experience with navigating various resources. The organization also teaches student athletes how to be academically prepared to play college sports.



# Epsilon Phi Participates in Walk

## Chapter Works Within Memphis Community

Omega's Epsilon Phi Chapter participated in the West Tennessee Kidney Walk held in June 2019. The event was held on the campus of Rhodes College, a private liberal arts school in Memphis.

The chapter walked in support of fellow chapter Brothers Earnest Weathersby and Travis Smith. The two members are kidney dialysis patients listed on the area kidney transplant roster. The one-mile walk helped to raise nearly \$50,000 in support of the National Kidney Foundation. The effort also focused on the education, organ donation and the prevention of kidney disease.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the local Memphis chapters were recognized by the Memphis Kidney Foundation for the consistent participation and support of the Kidney Walk throughout the years.

The Kidney Walk is the nation's largest walk to fight kidney disease. Held in nearly 100 communities, the event also raises awareness and funds for lifesaving programs that support patients, their families and those at risk.

The National Kidney Foundation also supports kidney health year-round. The walks are a vital source of support as they provide real-time assistance for those in need. Eighty cents of every dollar donated goes to research, patient services, public health education and community services.



On June 14th, the chapter, in conjunction with the Commission on Aging of the Mid-South solicited funds from the citizens of Memphis to purchase fans for elderly residents. In the summer of 1998, the City of Memphis experienced a rash of heat-related deaths in the elderly community.

Brothers Joel Weathers and Commodore Primous presented to the Brotherhood a plan to raise money for the sole purpose of purchasing fans that would be given to the senior citizens. The effort provided relief for seniors that faced

the summer's heat.

This year, WHBQ Fox 13 TV News provided coverage of this event during the early morning, mid-morning, and evening newscasts. In addition, the Mid-South Commission on Aging provided two employees from their office to assist Epsilon Phi Chapter.

Each chapter Brother was asked to donate one box fan for the Fan-A-Thon. This year, the chapter's Fan-A-Thon event was able to collect enough donations to purchase 400 fans.

# Theta Iota Opens New Center

In Jackson, Tennessee, Theta Iota Chapter opened its new community center, The Omega House, in March 2019. During the ceremony, the Omega House was dedicated to Brother Paul Thacker (1952-2017). Bro Thacker's family attended the special ceremony. The facility will be an uplift to the Jackson community.

The chapter will have various programs for the youth including a baseball team, and academic tutoring. The center's other focus will include adult job and school assistance, food drives and a station for vote registration. The community is aware of the chapter's presence from the mentoring, turkey give away, scholarships, and events hosted at the neighborhood's Jackson Career and Technology Middle School and Isaac Lane Elementary School.

Brother Dwight Jones, the chapter's Basileus, said, "the excitement is not only shared by the residents, but shared by the Brothers in the Fraternity. We are living and sharing our Cardinal Principles with the young and old in this community. We are truly blessed." Chalondra Fuller, a parent, also said that she is excited about the chapter's community center. "There's a need for positive male role models in this community," added Fuller.



# Chapter Celebrates 50th Year of Service

In April 2019, 117 Brothers of the Gamma Theta Chapter celebrated a half-century of service on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY.

It was July 3, 1969 that Gamma Theta was chartered, becoming one of the first African American Greek Letter organizations established at a predominately white southern institution. This year's anniversary celebration was an opportunity for Brothers to reflect and listen to the trials and tribulations the Brothers faced in establishing the chapter during the Civil Rights era.

The anniversary festivities began on April 26th with a golf-outing, followed by leisure time at Bowling Green Pipe & Cigar. Later that evening, Brothers gathered at the Garvin House for fellowship, food and beverage. A wide range of Gamma Theta Brothers were represented, from the most recently initiated Brothers "3 Unsullied Souls, 2017" to "The Tenacious 12, 1968." On Saturday morning, brothers made their way up the hill to Van Meter Auditorium for chapter photos. It was important that Brothers had something tangible to take home.

**PICTURED BELOW**  
*Gamma Theta Chapter*



# Bro. Boykin Becomes An Attorney



On May 10, 2019, United States Army Lieutenant Colonel Brother Michael A. Boykin took the oath as a North Carolina attorney. Brother Michael R. Morgan, North Carolina's Supreme Court Justice, administered the oath while Bro. Boykin's spouse, Sherri Jackson Boykin held the family Bible.

Becoming an attorney was always something Boykin wanted to do from an early age. Prior to graduating high school, Boykin joined the North Carolina Army National Guard and served with the 30th Infantry Brigade as a personnel management specialist. He went on to attend North Carolina State University (NCSU) and was initiated into the Kappa Lambda Chapter on March 21, 1992.

Boykin graduated NCSU in May 1995 with a bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in criminal justice. He wanted to attend law school upon graduation,

but decided to enter the workforce full-time.

In 2003, the 30th Infantry Brigade was activated for a tour of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF III) and Brother Boykin deployed with the unit as a logistics officer with the rank of Captain. After returning from deployment in March 2005, he began working on a master's degree in business administration with Strayer University. He also began working at North Carolina State University as a human resources consultant in July 2005.

Later in 2011, Boykin was deployed to Kuwait to support the US withdrawal of troops in Iraq. Boykin was deployed as a Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor which was responsible for enforcing measures to promote fairness and equity among leaders and soldiers within the unit. In this role, he worked closely with commanders and military lawyers. Needless to say, his role in interpreting policies, holding leaders and soldiers accountable for their

actions, and working with military lawyers reignited his interest in the law.

After being released from active duty in 2013, Boykin enrolled into North Carolina Central University's School of Law. While there, he entered a dual-degree program that allowed him to obtain a Master's in Library Science and a law degree. Brother Boykin graduated from the North Carolina Central University School of Law and the School of Library and Information Sciences in May 2018.

Boykin is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army Reserves with over 30 years of service as a citizen-soldier. As a civilian, he works at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill as a business analyst.

Bro. Boykin plans to focus on helping disabled veterans with disability claims, estate planning, and general legal consulting for his law practice. He passed the North Carolina Bar Exam in February 2019.

Brother Boykin is also the chapter advisor for Kappa Lambda and has held that role since 1997. He has held leadership positions on the chapter and district levels. On the International level, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Brother Michael A. Boykin has served as an At-Large Director for the Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc. from 2010-2016. Bro. Boykin also served as the International Editor of *The Oracle* from 2010-2014.

# Brother Smiley Named National Coach of the Year

There aren't too many better endings a coach could have than coaching a national champion in his last meet, but that's what retiring Spartanburg High Track Coach Glover L. Smiley accomplished. One of Coach Smiley's athletes, Brandon Hicklin, had the winning long jump of 24 feet, 5 inches. Smiley received the "Michael Byrnes Coach of the Year Award."



Coach Smiley started at Spartanburg in 1990 and became the Vikings' boys and girls coach in 1993. He acquired 807 victories with just 58 losses. He received dozens of county, regional and individual titles. He won more than a dozen local and regional Coaches of the Year honors and was inducted into the South Carolina Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010.

At his highest level, Smiley coached 45 All-American and five national champs. Steve Smith was his first national champ at Spartanburg, winning the first NSAF outdoor nationals in California in 1991. Then Kemesha Whitmire claimed long jump titles in her sophomore and senior years of 2000 and 2002. Hicklin is now a student at North Carolina A&T State University, won the 4th and 5th crowns under Smiley in 2017 and 2018.

"I've always had an attitude as a coach that everyone deserves a chance," he said. Much of Smiley's coaching success came from the numbers of athletes he placed on his teams. "I never cut anyone. Everyone deserves a chance," added Coach Smiley.

Brother Smiley didn't embrace track and field until he attended West Virginia State on a football scholarship. Brother Smiley was initiated into Omega through Theta Psi Chapter at West Virginia State. Smiley also holds a Masters degree from West Virginia University, and an Ed.S. from the University of South Carolina. Brother Smiley is member of Epsilon Nu Chapter.

# Omega's Byron Putman Alumni President

Having served Winthrop University's alumni community for seven years, Brother Byron Putman, class of 1994, is now marking a historic milestone as the first black president of the alumni executive board. "It is truly an honor to be elected the president of the alumni board and very humbling to be the first Black president of the council," Putman said. He believes a diverse executive board is



critical in helping alumni leaders become more aware of and better equipped to tackle sensitive issues. "The diversity of our leadership gives us a broader knowledge base to hopefully make great decisions," commented Putman.

Over the past two years, he has served in this role. As president of the alumni executive board and Winthrop University Alumni Association, Putman has the unique opportunity to act as a champion for fellow alumni and further engage a network of 60,000 Winthrop graduates. "I see it as an opportunity to extend an invitation to come home to any of our alumni who may have been detached from Winthrop," he said. Putman wants to emphasize to alumni that engagement with the university can manifest itself in a number of ways. Whether it's financial donations, hiring Winthrop graduates, giving students internship opportunities and or joining a board; we need for all alumni to interact with the university.

Bro. Putman graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication. As a student at Winthrop, he was a member of the Dinkins Student Union, the Resident Students' Association, The Johnsonian, the radio station and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. He is now a producer for the Carolina Panthers Radio Network. He and his wife Chisa, class of 2003 reside in Rock Hill, SC with their three children.





## Eta Nu Chapter Serves Community

In honor of Eta Nu's 50 years of service to the Pompano Beach, Florida community, the chapter held a series of events that began on June 9th. Omega's 41st Grand Basileus Bro. Dr. David Marion joined members of Eta Nu during their week-long celebration.

On May 11, 2019, the chapter focused on mental health and wellness as a part of the "Brother You're On My Mind" initiative. The day-long sessions covered a variety of critical topics including depression, suicide, and physical stress. Other sessions featured the importance of seeking professional mental health counseling, and the myths of Black male mental challenges.

One of the chapter's major accomplishments was the grand opening ceremony of the new Eta Nu Education Center. Since the opening in December 2016, the chapter has welcomed an estimated 12,000 visitors to the center. The new facility has hosted a variety of free educational training workshops and community informational sessions. Bro. James L. Jones, one of the chapter's Founders performed the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

The new building is located on the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Northwest 10th Avenue in Pompano Beach, Florida.

**Sigma Alpha Chapter** rents its facility, the Omega Activity Center as a site that hosts religious and social events in the Miami Garden, Florida community. The center features three elegant banquet rooms. Bro. Audley Coakley laughs at a joke at the Omega Activity Center. The center also hosts chapter meetings, educational and Omega social events. Oracle/MB



## Mu Mu Mu Chapter Hosts Fatherhood Initiative Forum

With an air of excitement and optimism, Mu Mu Mu Chapter hosted its Inaugural Fatherhood Initiative Forum. This year's theme, "Building A Better Community One Father At A Time" framed the day with a panel discussion on the importance of African American fatherhood.

The forum was moderated by the Mayor of Douglasville, GA, Rochelle Robinson. The mayor highlighted the importance of providing a viable support system for fathers. Some of the other topics covered including: Single and Married Fatherhood, When the Criminal Justice System Intersects With Fatherhood, Teaching Boys to Become Men: and How Mental and Medical Health Impact Fatherhood."

Brother Andra Brantley, Mu Mu Mu's Basileus said, "Our chapter has been overflowing with excitement since taking on this important task of equipping fathers to be good men.

There is no more important mission than actively supporting fathers in their effort to care for their families, children and themselves."

The June 2019 event was attended by Brother Earl Wilson, Omega's International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee Chair.

"This is where we have to begin. We must start in our chapters and communities because fathers are at risk," commented Brother Wilson.

He also added, "we have no other choice. This is what we must do."

## Chapter Supports Two Mentorship Youth

Sigma Phi's Manhood, Inc., sponsored two of their mentorship youth called the Omega Sparks to attend the Future Business Leaders of America Conference.

Sparks' president Andarious Porter and Aylon Gipson, the vice president were selected to participate in the conference held in San Antonio, TX.

Both young men have demonstrated excellent character since being a part of the mentoring program hosted by Sigma Phi. The co-chairmen

Brothers Robert Thomas and James Lovejoy were commended for their efforts with the young men.

The National Leadership Conference was organized by the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) in June 2019. The conference included high school, middle school and grammar school students. Omega Sparks' Porter was elected vice president of FBLA's Alabama youth division. Sparks' Gipson was awarded the journalism award for FBLA -Alabama's youth division.

## Chapters Involved in Their Communities

On a sizzling hot Saturday in Canton, Mississippi, Brothers from the Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter volunteered their time to the "Power Up" Youth Rally. The July 2019 event was held at Mount Zion Baptist Church and sponsored by the Madison County Baptist Association of Churches. The rally's moderator was Reverend Brother Otis Davis. The keynote speaker for the event was the former Miss Jackson State University, Ms. Cormelia Walker. The event was a spirit-filled day full of worship, fellowship and outdoor activities.

### PHI KAPPA KAPPA

The College Park, GA based chapter mentors grammar school boys weekly at the Conley Hills Elementary School. Several of the Brothers are very involved with third to fifth grade students.

The chapter is also using the Lexile Framework for reading in their mentorship program. The Lexile Framework is an educational tool that uses a measure to match readers with books, articles and other leveled reading resources. Readers and books are assigned a score on the Lexile scale, in which lower scores reflect easier readability for books and lower reading ability for readers.

The framework also uses quantitative methods, based on individual words and sentence lengths, rather than qualitative analysis of content to produce scores. The chapter program runs year around during the school year.

Story by Brother Marc Styles  
Chapter Editor





Bro. Larry Burks, the 28th Eighth District Representative (left) with Omega Psi Phi's Executive Director Bro. Kenneth Barnes (center) and Bro. James R. Ball, the 33rd Eighth District Representative. They hold a smaller version of the mural that featured Omega men at work during the Brown v. Board of Education legislation during the mid 1950s.

## Omega Tied to Historical Mural

On May 18, 1954 the United States Supreme Court reversed the separate but equal ruling commonly known as the Brown v. Board of Education. This landmark civil rights decision was presented in an artistic mural that highlighted the story and struggle of equal educational opportunities for Black school children. The mural is painted on the 3rd floor of the Kansas State Capital Rotunda outside the old Kansas State Supreme Court Room in Topeka, KS.

In 2018, the Eighth District approved a recommendation submitted by former District Representative Larry Burks to contribute \$2,000 for completion of the mural. The mural was also approved by former Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson as part of an initiative by the Kansas State's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The Brown case featured the legal knowledge of lead attorney Thurgood Marshall and litigation team. Many members of Marshall's team included Omega's: William H. Hastie (Alpha Omega 12-27-49), James Nabrit Jr. (Alpha Omega 12-27-46), Leon Higginbotham (Rho Sigma 4-28-45), Spottswood Robinson (Phi Phi 11-9-49) and Oliver W. Hill (Alpha Chapter).

The Fraternity continues to seek projects which make an impactful contribution to the community, and the world. During the 70th Eighth District Meeting in Denver (2019), Grand Basileus Dr. David E. Marion and Executive Director Kenneth Barnes were presented with a framed and signed miniature version of the historical mural for placement into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's International Headquarters

# Omega's Draper Selected As Supreme Court Chief Justice

Judge George W. Draper became Missouri's New Supreme Court Chief Justice in July 2019. Judge Draper also became the state's second African American Chief Justice as he followed Judge Ronnie White who served from 2003 to 2005.

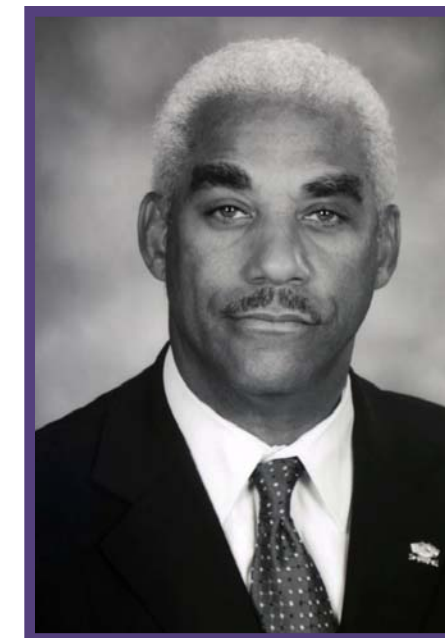
However, Draper was the first African American Chief Judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals for the Eastern District from 2004 to 2005. Draper, a St. Louis native, attended Hamilton Elementary School in St. Louis before his family moved to Silver Spring, Maryland, where he completed his education in the public-school system.

He received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Morehouse College in 1977.

Following the footsteps of his father and his wife, Judge Judy Draper, Brother Draper received his law degree in 1981 from Howard University in Washington, D.C. He then clerked for the Honorable Shellie Bowers of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Draper returned to St. Louis in 1984 as a prosecutor in the St. Louis circuit attorney's office. He was promoted to a team leader position in 1990 and to first assistant in 1993.

In July 1994, Draper was appointed as an associate circuit judge of the 21st Judicial Circuit (St. Louis County) by Governor Mel Carnahan. Four years later, Carnahan appointed Draper as a Circuit Judge for the 21st Judicial Circuit.



Brother Draper and his wife, a former St. Louis County associate circuit judge, live in St. Louis County and have one daughter, Chelsea Westin Draper, JD.LLM, who serves as deputy chief of staff to the St. Louis County prosecuting attorney.

In addition to his membership in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., he is also a member of Covenant Community Church. Since 1996, he also has served as an adjunct professor of law at Saint Louis University, where he teaches trial advocacy.

Brother Draper's term as Chief Supreme Court Justice will run through June 30, 2021.



Omega men from Beta Omega Chapter held their 2nd Annual "Ques in the Kitchen" event. The purpose of the Kansas City, MO activity honors outstanding women in the community.



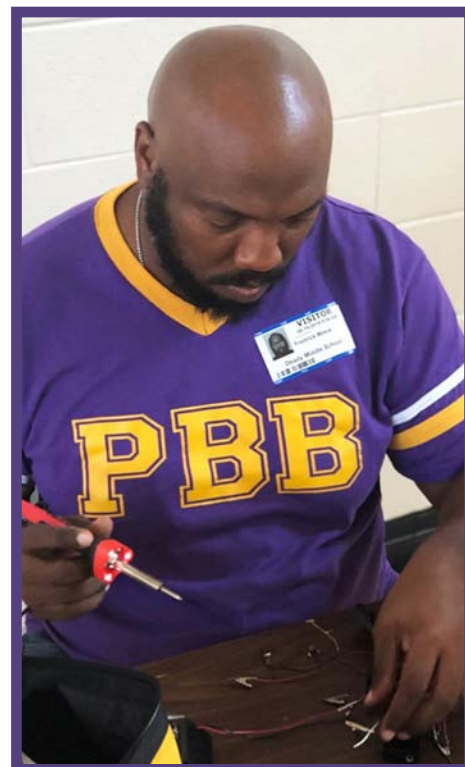


Omicron Lambda Lambda's Brother James Williams (foreground) providing golf lessons for students from Horace Mann Middle School. Bro. Williams and other Fraternity members of the Little Rock Chapter help students improve their golf techniques year around in the chapter's Caddy Program.

## CHAPTER PROMOTES STEM PROGRAMS

**R**ho Beta Beta Chapter sponsored a Solar Car Race in July 2019 at Deady Middle School. The chapter was also joined with representatives from Boeing, Microsoft and K. Davis Associates during the two-day event at the Houston, TX, school. The chapter also provided food for the students and their parents.

During the first day, 50 students received hands-on-experience building solar cars. The second day was reserved for the students to race their cars in friendly competition. "We showed students how solar cars work, and how to build them," said Brother Gary Robinson, the chapter's Social Action Chair.



In 2015, the Fraternity's leadership encouraged its chapters to get involved with promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs and activities. The Omega STEM Initiative provides students with opportunities to be introduced to STEM careers.

"Our programs are structured for middle school, high school, and college interaction. The programmatic career pathways will help students assemble the skills they need to prepare for jobs in coding, robotics, electronics and technology, energy and engineering," added Robinson.

Photograph (center)  
An Omega man working on a student Solar Car.

## QUE SELECTED AS MOST INFLUENTIAL FIGURE

**E**ach year The Root compiles a list of "The Root 100." This is a group of the 100 most influential African American figures in the culture. The list includes innovators and game changers that break barriers in the climate of vital current issues. In 2017, ahead of Beyonce, Colin Kaepernick, Kevin Durant, and Chadwick Boseman, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Brother S. Lee Merritt, was selected as the 8th most influential figure

Brother Merritt is a civil rights attorney who has worked with Brother Benjamin Crump, Omega's Grand Counselor on a few high profile cases. Merritt was recently highlighted in an article titled *When African Americans are killed by police, these lawyers get a call*. The article also focused on four attorneys who are the front line of issues concerning Black deaths at the hand of the police. Two of the four civil rights lawyers include Bro. Merritt and Bro. Crump. Brother Merritt, a Morehouse College graduate joined Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 2001 through Alpha Iota Iota Chapter in Dallas, TX.

Story by Brother Larry E. Johnson, II



## CHAPTERS PROVIDE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**O**n August 17, 2019, **RHO XI CHAPTER** conducted a clothing drive for their chapter's homeless outreach program called "Loaves and Fishes," located in Houston, TX.

**PSI ALPHA CHAPTER--** Over 85 youth enrolled in the chapter's Youth Leadership and Fatherhood Initiative Conference in March 2019. The theme of the conference was *"Creating Leaders and Developing Men."*

Also, in May 2019, Psi Alpha Chapter supported the annual Youth Fly-In at Stinson Regional Airport. The purpose of the Youth Fly-In was to provide minority youth an aviation experience and hands-on exposure to aviation

**THETA ALPHA CHAPTER--** In September nine Theta Alpha Brothers completed the first year in the chapter's mentoring program. The Brothers agreed to create a male mentoring program for sixth through eighth graders at the T.W. Browne Middle School in Dallas, TX. There were 13 young men selected by the school to participate in the program.

The Omega mentors included Brothers David Cole, Frank Drayton, Ernest Goode, Gaylord Gary, Charles Hickman, Royle King, Bobby Slade, Bernard Snowden and Billy J. Williams. The Omegas met every second and fourth Wednesday of each month until May 2019. They communicated the essential tools for developing good citizenship, self-discipline and respect. They discussed manhood qualifications and stressed the importance of education excellence.





## Omega's Steven McGhee Honored as a "Man of Excellence"

Recently, the Michigan Chronicle, a Detroit area Black newspaper, selected Brother Steven McGhee as one of the "2019 Men of Excellence" honorees.

McGhee was born into humble beginnings in Decatur, Alabama. McGhee moved with his family to Detroit where he attended the Detroit Public Schools (DPS). His father, a long-time educator in DPS for 40 years, instilled within young Steven the drive to be successful despite the odds.

Upon graduation from Henry Ford High School in Detroit in 1983, Brother McGhee returned home to attend Alabama A & M. University.

While at Alabama A & M, Brother McGhee was initiated into the Nu Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1985. Brother McGhee graduated from Alabama A & M with a dual degree in Printing Production, Management and Industrial Trade Education.

*Story continues on next page*

## Bro. Agboka Elected to LSU Board of Directors

Omicron Alpha Alpha Chapter's Brother Ofori Agboka was recently selected to Louisiana State University's National Board of Directors.

Brother Agboka is Executive Director of Human Resources for North America, Middle East, and North Africa at General Motors, leading regional efforts across the Sales, Marketing, and Operations for Chevrolet, Buick, and GMC; Customer Care & Aftersales; Global Connected Consumer; and MAVEN. Bro. Agboka holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from LSU and completed the GM Transformational Leadership Program from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Beginning with an internship in 1996 while a student at LSU in Baton Rouge, Ofori has built his entire career at GM, demonstrating strong professional loyalty. He quickly rose through the GM ranks, gaining valuable human resources and supervisory experience in a variety of positions in the corporate operations unit. By 2013, he was globetrotting again, moving to Zurich to assume the role of HR director for Chevrolet and Cadillac Europe.

In 2016 he was recognized as a 2016 Automotive News "Rising Star" for his increasingly influential efforts as a young executive leader, mentor and champion for organizational excellence.

*"Everyone isn't able to do what you do. Celebrate it, but don't be arrogant. Be responsible for your actions, and be wise in your decision making," said Brother Agboka. ]*

**Story by Bro. Emil Abner,  
Omicron Alpha Alpha**



Iota Chapter's Brother Melvin M. Slater, Sr., (left) presented student awards to three students from Chicago's Richard J. Oglesby Elementary School. The three students (left to right) include Mylanni Jones, the school's valedictorian; Precious Brown, the salutatorian and Ashanta Tinsey. Ms. Tinsey received the Most Improved Student Award.

## Omega Men Promote Student Achievement

In June 2019, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Brother Melvin M. Slater, Sr., a Chicago educator is committed to annually awarding gifts to students who gain a 3.0 GPA or above during their first semester of their high school career. Each year, Brother Slater donates monetary awards to the school's valedictorian, salutatorian, and the most improved student from the graduating class.

Brother Slater said that "if we don't invest in our Black children, why should others?" Iota Chapter's Slater has a long history of working with Richard J. Oglesby Elementary School. Slater and his chapter Brothers are supportive in providing the student's with mentoring and tutoring opportunities throughout the year.

**MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**--Omega's Kappa Phi Graduate Chapter hosted their "5th Annual Spelling Bee Competition" in May 2019. The event was held at Keefe Avenue. Over twenty students from the 3rd and 4th grade participated. Brother Marcel A. Clarke, the chair of the chapter activity, noted that "spelling bees are a long-running tradition that encourages students to develop their vocabulary and spelling skills." Brother Clarke also recalled that as a seventh grader he won the spelling bee, and he said "confidence gained from the experience lasted a lifetime."

*McGhee Story Continues From Previous Page*

Brother McGhee served in various capacities as an educator and working for the US government before finally returning to Detroit as an instructor in vocational and system training in the Detroit Public Schools (DPS). During his service in DPS, Brother McGhee was very active with the Young Men of Excellence, a male mentoring organization at Northwestern High and Crockett Technical High. Brother McGhee served as an instructor, football coach, assistant principal, and principal of both Osborn and Central High Schools in the DPS. While at Osborn, Brother McGhee transformed the school into smaller learning communities to more effectively address students learning. He created dynamic programs that resulted in Central High School being removed from the State of Michigan's school failure list.

Because of his success at Central High, Brother McGhee was moved to the central office staff in Educational Achievement Authority to design their new Career and Technical Education programs (CTE) for the district. In 2017, Brother McGhee was tapped to serve as the superintendent of the Harper Woods Schools District, in Harper Woods, Michigan. Brother McGhee became the first African-American to serve as the superintendent in the history of the district. In one-year, Brother McGhee increased enrollment in the district by 500 students and has created substantial improvements to the district in terms of revising the curriculum, to acquiring and renovating new buildings for students in the district.

Brother McGhee helped to established a new College and Career Institute for students to receive a trade certification and a two-year associate's degree. This is the first program of its kind for K-12 students in the state of Michigan.

In alignment with our second Cardinal Principle and in addition to the bachelor's degree, Brother McGhee holds a Master's Degree in Education and an Educational Specialist Certificate in Administration and Organizational studies from Wayne State University in Detroit. Brother McGhee is currently pursuing a doctorate in education. Brother McGhee's mission is to ensure that all of the students that he touches leave him to enter the world.

**STORY BY**

**BRO. MICHAEL B. CARRAUTERS, Ph.D.**





**YLC Story continues from Page 16**

One of the many beneficial features of the conference is that it included age-specific sessions: 8-12 year olds, facilitated by Brother L. Cortez. The session for (13-15 year-olds) was conducted by Brother Darren Starks. Also, the session for (16 to 18-year olds) was led by Brother Michael Hartman.

Brother Robert Edison was the facilitator for the Mother's Conference session. One of the key session topics was "No greater bond: A mother's influence on manhood." Brother Dr. George Taylor, who serves as the editor for Omega's Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Newsletter, was appropriately the facilitator for the Fatherhood Initiative session.

After the workshop sessions, the Omega Educational Foundation, in partnership with Tau Tau Chapter, hosted their 8th Annual Scholarship Gala at the University of Southern California's Town and Gown Ballroom. The purpose of the gala is to raise scholarship funds for college-bound high school seniors. Former California State Senator, Brother Isadore Hall, III, Ph.D., served as the Gala Committee Chairman. The young men that were awarded scholarships included: Mateo DeLeon, Daniel Fairfax, Donnell Fuller, Julian Hamilton, Shadonte Holmes, Christian Jones, Jalen Noel, Vincent Okafor, Isaiah Sampson, Michael Udo, Joseph Uppreman, Keilan White and Milik Whitehead.



Three philanthropist were presented with the Community Champion Award. The awardees included Wendy Raquel-Robinson, Robin Petgrave, and Areva Martin, Esq.

**PHOTOGRAPH:**

*Top: All three awardees: Raquel-Robinson, Petgrave and Martin with Bro. Ricky Lewis, the Fraternity's 35th First Vice Grand Basileus (far right). Also on (far left) is Bro. Dr. Isador Hall, III.*

*Bottom: Bro. Dan Braxton, of Phi Beta Beta, has worked with the Youth Leadership Conference for over 20-years. The Oracle/MB*

*Next page (Top and Center) Omega Brothers with their guests at the gala. (Bottom): Brother Dennis Martinez, the 12th District Representative (center) with Omega Brothers at the gala.*



"The most critical aspect of this conference, is how we are teaching young men to become future leaders within our country and their communities. "Each year this conference provides an opportunity for Omega to mentor young men," said Brother Courtney Moore, who attended from Kappa Xi Chapter in Las Vegas.

Brother Dan Braxton, a member of Phi Beta Beta Chapter, a local Los Angeles area chapter, has been working with the conference for over 20-years. Brother Braxton said that the "objective of the conference is to make a difference, and strengthening the legacy we are leaving."

Brother Grand Lewis' stamp of leadership grew out of the struggle to bring something positive to the Black community after the riots. His work, and the effort of other Omega men continues. The youth program has helped to launch a mentorship program which saves the spirit of Black boys.

"When you are in this Fraternity, it's like coming into a room. You go to the corner of the room that you are most comfortable with, and then you work your corner. My corner is Youth Leadership," added Brother Braxton.

**PHOTOGRAPH (Left/Bottom):** Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Brother Duane Thomas, Northern California Area Representative (left) with Brother Dennis Martinez, the 12th District Representative (center), and Brother Kwame Dow, the First Vice 12th District Representative (right).

Photographs by Bro. James Wigherspoon, IHQ/Oracle Director of Photography





# SLAVE QUARTERS VIEWED

GHANA STORY CONTINUES FROM PAGE 13

**O**n August 20, 2019, the Grand Basileus Dr. David E. Marion and a delegation of Omega men consisting of representatives from the Supreme Council and the International Headquarters staff, visited the Ghana's historic Cape Coast Castle.

In 1774 the British built and reinforced the castle as it stands today. The castle was a major fixture in the slave trade that brought thousands of Africans to the western world. The delegation was able to tour the dungeons where captured Africans were held like livestock in cramped spaces with no ventilation or sanitation to eventually being led in chains through the *Door of No Return* and onto waiting ships.

Brother Dr. Carl Bampoe, the 13th District's Director of Public Relations, and Basileus of Tau Chi Chapter said "as the group walked through the narrow corridors and dark holdings, they felt the spirit of the ancestors with them. All were silence as the group exited the final door leading to the ocean-towards America's shores."



**CONTRIBUTING TO THIS REPORT -Oracle Staff and Brother Dr. Carl Bampoe.**

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY-Brother James Witherspoon, IHQ/Oracle Magazine Director of Photography**



**PHOTOGRAPHS: (Top) Outside of the Cape Coast Castle, Dr. Marion stands near the Gulf of Guinea, a body of water that leads into the Atlantic Ocean. Omegas stand near the exterior of the Cape Coast Castle, once a major housing area for slave before they were shipped to the Americas.**





## **“WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES”**

**When we wear the gloves  
A brother has gone from our midst  
And sailed to golden shores.**

**When we wear the gloves  
A friend has passed the final test  
And walks through purple doors.**

**The circle has an empty place  
A voice will raise no more  
The song of fellowship and love  
Uplift forevermore**

**When we wear the gloves  
When we wear the gloves  
A light goes from this earthly life  
The visor closed again  
Yet all the heavens open wide  
To let a new star in**

**When we wear the gloves  
A brother leaves the chapter rolls  
And moves to other worlds  
For when we say our last goodbye  
He walks on streets of Pearls.**

**When we wear the gloves.**

**by Brother Dr. Carver A. Portlock**

### **Brother Grady Bethel**

*Educator*

Brother Bethel transitioned to Omega Chapter on August 4, 2019. He was born May 6, 1928 in Kinston, NC. Brother Bethel was initiated through Tau Psi Chapter in 1949. Brother Bethel was a retired school teacher, principal, and coach. He served on the Board of Trustees at Lenoir Community College from 1994-2018 and was the Chairman from 1999-2016. As a coach, Bro. Bethel was inducted into the Kinston/Lenoir County Sports Hall of Fame. In 2018, Bethel was also recognized by Governor Roy Cooper with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for his dedication to the field of education in North Carolina.

### **Brother William H. Borders**

*Educator*

Brother William H. Borders entered Omega Chapter April 13, 2019. He was initiated in Tau Phi Chapter in May 1962. Brother Borders graduated from Tennessee State University with a Bachelor's degree in Biology. Borders served as a teacher in the Chicago Public School System. He also served as a counselor and programmer. Borders served in the United States Army.

### **Brother Danny T. Clark**

*Educator*

Brother Clark entered Omega Chapter on March 21, 2019. He was initiated into Omega Psi Phi through Theta Omicron Chapter in 1981. Brother Clark entered the United States Army in 1966 as a military policeman and dog trainer. He served in Korea and Japan. Clark also was an Adjutant General in the United States Army Reserves. He graduated from LaSalle College in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

### **Brother Marion Goodson, Jr.**

*Entrepreneur and Educator*

Brother Goodson entered Omega Chapter on June 29, 2019. Goodson was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Iota Iota Chapter in 1969. Goodson graduated from Shaw University with a Degree in Education. While at Shaw University, he played on the baseball team. He also served in the United States Army. Goodson was an educator who taught high school math in Johnston County, NC.

As an entrepreneur, he opened two grocery stores in the Raleigh, NC area. Goodson later furthered his education at North Carolina Central, where he obtained his Juris Doctor Degree. Brother Goodson was a member of the North Carolina Bar, and he practiced law in Raleigh for several years.

### **Brother Norman M. Ledgin**

*Author and Historian*

Brother Ledgin entered Omega Chapter on June 18, 2019. He was initiated through Upsilon Phi Chapter on June 4, 1949. Ledgin, then a student at Rutgers University was one of nine students that started Omega Psi Phi's first Inter-Racial group. Bro. Ledgin was also one of three white students that banded together to bring to Rutgers something which had been lacking on campus—a strong Black fraternity. Ledgin served as the campus newspaper editor. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Rutgers University in 1950. After graduation, Bro. Ledgin served as a journalist, college instructor and later a leading accident safety officer. He was author of several books. In 2012, he wrote a historical novel entitled *Sally of Monticello: Founding Mother* which depicted the relationship between Thomas Jefferson and his slave, Sally Hemings.

### **Brother Charles C. Peevy**

*Former 12th District Representative*

Brother Charles C. Peevy entered Omega Chapter on July 19, 2019. He was born January 12, 1946 in Washington DC and graduated from Booker T. High School in 1963. Charles continued his education by earning a BS degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Masters of Art degree in Operational Management from the University of Phoenix.

He also received Executive Education training at the American Graduate School of International Management. He was initiated into the Fraternity, September 6, 1966, through Xi Omega Chapter in Tulsa, OK and served unselfishly for over 50 years, most recently through Phi Iota Chapter in Phoenix, AZ. Brother Peevy worked at General Motors Corp. in various roles and he retired after 29 years. He taught many subjects such as Afro-American History and Culture, and Physics at the University of Wisconsin and Malcolm Shabazz High School in Madison. He is responsible for the chartering of Epsilon Theta and Gamma Gamma Gamma Chapters in Madison, Wisconsin. He served as the 29th, 12th District Representative

### **Brother Roderick E. Richardson**

*An Administrator*

Brother Richardson entered Omega Chapter on August 1, 2019. Bro. Richardson was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Pi Omega Chapter in 1984. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Morgan State University in 1977 with a B.S. degree in Accounting. Brother Richardson worked over 25 years as a Fiscal Administrator at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

Brother Richardson, a Life Member of Omega Psi Phi, served in the Fraternity's Second District as the First Vice District Representative, District Keeper of Finance, and the District Keeper of Records and Seal. *Continue on next page*



Brother Richardson's impact with Pi Omega was extensive. Richardson served as Pi Omega Chapter Basileus (1995-1997). He was honored as the *Second District's Basileus of the Year in 1997, and Pi Omega's Man of the Year in 1998*. He also served Pi Omega Chapter as the Keeper of Finance. In addition, Brother Richardson served on the Budget and Scholarship Committees. Richardson also served as the President of the Pan Hellenic Greek Council. Bro. Richardson was a devoted husband and father. He leaves to mourn his presence, Pam his wife of 34 years, and daughters Kelly and Dionne.

### Brother Dr. John M. Stevenson

*An Omega Man*

Brother Stevenson entered Omega Chapter on March 27, 2019. He was initiated into Omega through Rho Epsilon Chapter (Tougaloo College) in 1948. Bro. Stevenson earned a BA in English from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He also earned a Master's and a doctoral degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He also served in the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Navy.

### Brother Isaiah Tidwell

Brother Tidwell entered Omega Chapter on August 4, 2019. He was initiated into Omega through Tau Psi Chapter in 1964. Brother Tidwell graduated from North Carolina Central University in 1967. He later earned an MBA from Wake Forest University. Brother Tidwell began working for Wachovia at their Charlotte office in 1972 as a commercial bank trainee. He was promoted to corporate banking officer in 1975 and Assistant Vice President in 1976. In 1977 Brother Tidwell was named General Loan Administration Officer and promoted to Vice President in the Winston Salem office. In 1989 he was promoted to office executive and in 1990 he was elected Regional Vice President and Area Executive for the Charlotte office. Brother Tidwell went on to serve as the Southern Regional Executive and was promoted to Executive Vice President in 1996. In 1999, he was named President of Georgia Banking. Brother Tidwell was a former trustee of Davidson College and the Southern Education Foundation. He formerly served on the boards of Harris Teeter Supermarkets, Inc., Snyder's-Lance, Inc., The Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, The Atlanta Rotary Club, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and Woodruff Arts Center. At the time of his death, Brother Tidwell was a member of the Board of Trustees for North Carolina Central University.

### Brother William H. Watson, Sr.

*An Omega Man*

Brother Watson entered Omega Chapter on September 18, 2018. He was initiated into Omega through Theta Omicron on July 31, 1979. He completed undergraduate and graduate studies at the Eastman School of Music where he studied piano and music theory. Watson served as the chapter's Talent Hunt Chairman. He also served as an advisor for the Fraternity's International Talent Hunt Committee and was instrumental in developing the current adjudication guidelines. Brother Watson was an organist, classical and jazz pianist, music director, and singer. With a servant's heart, Bill dedicated over 50 years of his life to church music ministry in the Rochester area. Bro. Watson was a past musical director of the "Omega Select Chorus" of Rochester, NY.

### Brother Arthur Williams, III

*An Omega Man*

Brother Williams entered Omega Chapter on January 20, 2019. He was initiated into Omega through Psi Psi Chapter in 1969. He graduated from Kentucky State University with a degree in Business Administration. Brother Williams was active with Theta Omicron Chapter serving on the Scholarship Foundation UNCF Golf Committee. He oversaw procurement for the 1991 and the 2005 Second District Conferences and 1999 Shirtsleeve Conference. He also was a member of Theta Omicron Chapter Fundraising committee and Cookout Committee. Williams worked for over 30-years with Xerox Corporation. He served as a Manufacturing Expediter and later as a Purchasing Officer. He retired from Xerox in 2009.

### Brother Anthony Williams

*An Omega Man*

Brother Williams entered Omega Chapter on May 21, 2019. He was initiated into Omega through Zeta Epsilon Chapter in 1977 on the campus of Indiana University. Brother Williams received a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Indiana University. He was a member of Alpha Chi Graduate Chapter located in Gary, Indiana.

He worked for United States Steel Corporation as a Motor Inspector. Brother Williams is survived by his devoted wife of 22 years, Maude; mother, Sadie Williams; two brothers, Christopher Williams and Ralph Williams, and two sisters, Carmen Williams and Angela Williams.

## DELTA CHAPTER CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

During the weekend of October 12th, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Delta Chapter was added to the growing list of chapters that have celebrated a centennial of leadership and friendship. Founded on January 22, 1919, Delta Chapter has provide 100-years of service to Omega and the Nashville, Tennessee community.

The chapter was established on the campus of of Meharry Medical College under the auspices of the 7th Grand Basileus, Brother Raymond G. Robinson. Omega's Delta Chapter, was the first chapter of any Black Greek-Lettered organization in the South. The brothers affectionately call Delta Chapter, "The Mother Pearl of the South."

The weekend featured a health conference on Friday, a noon day community gathering on Saturday, and a black tie gala later that evening. The health conference was titled, "*Health Disparities in the African American Community - Historical Facts and Causes, Future Solutions, and Considerations.*" Brothers Rueben Warren D.D.S.; William Davis D.D.S.; Darryl Fortson M.D.; Bill Buckley M.D.; Kenneth Nave' M.D., and Jordan Pierre addressed the topic of closing the racial and ethnic healthcare gap in the United States.

The featured speaker at the health conference was Brother Dr. Rueben Warren, D.D.S. Brother Warren, a world-renowned dentist and researcher is currently the director for the National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care at Tuskegee University. Much of Saturday's activities included Omegas enjoying each others company, telling war-stories, and discussing the state of health education in Nashville's Black community.

The highlight of the weekend was the chapter's black-tie Centennial Gala on Saturday evening.

The gala was officiated by Brother Fernando Daniels III M.D. Tennessee State Representative Brother Harold Love provided both the invocation and a generous proclamation for Delta Chapter on behalf of the state legislature. Brother Sam McKenzie, the 5th District Representative provided words of encouragement and also offered a moving proclamation from the 5th District.

The gala's keynote speaker was Brother Dr. David Marion, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's 41st Grand Basileus. Dr. Marion's address provided an insight concerning the calling of Omega men during these times of

political and social upheaval. Marion said that Omega men must use their gifts and professional knowledge to find answers for the ills of society. "Stay the course in service to our families and communities, with our faith in God serving as our foundation."

Delta Chapter's Centennial Awards for Service were presented to former Meharry Presidents Brother David Satcher M.D., and Brother John E. Maupin Jr., D.D.S. Brother Rueben Warren, D.D.S., a former Dean of Meharry School of Dentistry was also the recipient of the chapter's Service Award. Other awards were presented to the immediate past and present Chairman of the Board of Meharry Medical College, Brother Frank Royal, M.D. and Brother Nelson Adams, M.D. respectively. Brother Henry Moses, Ph.D. ('56) received special recognition for 63 years of service to Omega and was presented with the Delta Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award for 54 years of service to Delta Chapter and Meharry.

*Story by Brother Jordan Pierre*

*IHQ/Oracle Photograph by Brother Jayson Jones, 8th District Director of Public Relations*





Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
International Headquarters  
3951 Snapfinger Pkwy  
Decatur, GA 30035



***EACH ONE, BRING ONE!***  
**RECLAIM 10,000 BROTHERS**



*82nd Grand*  
**CONCLAVE**  
*Tampa, Florida*  
**JULY 18 - 21, 2020**

The background of this section is a photograph of the Tampa skyline, featuring several prominent skyscrapers and a body of water in the foreground. The image is tinted with a light greenish-gold color, matching the overall theme of the poster.

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