



**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

**Julius Chapman, PhD.  
Bust Unveiling at  
Towson University**

# **THE OMEGAN**

**Voice of the Second District**

**Fall Edition 2019**



# The Omegan

"Voice of the Second District"



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## Message from the District Representative

### Greetings Brothers of the Mighty 2nd District

I thank you for the tireless work in your communities in the name of Omega, as your re-elected 36th District Representative, I thank you once again for the belief in service to the 2nd District. As we start the new fiscal year The Omegan continues to be a great part of the documented history of the 2nd District. Through the direction of Brother Zanes E. Cypress, Jr., District Public Relations Chair, he has continued to document and capsulize our work in The Omegan for the past fifteen years. Brother Cypress inherited the position from our District Public Relations emeritus Bro. Ron Mofitt. We must also recognize the outstanding work of Brother Cypress on the Souvenir Journal for the inaugural, Dr. Moses C. Norman Leadership Conference.



My Brothers, it's never how you start, it's how you finish, and I believe you must always finish strong. Don't walk to the end of the race, you run through it. The excitement of the new year has already begun to swell with the anticipation of our 72nd District Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. led by our District Marshall Brother Dr. Rhamon Hart. Dr. Hart and the Brothers of Western PA. are putting together a fabulous conference and I hope you all attend.

Brothers, I am also excited to announce to our fold the new military chapter formed on Fort Dix Air Force Base, in New Jersey, Gamma Nu Nu chapter. Let's welcome these brothers to the fold and give them the resources to become a successful chapter.

It's the Fall season which means the midterm elections are upon us once again. The midterm election often determines Governors, Senators and House Representatives. We must remember these elections also determine the local offices of the District Attorney and Judges. My Brothers, I implore you to not only get out and vote, but to encourage and facilitate your community to get to the polls as well. Let's not stay home and forfeit our voting opportunities, with a false perception that it will not make a difference. We all can make a difference and we must utilize the what those before us fought so hard for us to have, the ability to vote.

In closing, my Brothers please view this historical journal of work done in our district. Let's continue to document the great works of the Brothers and Chapters, and let's continue to move our district forward.

Remember "We're Stronger Together"

Brother J. Kendall "Biggy" Smalls  
36th Second District Representative  
Mighty 2nd District

*Message from the***Director of Public Relations****Brothers of the Second District,**

It continues to be joy and honor to serve as your Director of Public Relations, highlighting and archiving the good works of the Chapters and Brothers of the Second District. Having been an Omega Man for over 43 years, and serving in this office, I have had the opportunity to be experience many celebratory milestones and honorariums bestowed upon Chapters and Omega Men for their collective and individual outstanding contributions to the Uplift of society, as a whole, and our communities, in particular.



Photo essays of the 71st Second District Conference, Founders Banquet, Public Forum, Second District Re-Org Meeting, James S. Avery, Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference and Youth Leadership Conference are contained herein. Please view the outstanding work with our youth by Blue Colquitt in the Lambda Gamma Gamma Manpower 101 articles. Brothers Dr. Garry M. Keel and Qasim Rashad submitted two outstanding OP/ED articles on “A Lifetime of Friendship” and “My Journey from Omega to Islam and Back Again, respectively. I continue to be encouraged by the phenomenal community social action projects archived in this issue by all chapters in the Great States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.

To date, The Omegan Staff has never placed a Brother on the cover more than once; however, this cover is the exception. Brother Julius Chapman, PhD. was on the cover of Winter 2019 Edition because, during 2018 Towson University Homecoming, Towson Black Alumni purchased and placed an Honorary Bench outside of his former office. On the Cover of this edition, he stands behind the Bust unveiled during 2019 Towson Homecoming, in his honor, thus immortalizing the foundation of diversity and inclusion of the Black Diaspora, at Towson University, a Predominantly White Institution (PWI). More importantly, Towson University President, Kim E. Schatzel, surprised everyone giving notification that Towson will redevelop the entire area of the Bust and Honorary Bench, to be named the Dr. Chapman Quad. Honored to deliver “The Occasion” for the event, I was proud the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi, initiated through Iota Epsilon Chapter, my home chapter, funded the Bust and the entire events of the day, in honor of our “Dean”. Special Thanks to Brothers Paul Sean Grey, Terris King, Sr., Kevia Elliott, Michael Dukes and Raoul Alvarez for their outstanding contributions to the event. Placed on the Second District website, under Events, is a video highlighting the event produced by Towson University. The article of the event contained in this issue was reprinted from the Baltimore Sunpapers.

Again, Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity. Friendship is Essential to the Soul

Fraternally,

Brother Zanes E. Cypress, Jr.  
 Director of Public Relations, Second District  
 1976 Iota Epsilon  
 LM#7407

# 71st Second District Conference



# 71st Second District Conference



# 71st Second District Founders Banquet



# 71st Second District Founders Banquet



# 71st Second District Conference



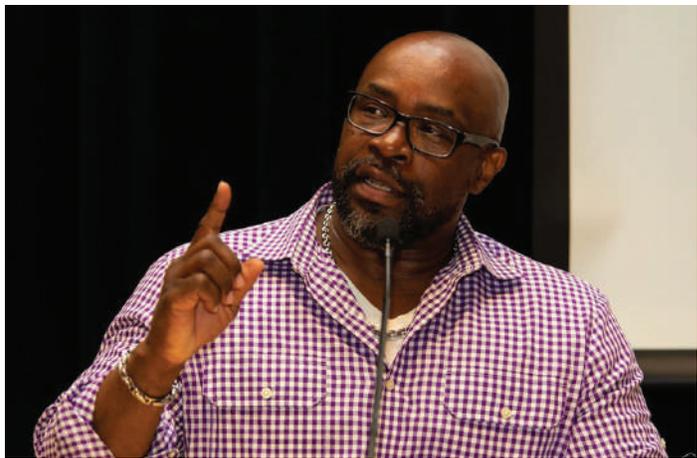
# 71st Second District Conference



# 71st Second District Public Forum



# Second District Re-Org Meeting



# James S. Avery, Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference



# James S. Avery, Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference



# Youth Leadership Conference



*Participants at the Youth leadership Conference*

**Dover, Delaware, April 27, 2019.** The 2nd District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., conducted an outstanding Youth Leadership Conference at the 71st District Conference. The purpose of the Youth Leadership Conference is to empower, develop, and mentor the next generation of young leaders and to encourage young males to strive for excellence in their life.

The theme of the conference centered on our Fraternity’s Cardinal principles, principles to live by: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. Omega men provided approximately 25 young males from their mentoring program with uplift, wisdom and knowledge to help them navigate through adolescent to discovering their destiny. Brother Brandon Gray who was initiated Spring 2018 at Psi Epsilon on Delaware State University campus, now a senior (Major Political Science) kicked off the conference with a communication ice breaker that centered on introduction.

The first speaker was the Reverend Brother Tony Lee, Gamma Pi Chapter Basileus who opened the YLC Conference with a power conversation about three areas to help young males grow and develop to reach their full potential. Three topics centered on: your name, focus, and being passionate. Your name has significance, don’t let anyone call you out of your name, Bubba, Boo Boo, or Rock Head. Your name has a tremendous meaning, every time someone calls your name they are speaking purpose and meaning. Second, this age group is not focused! Don’t let anything around you distract, distress, destroy or panic you that keeps you from achieving goals. Finally, be passionate about what you do, pursue excel-

Several Brothers presented our Cardinal Principles in a way that was relevant and meaningful to the young males. They encouraged the young males to use these principles as guidepost on their life journey. These are principles to live by: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. Brother Darryl Green, Pi Omega Chapter, closed the YLC Conference with a compassionate dialog on Choices. Brother Green shared his heart wrenching story about how his younger brother was murdered in Baltimore, Maryland, over his tennis shoes by a fourteen-year old, who was later sentenced to life in prison and served 25 years. How God stepped in to change the situation to moving Brother Green from anger to forgiveness. Brother Green went to court, forgave him and testified on his behalf for his release. They now work together speaking to students across the country about Choices, Consequences, Healing, Reconciliation, and Forgiveness.

Congratulation to Director of Student Life, Brother Steve A. Smith, Basileus Andre Boggerty, Social Action Chairman Brother Salahudin Bin-Yusif and Graduate Chapter members for an outstanding and impactful YLC Conference. It was refreshing to witness Psi Iota Graduate Chapter working together with the undergraduate brothers from Psi Epsilon of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Omega’s impact was tremendous in mentoring and helping young males think broader about their future. Omega men continue to change the lives and trajectory of another group of young males with the potential to become future leaders!



*Psi Epsilon Brother Brandon Gray leads discussion at the Youth leadership Conference*

## Second District Fathers Day Reflections

Happy Father's Day to the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Fathers around the world.

Although being a Father can be challenging at times, it is the most "rewarding" thing you will ever do as a man. Impacting not only the lives of your own children but other children as well! We celebrate Dads for being the GPS setting the tone for your family and modeling excellence to your community. Thank you so much for "help children glow and grow into healthy young adults."

Here are Father's Day reflections from the 2nd District young dads and seasoned fathers!

### **Khary Earley, (29 Years-old, first child)**

As I reflect on my 11 months as a new Father, lots of experiences come to mind. The sound of my daughters first cry when she came out the womb, the first time she fell asleep in my arms, or even her first words. However, one experience stands above all others.

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

### **Brother Onokpise (34 Years-old, second child).**

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

Lorenzo R. Prillman, (42 Years-old)

I think my mom put it best. She said, "little girls soften their daddy's hearts."

### **Darrin Butler (44 Years-old)**

Is teaching and supporting my child(ren) and watching them implement what I have taught them and trusting my input more and more each day. This makes Father's Day every day for me.

### **Del Jordan (45 Years old):**

As a father of daughters, my goal has been to let them know that there is at least one man in this world who loves them unconditionally.

### **Tyrone Wheeler (35 Years old): A Father Love, Grace and Mercy**

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

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

After graduating high school, my parents allowed me to continue to live at home with one stipulation; I must have a job. I was working the opening

[www.opp2d.org](http://www.opp2d.org)

shift at McDonald's from 5am to 1pm Monday through Friday. Sometimes instead of eating lunch at work I would come home to eat. I will never forget the day I burned down the kitchen.

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

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

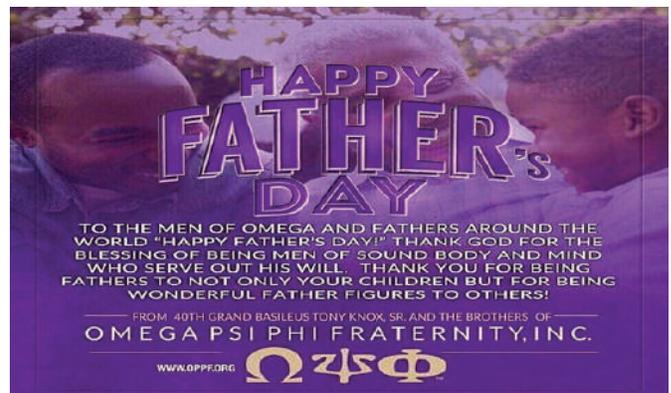
I learned so much about my father through this accident. I learned the love he had for me and the grace and mercy he showed towards me. I will always remember the day I burned down the kitchen and how my father treated me afterward.

Key Message: To celebrate Dads and to encourage other men to continue to be involved and engaged in their children activities and healthy development. The only way to show this generation of men what Fatherhood look like is by sharing our stories.

Don't you dare underestimate the impact you make in the lives of your children and community. At the end of the day a child wants his father. He or she wants to know about you and what you like or dislike. You must be "presence" in your children lives to help them grow into healthy young adults. No Excuses!

### **The Difference Dads Make Is Immeasurable! Happy Father's Days My Brothers!**

By Donald Williams II, 2nd District Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee



# Community Partnership developed by Omega Men Reopens Baltimore Recreation Center

**Baltimore, MD. August 13, 2019.** Baltimore City Parks and Recreation Agency, with the support of the Mayor Jack Young and other local officials cut the ribbons to reopen the 44th Recreation Center in Baltimore, Harlem Park Recreation Center. The center was closed by Baltimore City seven years ago due to budget cuts. Two years ago, Brother Albert Wylie, (Pi Omega 2011) President of Wylie Funeral Homes, with two locations, one only 6 blocks from the recreation center in Baltimore City, and who is also on his second 3 year term as President of the Harlem Park Neighborhood Association lead a movement to provide positive programming for the youth and adults with leisure and recreational activities in this West Baltimore Community.

The reopening of the Recreation Center was made possible from the partnership of Brother Wylie's vision to couple his business resources, with the

University of Maryland Medical Systems' Community Engagement program, and community support to remodel, staff and equip the Harlem Park Recreation Center for its Grand Reopening. Brother Dr. Mohan Suntha (Theta Epsilon 1986) is the CEO of the University of Maryland Medical Systems. Center will boost a new Computer Lab, and Pop-Up STEM projects, along with Adult health screenings and informational programs. New lighting, games and equipment. A lacrosse program with all new equipment is also planned.

Brother Wylie stated at the reopening "Today was a great day in our Har-



*Brothers Albert Wylie and Dr. Mohan Suntha at opening of Harlem Park Recreation Center*

lem Park community. With help from the University of Maryland Medical Center and the City of Baltimore. The Harlem Park Recreation Center was reopened. Thank your local elected officials and other community leaders for collaborating to complete this task. Our organization will be working with Baltimore City Parks & Recreation to host our Harlem Park CDC 4-H Club events at the center this upcoming fall. Please remember together we will change Harlem Park & West Baltimore."



## Towson University Names Quad After Brother Dr. Julius Chapman During Bust Unveiling at Towson Homecoming 2019



*Brother Dr. Julius "Dean" Chapman stands in front of his newly unveiled bust. Julius Chapman, Towson University's first Dean of Minority Affairs, was surprised with a bust unveiling Saturday on campus outside of the Media Center*

**Towson, MD. October 19, 2019.** Some 200 Towson University alumni spent Saturday morning surprising one of their most beloved mentors, and then the school threw them a celebratory curve that surprised everyone.

Just moments before unveiling an outdoor bust in honor of Julius Chapman, the school's first Dean of Minority Affairs from 1969 to 1981, Towson President Kim Schatzel announced that the surrounding area would soon be turned into a quad where students could gather to study or socialize or do a little of both.

"This is going to be the Dr. Chapman Quad," Schatzel announced with a flourish, catching even many of her staff off guard.

Chapman, 82, seated in the front row of a group of chairs placed so that his bust seemed to be keeping watch over everyone sitting in them, smiled broadly. On a day when hundreds of Towson alum returned to campus for the school's annual homecoming, this moment — and this patch of land, adjacent to Van Bokkelen Hall, home to the university's Communication Studies and Electronic Media and Film departments — was all about him. He was, he assured anyone who asked, proud and grateful and more than a little surprised.

"I'm blown away," the man all the alum affectionately call "Dean" said.

The formal ceremonies had ended, and he was sitting a few feet from his bust, on a bench unveiled last year that, likewise, celebrates his legacy.

"It's just an amazing feeling to receive the warmth, the friendship of the people that I knew when I was here at Towson," Chapman said. "It brings back a lot of memories, pleasant memories, of when they were all very young."

For those who came to fete the man who offered a helping hand and understanding ear to so many of them, the honor was both deserved and overdue.

"He was like a second father to me," said Lloyd Tucker, a Forest Park High grad who started at Towson in 1976. "I had some situations where things didn't go very positively, and he was very instrumental in getting me through it. I knew I could go and get some fatherly advice from him."

"He's an inspiration, a leader," agreed Bro. Bobby Washington, class of '78 and, as a basketball star, a member of the school's Hall of Fame. "He's been a father figure to so many of us."

Towson State College, as the university was known when Chapman arrived in 1969, was quite different from today's TU. Physically, it would add acreage and buildings and thousands of students over the ensuing years. And 50 years ago, if you were a student of color — as Schatzel noted in her remarks Saturday, the school's student body was only 1 percent African-American in 1969 — Towson could be an intimidating place.

www.opp2d.org

"The problem was, there was only about a handful of us here, minorities," Tucker said. "We really felt like they didn't want us to be here, that was the impression we got."

As dean of minority affairs, it was Chapman's job to help minority students navigate their college years, assure them they weren't alone, and offer understanding and guidance.

Towson University ranked, for the first time, among top national schools by U.S. News & World Report »

"And through it all, you graduated," Chapman said as so many of his former charges looked on, "and that was the most important thing."

At Towson University in 2019, 42% of students self-identify as racial or ethnic minorities, according to figures provided by the university. And 25% of new students are African-American.

"Dr. Chapman, you brought us a long way, a long way," said Leah K. Cox, TU's vice president for inclusion and institutional equity. "We have you, Dr. Chapman, to thank for laying the groundwork."

Brother Dr. Chapman, a native of the small town of Kellyton, Alabama, and a Tuskegee University grad, left Towson in 1981 to accept the position of vice president for academic affairs at Voorhees College in South Carolina. He retired from academia in 2005, after serving as dean of education at Coppin State University. He lives in Columbia, and is a member of Tau Pi Chapter. He was initiated in 1957 through Lambda Epsilon while an undergrad.

When the speeches were over and the bust was unveiled, Chapman spent a good 20 minutes shaking hands and posing for pictures. Dozens of members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Iota Epsilon Chapter (which Chapman brought to the TU campus, and whose members paid for the bust) and the Delta Sigma Theta sorority surrounded him, smiling and laughing and pleading for just one more picture before he left.

Next year, after the current Stephens Annex building is torn down — 37 years after it debuted on campus as a "temporary building," Schatzel noted with a laugh — work will begin on transforming the area into the Chapman Quad. As the alums gathered here in Chapman's honor soaked in the unexpected announcement, the man of the hour couldn't stop smiling.

"I wanted them to have a good experience here at Towson," Chapman reflected as the festivities wound down. "I wanted them to be able to go out in the world and soar, to be successful. Not to do what I wanted them to do, but what they were divinely motivated to do."

That's just what happened, Chapman said, as another alum approached to offer a hug and a few words of reminiscence. "They are still a part of my life," he said, "and will always be a part of my life."

# LGG Kids Day at Six Flags



LGG Bros. with youth at Six Flags

**Prince Georges County, MD. August 24, 2019.** As one of the chapters youth development and outreach initiatives the Lambda Gamma Gamma chapter sponsors over 100 children for a day of fun and adventure at the Six Flags America Theme Park. This event that has taken place annually for over a decade and each year the chapter gets an amazing turn out. This year was no different. On Aug 24th brothers met bright and early to begin disseminating tickets to the registered youth. The weather was perfect and the stage was set for fun at the park. All children in attendance received

free meals, door prizes and backpacks filled with supplies for the upcoming school year. The event was an overwhelming success and the children, and their chaperones are anticipating the chapters next kids' day event. The annual kids' day at Six Flags event is just one of several youth-based activities the chapter hosts. Through these programs the chapter builds a strong rapport with the Washington DC Metropolitan community and gives children a fun filled and creative outlet during the long summer months.

## LGG Provides Over \$40k in College Scholarships

**Prince Georges County, MD.** The Annual Colonel Charles Young memorial scholarship has been the quintessential program for the Lambda Gamma Gamma chapter for over a decade. Providing college scholarships for new and current students, the funds raised during the chapter's events go to support this indispensable endeavor. High school seniors from all over the Washington DC Metropolitan area are afforded the opportunity to enter an essay contest in a chance to be awarded scholarships ranging from \$500-\$1,500.

The 2019 essay topic was on climate change, EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and DOT (Department of Transportation) policies that effect climate change and preventative measures to combat it. The scholarship committee headed by Brother Lawrence Shaw received hundreds of applications from over 50 schools in DC, Maryland and Virginia. The committee worked tirelessly to review all submissions and from all applications received Lambda Gamma Gamma was able to award 35 young men and women with college scholarships. Half of those being continuing education scholarships for current college students. This year's high school scholarship awardees boasted an average GPA of 3.69 and over 2,000 community service hours combined. Scholarship recipients were acknowledged at the QBQ, the chapter's annual patron appreciation cook-out. Parents of awardees were in attendance to celebrate the joyous occasion alongside their son/daughter and upon the start of the fall semester all scholarships were mailed out to recipients at their respective college and universities. The Lambda Gamma Gamma chapter is proud to be a continuous avid supporter of the next generation of great minds.



LGG Basileus Dr. Reginald Vance and Brother Lawrence Shaw pose alongside a 2019 Colonel Charles Young Scholarship recipient

# LGG Chapter Mentee Receives Life Changing Award

**Upper Marlboro MD. June 2019.** Craig Johnson, a 4.2 GPA student athlete and mentee of the Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter’s Manhood 101 mentoring program has received recognition on a grand scale. Since 2017 Craig Johnson has been enrolled in LGG’s male mentoring program entitled Manhood 101. This program falls under the chapter’s assault on illiteracy initiative and has been a fixture in the chapter since 2012. The program, entering its 8th year, focuses primarily on education and character development. Mentee Craig Johnson has embodied these qualities seamlessly and is now enrolled at Kent State University on a full academic scholarship.

Born the youngest of three in Upper Marlboro MD, Craig Johnson matriculated through the Prince Georges County School system on his path to greatness. “Coming from a supportive household was paramount” Craig now an 18 year old college freshman says. “My parents supported me in every endeavor and for that I am eternally grateful.” Craig entered the manhood 101 mentoring program his sophomore year at Charles H. Flowers High School. “During that time, I built a strong rapport with my mentees and they better equipped me with the tools necessary to succeed in today’s society” said Johnson. It is through Craig’s enrollment in the chapter’s manhood101 program

that he was afforded the opportunity to attend the annual Steve Harvey Mentoring Camp in the summer of 2019. While at the camp Craig stood out amongst his peers and caught the attention of several camp counselors. Upon completion of the 2019 camp Craig had built a strong rapport with Brother Steve Harvey and several camp administrators. In June of 2019 Craig received news that would forever change his life. Through an endowment with Kent State University, The Steve and Marjorie Harvey Foundation selected several young men to receive full academic scholarships beginning the fall 2019 semester. Craig Johnson was 1 of the 8 recipients. All scholarship recipients were flown out to Los Angeles, California for a taping of Harvey’s talk show Steve, which aired Wednesday June 26th. Harvey says the gesture should “really blow up the fact that Kent State has made an effort to reach out to some forgotten young people to change their lives through education. I’m more than happy to be a part of it.”

It is through the relationship manhood 101 committee chairman Brother Bleu Colquitt has built with the Steve and Marjorie Harvey foundation that the mentees of the Lambda Gamma Gamma chapter are awarded these unique opportunities. The Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. continues to answer the call to uplift the next generation of great minds.



*Brother Bleu Colquitt Manhood 101 Chairman (l) poses alongside Kent State University scholarship recipients*

## LGG Manhood 101 Male Mentoring Program Shines Bright in its Eight Year



*Brother Steve Harvey mentors to Lambda Gamma Gamma Manhood 101 Students*

**Prince Georges County, MD. June 2019.** Since its chartering in 1984 the Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. has put youth leadership and development at the forefront of its social action programs. The Manhood 101 program has been the main facet of the chapters Assault on Illiteracy initiative for the past 8 years. In the fall of 2012 Principal Brother Dr. Gorman Brown along with Brother Bleu Colquitt laid the foundation for what is now known as the Male Mentoring Program Manhood 101. Based at the Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Glendale Md, the program was originally designed to provide mentoring and guidance for young men on the verge of expulsion from Prince Georges County Public Schools. The chapter issued a call for volunteers to serve as mentors for the program and nearly 2 dozen brothers stepped up to the plate. With the assistance of the Charles H. Flowers administration the chapter was able to successfully enroll over 25 young men in the program in its inaugural year. Weekly sessions consisted of manhood development lectures academic preparedness courses and career planning. The men of the Lambda Gamma Gamma chapter provided not only guidance but counseling to young men who were in dire need of positive male role models. Offering a diverse array of professions, including doctors, lawyers, engineers current and former military service members, the men of LGG were able to pair boys with mentors who were already established in career fields that the boys were interested in. In its first year the program saw its mentees make considerable improvements to not only their grade point averages but to their overall attitudes toward excellence. In subsequent years the Manhood 101 program has grown by leaps and bounds. Expanding outside the walls of Charles H. Flowers

High School, the program now opens its doors to high school aged young men across the Washington DC metro area seeking mentorship. Boys enrolled in the program take full advantage of college fairs, campus tours, and a plethora of youth leadership and development activities. Graduates of the MH101 program have gone on to college, the military or immediately entered the workforce. Several young men that matriculated through the mentoring program have been recipients of the LGG Colonel Charles Young Memorial Scholarship. Since its inception the Manhood 101 male mentoring program has bolstered a 100% graduation rate, and in the spring of 2019 every senior enrolled in the program was accepted to college on full scholarships.

Brother Bleu Colquitt the chair of Manhood 101 has worked tirelessly to expand the reach of the program and in the summer of 2015, Brother Colquitt partnered with the Steve and Marjorie Harvey Foundation. Through this partnership the Lambda Gamma Gamma chapter alongside The Uplift Foundation has sponsored over 2 dozen young men to attend the Steve Harvey Mentoring Camp outside of Atlanta GA. Over Father's Day weekend over 250 young men from across the US descend on the Rock Ranch in Georgia to participate in team building exercises career development work shops and receive guidance from men with decades of mentoring experience. Entering its 8th year the Manhood 101 program welcomes in its largest freshman class ever. Gone are the days of students facing expulsion, gone are the days of subpar GPAs and behavioral issues. The programs greatest reward are the young boys that have passed through the ranks of the mentoring program and gone on to join our beloved Fraternity.

# LGG Manhood 101 Receives Proclamation from Prince Georges County, MD



*LGG Manhood 101 Mentors receive Proclamation for PG County Politicians*

**Prince Georges County, MD. July 29, 2019.** The Manhood 101 male mentoring program has been a vital component of the Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter’s Assault on Illiteracy Initiative for nearly a decade. Centered at Charles Herbert Flowers High School the MH101 program focuses on education, character building and career development for the next generation of young men. The mentoring program has grown annually and has now expanded beyond the walls of Charles H. Flowers. Manhood 101 now opens its doors to high school aged males across the Washington DC metro area. The program has provided job placement courses, internship opportunities, registration to the Steve Harvey Mentoring Camp and college scholarships to the young men that have come through its ranks. The persistent work of the Lambda Gamma Gamma chapter’s male mentoring program has now caught the eye of Prince Georges County politicians.

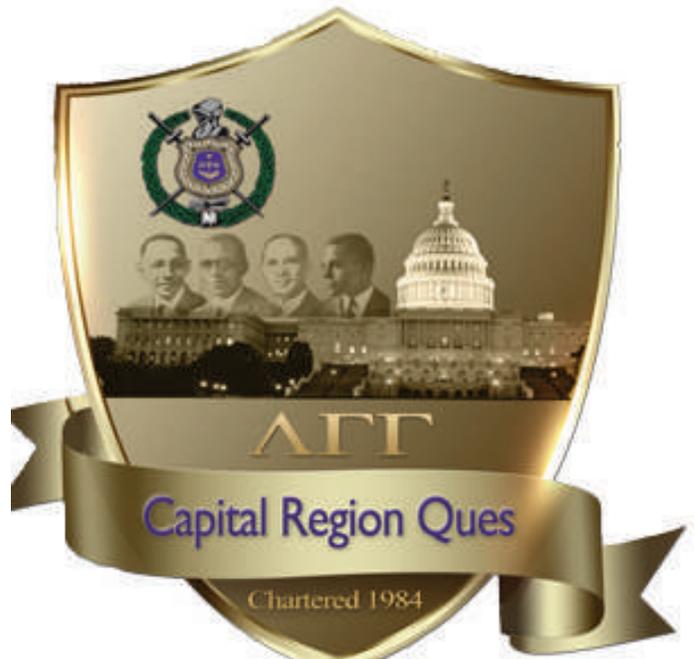
On July 29th, 2019 Councilman Sydney Harrison (District 9) issued a proclamation to the Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter for their exemplary work with the Manhood 101 program. Chapter Leadership, mentees and their parents were all present at the Life Christian Ministries in Clinton Maryland where the proclamation was issued. Councilman Harrison spoke highly of the chapter’s community and youth-based activities but highlighted the Manhood101 program “as it molds the next generation of young men to be pillars of the community.”

The proclamation reads: Therefore, Be it Proclaimed by Council Member Sydney J Harrison, Prince Georges County Council District 9, That on July 29th 2019, the citizens of Prince George’s County recognize Manhood 101 and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for their 7 years of commitment and dedicated service to young men in Prince George’s County and Steve Harvey Mentoring Camp for Young men”

## LGG Valentine’s Day Soiree 2019



**Upper Marlboro, MD. Feb. 9, 2019.** The Brothers of the Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter welcomed their wives and significant others to a night of elegance like no other. The Camelot at Martins in Upper Marlboro Maryland provided the perfect backdrop for a night of dinner, music and dancing. Patrons enjoyed live entertainment which included a live jazz band and spoken word artists. Brother Kevin Moody the chair of this event worked tirelessly to put on a 1st class event and he and his committee did not disappoint. The brothers of the chapter have brought sponsors for this event and the chapter has moved to make this a signature recurring event.



## AMN Brother Larry Anderson Authors New Book

**Willow Grove, PA. July 13. 2019.** Brother Larry L. Anderson Jr, Spring 2016, Alpha Mu Nu along with his fellow colleague, Dr. D. Kyle Canty decided to address the issues with the church to get out of the building and into the community. With their new book, “Ask Me Why I’m Not In Church: A Call for the Church to Get Out of the Building” is about one suburban underdog and under-resourced church with a huge heart that believed in God enough to think it could move into the city of Philadelphia and make a difference.

Readers get to walk alongside this church in its journey and learn how one can be a difference-maker for the Gospel in the community. It is filled with ways to help any church in any area push back the darkness. Brother Anderson and Dr. Canty recently held a book signing at the Barnes & Noble in Willow Grove, PA which turned out to be successful. As a Christian organization, the brothers of Alpha Mu Nu are excited in supporting our brother who is reflecting God’s true mission through eyes of Omega. This book truly displays our cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift and our fraternity’s AIM.

As the director of evangelism for Pennsylvania and South Jersey and the NAMB Send City coordinator for Philadelphia, Bro. Anderson Jr. and Dr. Canty, are constantly challenged with helping existing churches and church plants discover ways to equip the saints to engage the lost. “As you read this book, we are praying for revitalization in your church. We are praying that what you read in these pages will confirm for you that the mission of God is alive and well and you have a place in it. But like a great meal, this book is meant to be shared. Do not read this in isolation; challenge others to join you in this walk,” the authors say.



*Brother Larry Anderson*

“Ask Me Why I’m Not In Church: A Call for the Church to Get Out of the Building” is available at Amazon and all Barnes & Noble locations

## AMN Brother Nathaniel Hall, Jr. Receives Doctorate of Ministry



*Brother Nathaniel Hall, Jr.*

**Hatfield, PA. June 8. 2019.** Brother Nathaniel A. Hall, Jr, Spring 17, Alpha Mu Nu, received his Doctorate of Ministry from Biblical Theological Seminary. His dissertation was entitled: A MODEL FOR TRANSITIONING LEADERSHIP IN THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH JURISDICTION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST. Brother Rev. Dr. Hall is educated in the Philadelphia Public School system and graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School. He continued a college education in Philadelphia at Temple University where he majored in Business Law and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) degree. He later earned a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Management from Eastern University, St. David’s, PA and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.). Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the parents of Barbara and the late Nathaniel Hall, Sr., Brother Hall’s academic studies, professional gifts, and talents afforded him the opportunity in 2002 to become the founder and president of Alfonso Insurance Services, Inc. located in Willow Grove Pennsylvania. Presently, he is the Associate Pastor at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, Philadelphia, PA where Bishop Robert Hargrove is pastor. Rev. Dr. Hall has ministered

tered in a variety of settings, been engaged in community service feeding the homeless, community street evangelism, prison ministry, and nursing home visitation. One of his most memorable moments was ministering to hundreds in Mombasa Kenya. He is a proud member and currently serves as Chaplain and Achievement Week Chairperson of Alpha Mu Nu. He is the honored father of Gabrielle, and Nathaniel III and they happily resides in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania.

## AMN Brother Brandon Teel Honored at NAACP Gala

**Stroudsburg, PA. September 21. 2019.** Brother Brandon Teel, Spring 2018, Alpha Mu Nu, was honored at the 2019 NAACP Freedom Fund Masquerade Gala at Mount Airy Resort and Casino through the Monroe County Pocono Mountain Branch. Brother Brandon Teel was born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia. In 2012, Brother Brandon attended and graduated from New Foundation Charter High School (NFCHS). He excelled in sports and was very involved in school activities. Brother Brandon excelled on the basketball team as a leader and was elected President of his senior class. In 2015, he became the Youth Leader at the Church of Christian Compassion. After enrolling at East Stroudsburg University (ESU) where he is studying Sports Management with a Minor in Business Management, he has been a strong advocate for student leadership development and making sure that black students have a platform to express their concerns. He currently serves as the Black Student Union at ESU as treasurer and the student manager for the ESU basketball team. His outstanding accomplishments propelled him to become a member of Omega Psi Phi, Inc through Alpha Mu Nu as an undergraduate at ESU in the Spring of 2018. Brother Brandon has also served other roles but not limited to: treasurer of the Government Student Association, resident advisor, and the 1st vice president of the Monroe County NAACP Youth Council. Brother Brandon is on pace to graduate in 2020. He plans to attend graduate school in 2021. He wants to be a voice for those who cannot speak and create safe spaces for people of color to not only survive, but to thrive.

## Chi Rho 6th Annual Purple Footsteps Against Domestic Violence Walk a Thon



*Chi Rho Brothers participating at the Walk a Thon*

**Deer Park, N.Y. October 5, 2019.** The Brothers of Chi Rho Chapter held their 6th Annual Purple Footsteps against Domestic & Gang Violence Walk-A-Thon in Deer Park, N.Y. on Saturday October 5th 2019. The Chi Rho brothers were joined by members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. who participated in a 2.5 mile walk from the Deer Park LIRR Station through the Deer Park community. The Walk-A-Thon brought attention and awareness the two current issues of domestic and gang violence, with the goal of reducing both through education, community support and uplift

## Chi Rho Annual Fish Fry



*Chi Rho Brothers participating at the Fish Fry*

**Long Island, N.Y. September 28, 2019.** The Brothers of Chi Rho chapter held their annual fish fry at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church, in Wyandanch, N.Y. The Brothers cooked over 100lbs Whiting filets for the dinners that will help to provide \funding for chapter events & programs throughout the year. The fish fry was a great opportunity to fellowship with the community, while providing uplift and valuable information about upcoming events like the blood drive and voter registration.

## New Jersey State Assembly Honors Brother Judge James Y. Young



*Nu Beta Beta and Lambda Upsilon Brothers celebrate with Judge James Young.*

**Trenton, N.J., Thursday June 20, 2018.** The Brothers of Lambda Upsilon and Nu Beta Beta Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. participated in the honoring of the Honorable Brother Judge James Y. Young of Nu Beta Beta.

The New Jersey State Assembly honored Brother Judge Young with a resolution that was sponsored by Brother Benjie E. Wimberly of Lambda Upsilon. The resolution honored Brother Young for his lifelong leadership and public service.

Brother Young was born in Washington D.C. and attended Lincoln University and earned his Masters of Science from Pace University. Brother

Young began his professional career as a teacher in the Englewood N.J. school system before becoming a Principal. Brother Young was very active with youth while teaching by coaching various youth sports teams.

Brother Young decided to pursue a Juris Doctor from St. Johns University School of Law while he was in the education field and practiced law until his appointment as Teaneck Municipal Court Judge. Brother Young was an instructor at the policy academy and an adjunct professor.

Brother Young has retired and resides in Teaneck, New Jersey with his wife.

# Lambda Upsilon Sponsors T-Ball Team in Paterson, NJ



*Lambda Upsilon T-Ball Team photo*

**Patterson, NJ. June 2019.** The Brothers of Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. have sponsored a T-Ball Team in Paterson. Lambda Upsilon Chapter provided volunteer coaches that taught the Team basic fundamentals of batting, catching and base running. Most importantly the team was taught the value of teamwork. The T-Ball team met each Saturday in Putnam Oval and practiced for about 90 minutes. The Men of Lambda Upsilon also provided hot dogs,

snacks and juice each Saturday. The Team was supported by an enthused group of parents that actively participated in drills with kids and serving the kids food.

The Lambda Upsilon Chapter was founded and chartered in Paterson in 1951. The members of Lambda Upsilon Chapter are from Paterson and the surrounding counties. The chapter participates in community activities that provide uplift to the community.

## Mu Omega 2019 Blood Drive



*Mu Omega Brothers giving the gift of life*

**Philadelphia, PA. June 1, 2019.** The Brothers of Mu Omega Chapter held their annual Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive at the Mu Omega Fraternity House in Philadelphia. The Blood Drive was organized at Mu Omega Chapter in 1998, by Brother Allan E. Thomas, Ph.D. and adopted as a Nationally- Mandated Program by the Fraternity's Supreme Council. At this year's blood drive, a full house of Brothers and Community resident attended. All of Mu Omega blood donations were "blue tagged," meaning that they were earmarked by the Red Cross for patients of sickle

cell disease, which as most know, predominantly affects African-Americans. Mu Omega Brothers made an impressive turnout, prompting the Red Cross on-hand staff to reluctantly turn away several donors due to the time allotted to service donors already admitted. This was a factor also experienced last year.

Some 15 pints of blood were donated, and 2 pints of the "power red" donated. There were unfortunately 6 donors deferred for various reasons.

## Mu Nu Bro. Lorenzo Prillman Earns Doctorate from Howard



*Brother Lorenzo Prillman, PhD.*

**Washington, D.C., May 11, 2019.** Bro. Lorenzo Prillman (Mu Nu, 2013, Montgomery County, MD) was bestowed with the coveted Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) from Howard University after years of scholarship and perseverance. His doctoral degree is intended to prepare him for academic, research, administrative, clinical or professional positions in educational, civil, private organizations, or public institutions. At the conclusion of his academic studies and testing, he was recognized among all graduates in his class with the honor of “Most Outstanding Dissertation”. Bro. Prillman has served in the field of education for 24 years in such positions as a Social Studies Teacher and Alternative School Program Coordinator. He has worked with youth in grades that included Middle School grades 6-8, High School grades 9-12, Alternative Education grades 9-12, and as an Assistant School Administrator at Francis Scott Key Middle School in Silver Spring, MD. Bro. Prillman is currently employed with the Montgomery County Public School System in the role of Assistant Principal. Bro. Prillman is an Omega Man in the finest tradition of our beloved Fraternity, and we salute his accomplishment and are proud to join Howard University and the Prillman family in reintroducing him to all as Bro. “Doctor” Lorenzo Prillman, Doctor of Education.

## Mu Nu Bro. Adrian McDaniel Directs Inaugural Track Meet at His Alma Mater



*Brother Adrian McDaniel directing Track Meet at Gaithersburg High*

**Gaithersburg, MD, April 6, 2019.** Bro. Adrian “Hot Dog” McDaniel (Mu Nu, 2015, Montgomery County, MD) served as the Director for the 2019 Trojan Invitational (track meet) at his alma mater, Gaithersburg High School (GHS) – home of the Trojans. The inaugural track meet registered nearly 45 track teams from across Maryland, as well as Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Delaware. As the Director, Bro. McDaniel led the Trojans to host the track meet in April 2019 where his responsibilities included overseeing such activities as invitations and registrations for the competing schools, as well as the meet set-up, scheduling, safety, awards and clean-up. Bro. McDaniel is an educator and coach who credits much of his success to his youth track coach and mentor, Bro. B. Eugene Neal (Pi, 1967, Morgan State), who himself continues to coach and mentor as the track coach for Our Lady of Good Counsel High School who competed at the 2019 Trojan Invitational. Bro. McDaniel’s athletic resume with his alma mater includes Maryland 4A State Champion titles as a sprinter in the 400 meters, and as a coach for Girls Varsity Basketball. His love for youth uplift and sports inspired him to establish the 2019 Trojan Invitational. The inaugural event provided a wonderful community event hosted by the GHS student body and faculty for all those in attendance on a beautiful Spring 2019 day. The invitational track meet was a resounding success that has laid the foundation for future GHS track meets, including the second annual meet for Spring 2020. Bro. McDaniel is an Omega Man in the finest tradition of our beloved Fraternity, and we salute his vision and leadership.

# Mu Omega Fathers Day Gospel Breakfast



*Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church Men's Choir Singing at Mu Omega Father's Day Gospel Breakfast*

**Philadelphia, PA. June 15, 2019.** The Brothers of Mu Omega Chapter in Philadelphia collaborated with the chapter's charitable arm, the Mu Omega Foundation of Delaware Valley, Inc. to host the first ever Father's Day Gospel Breakfast. This event occurred on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at the Philadelphia Hilton located on City Avenue. In an effort to honor the men in our communities that serve tirelessly to make life better for others, the event organizers chose to recognize Bilal Qayyum with the 2019 Community Service Award. Mr. Qayyum has spent the last 30 years heading up efforts to empower fathers throughout the Philadelphia region. The Mu Omega Foundation of Delaware Valley, Inc. also recognized five young men who will be receiving \$1000 scholarships to assist in pursuing their college degrees. The five scholarship recipients were, Ricardo Burton, Shiloh McCleod, Kyle Spaulding, James Hill-Browne, and Dymear Laws. The audience was blessed by the sounds of the Reverend Edward W. Smith (Pastor at New Joy Missionary Baptist Church), The Heaven Bound Singers, the Delta Sigma Theta Philadelphia Alumnae Quartet, the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church Men's Choir, the Soulful Sounds of Praise, Louis

"Nicky" Taylor (saxophonist from the Urban Guerilla Orchestra), and a praise dance by Princess Damaayah Stephens. The Master of Ceremony was Brother Reverend Stephen Dangerfield who serves as Associate Pastor at Canaan Baptist Church. The keynote speaker was none other than Brother Reverend Blaine Newberry who serves as Associate Pastor of Exaltation at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church. Brother Newberry's message was entitled "Friendship Through Fatherhood" which gave all in attendance a powerful look into how critical our fathers are in our community. The breakfast was delicious and the atmosphere was filled with uplifting songs of praise. The event was spearheaded by Brother Kevin T. Bell (Mu Omega Chapter Social Action Chairman) and Brother Michael G. Horsey (Chairman of the Mu Omega Foundation of Delaware Valley, Inc). The Brothers of Mu Omega Chapter are thrilled that this inaugural Father's Day Gospel Breakfast was such a success, and are already planning to top this magnificent showing for next year. The combination of honoring fathers, awarding scholarships, great gospel music, and a hearty breakfast, all equate to a wonderful time had by every guest that came out to support.



*Mu Omega Brothers with scholarship recipients*

# Mu Omega QueVets Flag Planting at Philadelphia National Cemetary



*Brother Bobby James, friend of Nathan Thomas, Brother Bill Harris and Brother Nathan Thomas*

**Philadelphia, PA. May 25, 2019.** The Mu Omega QueVets, along with other chapter Fraternity Brothers and a few family members came out to the Philadelphia National Cemetery to plant close to 2000 American flags on graves of fallen veterans. Included in this group were 97-year old Bill Harris, a World War II veteran and 90-year old Nathan Thomas, a Tuskegee Airman. Joining in the flag planting were two military sororities, Kappa Epsilon Psi and Nu Epsilon Tau and members of the Martin Luther King JROTC.

QueVets Chairman David Benson said “One section we were proud to plant flags was the area containing bodies of the U.S “Colored Troops” who

fought in the Civil War and who trained at Camp William Penn which was located in the village. Their long overdue Storyboard was added last year in a special dedication ceremony”.

This is the 3rd Flag Planting service that the QueVets have participated in at the cemetery. Each year we have been blessed with ideal weather. The QueVets are military veterans of Mu Omega chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. David Benson is the chairman and William Smith is the Vice chairman. The Basileus of Mu Omega chapter is Bobby L. James After the flag planting, everyone retreated to Vernon Park to join in another Veterans program.



*Mu Omega Brothers with Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority Sisters participating at the Mu Omega QueVets Flag Planting*

## Three Daughters of Gamma Pi Chapter Members Finish Run at Tennessee State & Alum Brother Arranges Full Scholarships



*Brother Harrison Foy, DVM. with scholarship recipients*

**Prince George's County, MD, August 2019.** One of the enduring stories about Scholarship at Gamma Pi Chapter is how three young ladies from Prince George's County attended Tennessee State University on full ride scholarships in 2015, thanks to a chapter member who is a TSU alum. Besides being from Prince Georges County, Shayla Simmons, Kirsten Beverly and Victoria Gourdin are also 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). And in a true Omega twist of fortune, 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 Ms. Myah Lipscomb, both honor students while attending TSU on full ride scholarships," said Bro. Dr. Foy, a local veterinarian "I have Ms. Trinity Gourdin, sister to Ms. Victoria Gourdin as a freshman this year on a full ride scholarship. You see the template is working. If you haven't figured it out yet, it is the template!! I got some here but I need some more!! GO HBCU!"

Kirsten Beverly earned her B.S. in Psychology (Cum Laude) last May. She has accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control as a Public Health Advisor, where she will be assigned to the Tennessee Department of Health in Nashville through the Public Health Associate Program. She was recently accepted into the online Master's program at George Mason University where she will begin this fall pursuing a Masters of Special Education with a con-

centration in Applied Behavior Analysis at George Mason University. Kirsten also was a member of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology and was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at Tennessee State (Alpha Psi) where she served as secretary and president. Victoria Gourdin earned a B.S. in Political Science and a B.A. in English with a minor in Spanish, as an Honors College graduate (Cum Laude). Among her collegiate honors are Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Honor Society of Alpha Kappa Mu, Golden Key Honors Society, National Society of College School Scholars, Tri-M Honor Society and University Student Justice Court officer. Victoria interned with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation early this summer and has now been hired as a full-time employee with the organization. She has not stopped with her education as she is preparing to pursue her Law and MBA degrees this Fall. Victoria also was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. at the Alpha Chi Chapter at Tennessee State.

Shayla Simmons was the first of the three young ladies to "write home" –literally. A Mass Communications major with a minor in Marketing (Summa Cum Laude), she wrote for the student newspaper, The Meter, where she published a fascinating article about the girls' first year at TSU, many miles from home. Here is the article from the archives: <http://tsuthemeter.com/2016/02/12/freshmen-fresh-faces/> Shayla also served as Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper and worked for the student magazine, The Blue Print. She also was initiated into the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc at TSU and was a member of the Golden Key Honor Society.

Shayla is currently working a Brand Manager internship at the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation in the Nashville area as she makes preparations for Law School.

## Gamma Pi Brothers Reach Out to Son of Fallen Member During Graduation Season

**Prince George’s County, MD. June 30, 2019.** When Brothers enter Omega chapter, it is usual and customary for members of the Fraternity to see that Brother off in an official formal Omega Service just prior to funeral services. But the work of taking care of our fallen Brothers certainly does not end there. It is a lifetime commitment, just like Omega. That was on display recently in Gamma Pi in a unique way as several Brothers have rallied behind the young son of Brother Troy Scott (Omega chapter) as the son, Troy Jr., makes a major life change moving from high school to college.

A team of Brothers recently raised \$2,500 toward his upcoming tuition at the University of Lynchburg. Brothers also presented him with a \$500 book scholarship. In addition, the Brothers gave the young son a sendoff like his proud father would have done as he headed out on prom night recently.

Bro. Scott was a notable member of Gamma Pi for years and earned a reputation as its preeminent “stepmaster.” He is remembered for teaching the chapter its signature step routine, the Gamma Pi Hop. In the Super Chapter’s stepping heyday in the 1990s, Brother Scott was always out front during hop shows and he took the activity seriously with strenuous practices and the demand for polish, precision and pop. His untimely passing at age 48 in December 2015 followed years of health struggles. “The Brothers collected monies to help defray the cost of tuition for the son of one of their own to make sure he could have and take advantage of every opportunity afforded to him. We, his adopted uncles wish him the best and always want him to know that he, his mother and his beloved father are always in our hearts,” said Brother Charles Brooks. “We are our Brothers’ Keepers.”



*Gamma Pi Brothers providing Uplift to Troy Scott, Jr.*

## Gamma Pi Brothers Reach Out to Juvenile Males Incarcerated at Cheltenham Youth Detention Center

**Cheltenham, MD. June 29, 2019.** On this scorching hot Saturday, with morning temperatures in the 80s, the average person would have viewed entering the Cheltenham Youth Facility only as relief from the heat. But the more than 50 Brothers of Gamma Pi Chapter who entered the locked-down facility welcomed entry into the center as a chance -- an opportunity -- to change the lives of young men housed there.

The annual visit to Cheltenham is never routine. Brothers never follow the exact same script. And this year, Brothers used the visit to share their own stories of struggle within the legal system and how they recovered. The lesson for the young men was, “These may be your circumstances today, but tomorrow can be brighter.”

Once they cleared extremely tight security, the Brothers entered a large gymnasium and took seats on rows of chairs facing the bleachers. Just about every Omega man wore the Purple and Gold. Shortly after Brothers took their seats, about 30 young men wearing baby blue shirts and khakis were escorted in by the black-clad security guards and other staffers, where they sat in the bleachers. If somebody had walked in from the streets, they would have assumed the guys in Purple and Gold and the guys in Blue and Beige were about to square off. Quite the contrary. Yes, it was a fight that was about to take place – a fight for these young men’s futures.

After hearing a synopsis of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, history, the young men were treated to “in-your-face” reality. One by one, Brothers shared some real and raw stories. Just like you would expect from accomplished men of Omega Psi Phi. They did not hold back.

One Brother talked about how his association with the wrong crowd a decade ago ended up with is incarceration for two years on charges for a white-collar crime. Another Brother talked about how when he was the age of the young Cheltenham residents, he too bounced around in juvenile detention for a series of crimes that had his mother saying she had given up on him. He talked about the intense pain of hearing that. Another Omega man shared how his love -- his obsession with money -- led to his

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*Gamma Pi Brothers at Cheltenham Youth Detention Center*

downfall at an early age. Today he is a Chief Information Officer. And a Brother who recently retired as a high-ranking police officer closed it out by offering a written strategy for the youth to begin rebuilding their lives, challenging each one to ask of themselves, “What are you going to do about it and when are you going to start?”

The entire two-hour encounter was powerful and uplifting for Gamma Pi and the few guest Brothers who participated. Before heading back to the residential area, the young men gathered around the Brothers at the end of the presentations to seek more wisdom and encouragement. On the way out, many Brothers were heard repeating the oft-used phrase, “If we can just change one life.” Thanks to Bro. Tiresias McCall, a professional counselor, for organizing a great and challenging visit. It was a truly great and moving day for Gamma Pi Chapter and for Omega Psi Phi.

## Gamma Pi Support for the Fight Against Domestic Violence



*Gamma Pi Brothers at the “Men Making Our Relationships Excellent” Domestic Violence conference.*

**Bowie, MD. March 23, 2019.** The Brothers of Gamma Pi don't have any problem rolling out of bed early on a Saturday morning, even after working all week, if it is for a good cause. Today, the Brothers rolled out and showed up at the Camelot by Martin's in Upper Marlboro to show support for and help local advocacy groups strategize in the fight domestic violence. For the third consecutive year, Gamma Pi participated in the Prince George's County MOMENTum “Men Making Our Relationships Excellent” Domestic Violence conference.

The chapter's participation was led by the Social action committee and was highlighted by the deployment of its new exhibit booth that served as an onsite home base for the distribution of information about the Fraternity and chapter and its ambitious Social Action initiatives. The booth received a multitude of visitors curious about Omega Psi Phi and about the various community programs the chapter is involved in.

Gamma Pi also drew praise for bringing about a dozen young boys from the nearby underserved Kentland Community-- many dressed professionally in their ties -- to learn an early life lesson in having a proper relationship with women. The young boys are part of Gamma Pi's long-running QueKidz mentoring initiative that sponsors a monthly series of social and education enrichment activities for the Kentland youth. The young boys were transported to the event by bus from the Kentland Community Cen-

ter where QueKidz programs are held one Saturday a month.

One of the key aspects of the conference, sponsored by the county's Department of Family Services, was a series of breakout sessions, which the Brothers from Gamma Pi covered. For example, there was a session on “Understanding Domestic Violence and Your Role in Preventing It” which included discussions on learning how to detect, report and respond to domestic violence. Another one of the sessions focused on “Becoming a Better Man.” The Gamma Pi team attending the conference took an active part in the frank dialogue and informative discussion that came out of the conference.

“The conference created a gender specific community dialogue to educate men and youth on healthy relationships, non-violence, and to give them an opportunity to partner with other males in discussion to address domestic violence in Prince George's County,” said Social Action Chairman Kevin Greenwood. “We learned a lot.”

In 2016, the chapter used the opportunity of attending the conference to observe and meet community leaders directing the fight. The focus now is on getting more actively engaged in the effort. In recent years, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has turned more of its attention to the plight of domestic violence in our communities.

## Gamma Pi Annual Seniors Banquet

**Capitol Heights, MD. June 8, 2019.** Every summer, 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 in the Addison Road community. That can only mean one thing – it is time for the annual Seniors Banquet. Once again, on Saturday, June 8, the Brothers showed up and showed up, making this year's event one of the biggest and most successful ever.

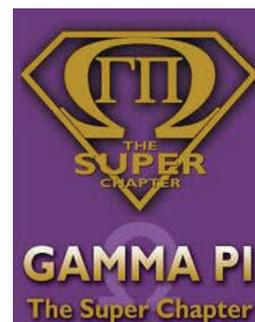
They arrived in cars and buses and vans. Some clutching walkers and the arms of relatives dropping them off, all slowly but eagerly making their way into the fellowship hall. The staggered entrance of seniors was like a parade.

There were almost more people than seats as more than 100 seniors crowded the hall for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship from 12 noon until 3 p.m. With an array of interactive trivia and other games, a hearty meal cooked in the on-site ovens, musical entertainment from the always-popular Gamma Pi Chorale singing spiritual selections. It was topped off by a sermon. It 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. But the work began long before the emcee grabbed the microphone. It began the night before with Gamma Pi Brothers purchasing the food and then showing up in the wee hours of the morning on the day of the banquet to prepare the hot hearty meals.

Thanks to Bro. Shaku Alieu for organizing another successful effort for the Social Action Committee.



## Gamma Pi 2019 Project ENRICH



*Students engaged in public speaking at Project ENRICH*

**Bowie, MD. April 2, 2019.** They approached the front of the room one by one. Once positioned, they introduced themselves and identified their topics. And then it was time to start talking. Each one had a different cadence, a different decibel level and a different presentation style. But one thing that is common to each of the students who presented their essays at Saturday's Project ENRICH session, is that they all had the opportunity to research and talk about an important part of Black history.

Each year, the April essays are nail-biting time for the students who must overcome the jitters to stand tall and deliver a coherent talk in a room full of their peers and parents. But it's also one of Project ENRICH's top learning activities. It goes to the core of one of the program's key goals, to help students learn vital verbal communication skills as they prepare for college and life afterwards.

The students are assigned topics according to their class standing. For example, the freshmen were asked to research and write essays about the early 20th century Camp Logan Riots. What precipitated the riots and

early 20th century Camp Logan Riots. What precipitated the riots and were the actions justified? The sophomores were given the task of orating on A. Phillip Randolph and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The juniors spoke about The Great Migration of the 20th century that saw millions of African Americans "head north" to escape the clutches of Jim Crow in the deep south and latch on to better job opportunities. Finally, the seniors discussed the two types of African American leaders who dominated at the turn of the 20th century – the Assimilators and the Liberators. Which one should Black people have followed?

Project ENRICH Director Bro. Willie Hines views the essays as a training exercise for public speaking, as well as a venue to develop critical thinking skills. The students seem to understand and appreciate. After each presentation, students are given a critique by a panel of Project ENRICH staff, which included Gamma Pi members Hines, Lawrence Branch, Pete Ford, Marc Ellington, Jason Crump and James Riley.

## Gamma Pi Annual Seniors Banquet Photo



## Iota Nu 50th Anniversary Fundraiser



*Iota Nu Brothers at the 50th Anniversary Fundraiser*

**Havre de Grace, MD. April 20, 2019.** The Iota Nu Chapter Fundraising Committee lead by Brother Dana Fogg presented an Old-School Hip-Hop Rep Your School fundraiser on Saturday April 20th at Bulle Rock Golf Course in Havre de Grace. The guests of the Brother of Omega Psi Phi, Inc. were treated to hor d'oeuvres, a cigar area and of course a DJ

for dancing. Over 180 patrons supported the event and the chapter raised funds to support our \$10,000 goal to provide scholarships to graduating seniors attending Harford and Cecil county high schools during our 50th Anniversary Year.

## Iota Nu Back to School Supply Drive and First Day of School Greeting



*Brothers Eric Story, Dana Fogg, and Michael Bennett dropping off school supplies*

**Aberdeen, MD. August 28, 2019 and September 3, 2019.** Brothers of the Iota Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Inc., along the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC) Harford Alumni Council (HAC) participated in a back to school supply drive on August 28, 2019 to provide school supplies to the Aberdeen Middle School and the Magnolia Middle School. In addition to supporting the school supplies drop off, the Brothers of Iota Nu participated presentation provided during the supply drive. The leadership teams from both schools were very grateful for the donations and encour-

aged continued interaction with the schools throughout the year. Following the Back to School Drive, on September 3, 2019 several members of Iota Nu Chapter participated in greeting the students of Magnolia Middle School as the started the school year. Each member greeted the students with words of encouragement on having a great school year as they exited their school bus and entered the school. Principal, Laurie Namey, and her staff were excited to have the Iota Nu Brother participate in the First Day Meet and Greet.

## Iota Nu Pillow Donation to Harford Family House



*Brother Mike Bennett (right) donating pillows to Heather Lynch (left) of the Harford Family House*

**Havre de Grace, MD. June 13, 2019.** Brother Mike Bennett, Iota Nu Chaplain continues to provide excellent community service to the Harford County community. Brother Bennett leads the chapter’s volunteer and donations efforts for the Harford Family House, whose mission is providing transitional housing for families experiencing homelessness. On a recent volunteer opportunity, preparing an apartment for a family, Brother Bennett noticed that only one pillow remained for the next family moving in. Brother Bennett reached out to the Brothers of Iota Nu Chapter and other organizations to request pillow donations. Over the next two weeks, Brother Bennett collected eighteen (18) pillows that were donated to Heather Lynch of the Harford Family House on 13 June 2019. Brother Bennett quoted Heather as saying “they were down to their last pillow and Iota Nu’s timing couldn’t have been better” as she saw the pillows being delivered. Job Well Done!

## Iota Nu Voter’s Registration Drive at Harford County Juneteenth Event



*Members of Iota Nu and HCAC DST assisting a festival participant to register as a new voter.*

**Darlington, MD. June 22, 2019.** Brothers of Iota Nu Chapter, Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc. partnered with the Harford County Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. (HCAC DST) and the Hosanna School Museum to conduct a Voter registration drive during the Hosanna School Museum’s third annual Juneteenth celebration festival. In preparation for the voter registration drive the chapter’s newly-elected Basileus, Chuck Gibson, Immediate Past Basileus, Russel Reese, Vice-Basileus, Aurelio Burton, Assistant KRS, Ed Kolen, Editor to the Oracle, Michael Grim, and members Walt Wyatt and Jon Story were trained and certified as a Voter Registration Volunteers (VRVs) by members of HCAC DST who are also members of the League of Women Voters of Harford County. More than 2,000 people attended the festival that commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States and celebrates African-American history and culture. The Iota Nu Chapter and HCAC DST manned a voter registration tent from 12 pm to 6 pm to assist festival participants to register as new voters. Voter’s Registration, Education & Mobilization is a mandated program and all levels of the fraternity and all chapters expected to facilitate, participate and coordinate activities that will uplift and serve their communities through the power of voting.

## Iota Nu Feeding the Homeless



**Edgewood, MD. September 14, 2019.** The Brothers of Iota Nu Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. partnered with the Harford County Pan Hellenic Chapter and the Prince of Peace Catholic Church to prepare and serve meals to 120 homeless and underprivileged families in the Harford County community. Iota Nu donated 120 hamburgers, 2 pans of baked beans, 4 bags of clothing and thirty (30) man hours to the social action event chaired by Brother Basileus, Chuck Gibson.

*Brothers of Iota Nu preparing to serve meals to 120 homeless and underprivileged families*

## Kappa Chapter Back Pack Drive



*Kappa Chapter Brothers with Chapter Advisor, Ben Jeffers, giving Back Packs to Syracuse Area youth*

**Syracuse, NY. September 5, 2019.** The Brothers of Kappa Chapter held another successful back pack drive in the beginning of this school year. In the annual event the brothers spend the first few weeks of the school year going door to door visiting every single form of housing on campus to ask for any spare books, bags or school supplies that were donated to Van Duyn Elementary School in the Syracuse community. After the brothers collected the supplies, they packed a large amount of back packs with the supplies so that they could be handed out to the kids who couldn't afford

a bag/supplies for their first day. Following the packing of the bags, the brothers also greeted the elementary school students as they walked down a red carpet for their first day of school. They also visited a few classrooms and helped hand out the back packs for the children who needed them. Pictured below is the brothers with the kids, before when they packed the bags with the help of volunteers and on the red carpet the morning of the first day.

## Kappa Chapter Common App Essay Workshop



*Kappa Chapter Brothers with Nottingham High Seniors at the Workshop*

**Syracuse, NY. September 27, 2019.** The Brothers of Kappa Chapter had another successful Omega week, holding several successful service events on the campus of Syracuse University as well as in the community at large. One of the most successful events to close out the week was the annual Common App workshop that took place at Nottingham High school. This event has been held every year where the brothers go to the high

school in the afternoon and aid the seniors in writing their common app essays for college as well as give them some advice on how to approach the college search. They helped the students choose a topic if they didn't have one already as well as help them continue writing if they already started. The event had a great turnout and every student left much more confident on their college opportunities.

## Kappa Chapter Puppies on the Quad Event



*Kappa Chapter Brothers with Chapter Advisor, Ben Jeffers, at the Puppies on the Quad event*

**Syracuse, NY. September 23, 2019.** The Brothers of the Kappa Chapter kicked off their Fall 2019 Omega week with “Puppies on the Quad”. Brothers Dante Harris and Josiah Kabemba lead this event by staying on the quad with the dogs, inviting passing students to come pet the dogs in between their classes. This event was centered upon giving students a positive experience walking from classes, allowing them to enter a positive, healthy, and healing environment around the dogs. Animals are a commonly used therapy-based treatment for stress and depression, which

was the brothers’ specific aim to provide a less stressful environment during the beginning of the rigorous school year. The purpose of this event was achieved through the number of students who attended this event and the clear attitude change and happiness experienced throughout the event. Pictured above are Brother Dante Harris and Brother Josiah Kabemba, along with Brother Benjamin Jeffers and the members of Helping Hounds Dog Rescue.

## Kappa Chapter Dodgeball Event



*Kappa Chapter Brothers with attendees after the event*

**Syracuse, NY. September 26, 2019.** The Brothers of Kappa Chapter continued their Omega week programming with a friendly game of dodge ball on campus. This event brought together various people in the campus community and was an opportunity for everyone to have fun. The event was held in Syracuse University’s new Barnes center gym that was just completely renovated. The Brothers got a good workout in as well with the good turnout.

# Kappa Omicron 10th Annual Food Pantry Drive



*Kappa Omicron Brothers with Members of several Community Organization members at the Food Pantry Drive*

**New York, NY. June 1, 2019.** The Kappa Omicron Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated will donate \$5,000 dollars to five community food pantries, all found within the boroughs of New York City. While working in conjunction with several community-oriented organizations, such as the Black Veterans for Social Justice, the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. addresses the immediate needs of the communities less fortunate.

The need for food has become an urgent matter in impoverished communities. In December 2017, the Coalition for the Homeless reported that 63,495 people lived in shelters in New York City. This number does not account for those living on the streets or living in poverty, but not in shelters. There are many reasons why poverty seems like such an insurmountable problem in New York City. Many families are afflicted with

unemployment, seniors and fixed income families live in poverty due to unfortunate economic circumstances, and veterans suffer from both visible and invisible wounds of war. Food assistance can make a difference in the lives of our less fortunate fellow citizens given the current climate in our country.

The Five Boroughs Food Drive was founded by Thomas Wallace and Ray Haskins of the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Since its inception, in 2009, shelters have been provided with significant amounts of food and groceries. Substantial monetary assistance has also been given to organizations who serve these citizens in need such as five different food pantries found throughout the five boroughs. Through generous donations, Kappa Omicron’s Five Borough Food Drive has provided over \$37,000 in assistance to these communities in need.

## Omicron Mu Nu Volunteers with Blue Cross Broad Street Run



**Philadelphia PA. May 3, 2019.** The Omicron Mu Nu chapter greeted the runners of the Blue Cross Broad Street Run at the Expo for their registration process. The brothers met the runners to hand out t-shirts and registration packets to prepare them for their big event.

This is the second year that the Omicron Mu Nu brothers have volunteered with the annual Blue Cross Broad Street Run in Philadelphia. Named one of the fastest 10-mile courses in the country by Runner’s World, it starts at Broad Street and Somerville Avenue and ends inside the Philadelphia Navy Yard in South Philadelphia. According to the race’s organizers, Philadelphia’s Department of Parks and Recreation, the first Blue Cross Broad Street Run took place in 1980 with 1,500 runners. Since then, the race has raised more than \$5 million for the American Cancer Society and other local community and charity programs.

*Omicron Mu Nu Brother Volunteering Blue Cross at the Broad Street Run*

# Omicron Mu Nu Treats the Community to a Ball Game



*Omicron Mu Nu Brothers with community residents at the Phillies Ball game*

**West Chester, PA. July 30, 2019.** Through it's mentoring program Brothers of Omicron Mu Nu teamed up with members from The Sanji Team of West Chester, the Brandywine YMCA Oscar Lasko Youth Program, and Lifeline Baptist Church of Coatesville to treat the community the Phillies game against the San Francisco Giants. Thanks to The Philadelphia Phillies Community Engagement Coordinator, Kenny Johnson the brothers were able to treat 100 people total to the

game with at Citizens Bank Park. Students, aged 8 to 15, and their chaperones were given the opportunity to attend what was, for many, their first baseball game thanks to the Omicron Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Basileus Darius Taylor says activities like this provide Brothers with an opportunity to provide positive male mentorship to young disadvantaged students.

# Omicron Mu Nu Supports YMCA Healthy Kids Day



*Omicron Mu Nu Brothers at YMCA event*

**West Chester, PA. April 27, 2019.** Brothers from Omicron Mu Nu along with sisters of Delta Sigma Theta supported the local YMCA as they celebrated Healthy Kids Day, a national initiative to improve the health and well-being of kids. The local YMCA of Greater Brandywine hosted a free community event which featured moon bounces, games, arts and crafts, demon-

[www.opp2d.org](http://www.opp2d.org)

strations, information tables and much more. Omicron Mu Nu Brother Julian Griffith who works at the YMCA helped to organize the event. Basileus Darius Taylor says that participating in such events is just one more way that Omicron Mu Nu continues to show their support for area youth.

# Omicron Mu Nu Helps Keep West Chester Clean & Green



*Omicron Mu Nu Brothers cleaning West Chester, PA*

**West Chester, PA. April 27, 2019.** Brothers from Omicron Mu Nu together with hundreds of other volunteers turned out for the inaugural Clean and Green initiative in West Chester. West Chester Mayor, Dianne Herrin, personally greeted the Brothers and thanked them for their continued support.

Brothers working along with other volunteers gathered trash and cleaned the popular walking areas in the borough. Basileus Darius Taylor says he is committed to making the Omega name and brand known in the community as one of service and uplift.

## Phi Omega Brother Cedric Holloway Receives Black Achievers Award

**Buffalo, New York. October 5, 2019.** During the 47th Buffalo Black Achiever Gala, Bro. Cedric Holloway was honored with the Mayor’s Youth Award for the 24th anniversary and his leadership of the Omega Gent Mentoring Program. The non-for-profit mentoring program is designed for inner city males in grades 9-12. Participants are provided with monthly one to one mentoring, enrichment activities and annual college tours to HBCU campuses. Bro. Holloway, life member and active member of Phi Omega Chapter, is a detective sergeant and SWAT commander for the Buffalo Police Department. He is also an instructor of ethics, firearms and defensive

tactics. Bro. Holloway matriculated at Howard University but completed his studies at SUNY University at Buffalo in legal studies. He maintains his demeanor as an unrelenting officer of the law, while maintaining a loving disposition as a husband, father and community leader. He has received several awards including the Stop the Violence Award (2012), Afro American Police Association Award for Heroism (2010), City of Buffalo Change Maker (2009), New York State Assembly Arthur O. Eve’s Community Service Award, and Phi Omega Outstanding Service Award (2008). Congratulations to Bro. Holloway.

## Phi Omega Brother Willie “Hutch” Jones Receives Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters

**Buffalo, New York. October 15, 2019.** During Canisius College’s 149th Graduate Commencement Ceremony held in Buffalo, New York on May 18, 2019, Bro. Willie “Hutch” Jones was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by President John J. Hurley for his community service and leadership. Bro. Jones is an iconic sport figure and community leader in Western, New York. He was initiated in 1982 into the Theta Beta Chapter (Vanderbilt University) and is a Life Member currently active with Phi Omega Chapter. A native of Buffalo, Bro. Jones started the Willie “Hutch” Jones Educational and Sports Program, to provide urban students, at no charge, equal opportunities to engage in high quality programs and to offer character-building activities through academics, sports and the arts. His program has served more than 10,000 children ages 5-16 for over 34 years. The program have grown from basketball to currently offering baseball, chess, crew, dance, football, golf, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and STEAM training. Additionally, there are after-school programs and

homework clubs. Bro. Jones received a Master’s degree in Sports Administration from Wayne State University (Detroit, Michigan) which has prepared him to acquire sponsorships from major corporations to support his free community jewel. Bro. Jones works in the Buffalo Public School as a physical education teacher and coach’s basketball, cross country and track. Bro. Jones is the recipient of several honors including the Black Achievers in Industry Award, the Westside Rowing Club Community Service Award, chosen by both WGRZ-TV2 and WNED/WBFO –TV for Making A Difference in The Community, Buffalo Masters Outstanding Contributor Award, The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York Award, inducted into the Buffalo Inner City Athletic Educational Association Hall of Fame, and the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame. However, his greatest accomplishment is his family. Jones, 61, and his wife Tamica, are the proud parents of Aswad, Aaliyah, David, and Leah.

# Phi Omega Annual Family Cook Out at the Pine Grille Festival



*Phi Omega Brothers with community residents enjoying the Annual Family Cookout*

**Buffalo, New York. August 11, 2019.** The annual Chapter’s Cook Out in appreciation for continued community support was held in Buffalo, New York at the Martin Luther King Jr. Park during the Pine Grille Reunion Jazz Festival. Attendees were provided with catered meals and enjoyed

performance that included L-A-W-, Straight Shot, and the Earl Rober-son Quartet-led by the Buffalo native and saxophonist who toured with the Gap Band. Phi Omega is under the leadership of Daren R. Thomas, Basileus.

# Theta Mu Mu Cheltenham Youth Detention Center Visit



*Theta Mu Mu and Gamma Pi Brothers participating at the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center Visit*

**Cheltenham, MD. June 29th, 2019.** The Brothers of Theta Mu Mu partnered up with the Brothers of Gamma Pi Chapter Brother Tiresius McCall and Social Action Chair, Brother Kevin Greenwood)on June 29th, 2019 to visit the youth at the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center in Cheltenham, MD. The morning started off with the brothers being greeted with danishes, juices, and fruit to start the day. The Brothers went through security (as the norm) and were given the rules of the day including no cell phones, weapons, etc. Three groups of young men gathered in the Facility gym to listen to the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. share intimate

stories about their past and the lessons they learned. There were roughly 40 brothers in attendance to speak to total of about 30 young men. Brother Ed Hill(Theta Mu Mu)was included in the program to speak and gave very relative experiences to share. Brothers Charles Holloway and Alonzo Chester Sr. of Theta Mu Mu were also in attendance at the Facility. This Service was a fulfilling one to remember. And no doubt the brothers left these young men with food for thought and nothing but positivity going forward. If we only help 1 young man out that that group, we were successful.

# Theta Mu Mu Maryland Food Bank Social Action



*Theta Mu Mu Brother Alonzo Chester volunteering at the Maryland Food Bank*

**Baltimore, MD. September 20, 2019.** The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated Theta Mu Mu Chapter participated in a Volunteer Service event at the Maryland Food Bank. The Food Bank presented the Chapter with a warm welcome as we entered the building. Brothers Craig Bedford, Jeff Givens, Mike Billups, Alex Scott, and Alonzo Chester Sr. sorted a variety of food categories such as snacks, dinners, and desserts.

We boxed and taped them accordingly to be shipped out to a variety of organizations such as food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and faith-based organizations that serve food-insecure Marylanders, as the Food Bank supplies food to hundreds of organizations. It is the East Coast’s first food bank and leads the fight against hunger in Maryland.

# Theta Mu Mu Helps Feed the Homeless in Baltimore



**Baltimore, MD. June 23, 2019.** The Brothers of Theta Mu Mu Helped the SkyLyne Foundation feed the homeless in downtown Baltimore, Maryland under the I-83 Bridge on Sunday June 23rd, 2019. The SkyLyne Foundation was established in 2016 due to a much needed effort to help feed, clothe, and provide support for the homeless. Their Mission Statement is “To Bring Peace and Prosperity in the World Though Liberal Distribution of Essential Needs of the Homeless and Less Fortunate.” The Brothers helped set up tables, make sandwiches, and assemble lunch bags. Some brothers also brought items to add to the donations. Waters were provided along with used clothing and shoes for men and women. Theta Mu Mu plans on including this much needed effort in our Social Action Calendar throughout the year.



*Theta Mu Mu Brother Volunteering preparing items for Baltimore’s Homeless*

# Theta Mu Mu Brother Discuss Health Education Careers with Youth



*Brothers Timothy Jennings with Dunbar High Students*

**Baltimore, MD. October 11, 2019.** Brother Timothy Jennings from the Theta Mu Mu Chapter visited Dunbar High School at the request of Instructor Venetia Roberts, Allied Health Instructor for the Emergency

Medical Services Program. The forum was held in the learning lab and the trials that young African Americans will face in the Allied Health fields was discussed along with Life Skills and Career Preparedness

# Theta Mu Mu Supports HCC 5K for Charity



*Theta Mu Mu Brothers with volunteers at the HCC 5K Run for charity*

**Howard County, MD. October 13, 2019.** The Theta Mu Mu Chapter along with a Member of Tau Psi supported the 5k race at Howard Community College. The 5K benefits those who are under privileged. The event started at 0700 and ended at 1200 with over 1000 runners and

walkers including Brothers Tim Jennings and Shawn Lamb. Brothers organized and assisted at the first aid station, and runner support stations at the end of the race.

## Zeta Iota Iota College Campus Tours

**Raleigh, NC., April 18, 2019.** Omega men from the 2nd District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., shaping, saving and impacting the next generation of young leaders.

As a proud member of our beloved Fraternity, I have never been prouder than I was over Spring break where I witnessed Omega men making personal sacrifices, taking leave from work to take high school age children out of their comfort zone to visit college campuses.

According to the Congressional black Caucus Foundation it is imperative to expose our young people to college at a young age, especially our young males. Black males ages 18 and older make up just 5.5 % of all college students. Young black males who do make it to college, only one in six will receive a college degree.

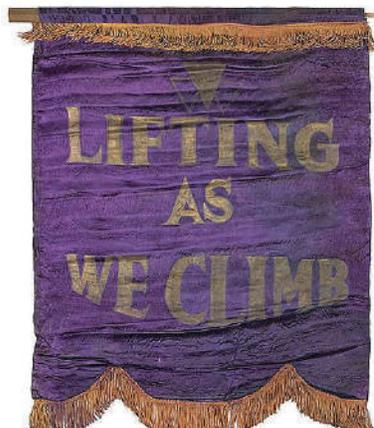
This is why it is imperative for Omega men to increase their commitment to conducting college visits to campus in communities. Our experi-

ence with mentoring our young males shows that it continues to be vital in changing the mental mind map, instilling confidence and coaching a young person in order to increase the enrollment at colleges

Zeta Iota Iota Chapter members located in Philadelphia had two buses approximately 86 students, 62 male students and 24 female students. Members of Might Mu Nu Chapter located in Maryland, Coach Adrian "Hotdog" McDaniel had approximately 33 male students and 2nd District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman, Donald Williams and Jason Miller visited 8 colleges in three days had 25 students (21 Male and 4 female students). Shout out to all Omega men and Greeks who assisted with make this a great experience! Thank you to for all you do in for being a helping hand to uplift students, families and community **across** the five states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland.



*Youth on College Tour Bus*



## Pi Omega 10th Annual Staying Alive Health Festival



*Brother Dr. Mike Saffold, with Omega Brother give dental screenings at Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Van at Pi Omega Health Festival*



*Chesapeake Urology gives prostate screenings at Pi Omega Health Festival*

**Baltimore, MD. June 15, 2019.** Pi Omega Chapter held its 10th Annual “Staying Alive Health Festival and Community Day on June 15, 2019 at the Matthew A> Henson Elementary School, adjacent to the Pi Omega Fraternity Center. The objectives of the health fair are two-fold and were met. One, we wanted to disseminate life-saving information to a large number of people in a short amount of time. Health care is virtually absent in the community where our fraternity center is located. For many years, Pi Omega has sought to sew back into the Matthew Henson Community and the surrounding area or our fraternity center. Our flagship program is our partnership with the Matthew Henson Elementary School located next to our Fraternity Center. We participate in the reading programs, we sponsor several field trips yearly, the Last Day of School Cookout, as well as other programs.

We recognized 10 years ago that there was a definite lack of health care facilities in the community. Simply, we decided to bring a health fair and community day to the neighborhood. With sponsorship from the Chesapeake Urology Associates (the leading Urological Physicians group in the region), donations from the Pi Omega Chapter, the Pi Omega Foundation, Maryland Employees Credit Union, Coppin Heights Development Corporation, BES Technology, Inc. and others, we have become an event that the community and the Brothers look forward to. This year, 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 to the health screenings available, we had 16 vendors with health care information handouts, as well as, vendors with federal, state and private insurance information. In addition this year, we had representatives from the Baltimore City Office of the Mayor’s Employment Division.

Moving forward, we will initiate processes that enable us to monitor and chart the impact our Staying Alive Health Festival screenings has on the community residents we serve.

Some of the results of the health fair were: 64 screenings and recommended follow ups were made for blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. There 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). Upon confirmation, a biopsy is recommended. We are making a difference!

Secondly, we wanted to increase our already good relationship with our community around the Pi Omega Fraternity Center, so, we added the Community Festival segment. This consisted of a cookout for 300 neighbors, friends and family. Many Brothers also brought their families. We had a DJ, face painting, 2 moon bounces and plenty of food and refreshments for everyone. We are looking forward to next year.

## Pi Omega Self-Defense Classes with Parker Therapeutic Services

**Baltimore, MD. October 3, 2019.** The Brothers of Pi Omega hosted a self-defense class with Parker Therapeutic Services, Incorporated. The individuals learned how to use and defend against weapons for self-defense. In a serious assault, it’s likely your opponent or opponents will be armed. If they’re not, they’ll probably be bigger, stronger, or more numerous than you. It’s unlikely you’ll be attacked by a smaller, weaker, single individual with no weapon. Think about that. If you get attacked, your opponent will probably have some perceived advantage. Being able to defend against an armed attack and knowing how to use weapons will allow you to turn the tables in your favor. Parker Therapeutic Services, Incorporated is a state-licensed, family-centered, one-stop mental health agency that provides Mental Health Services Without Walls

*Brother Dr. Lamonte Tyle teaches Self Defense to participants*



## Pi Omega Teaches Self Defense to Mt Zion Christian School

**Baltimore, MD. September 27, 2019.** The Brothers of Pi Omega hosted a free self-defense class to the fourth and fifth graders of Mount Zion Baptist Christian School. The Brothers were brought in during the after-school program. Knowing self-defense is ever more important, especially in times of economic difficulty. Self-defense is defined as being able to have the ability or skill to protect oneself and prevent others from bringing harm. Self-defense also helps develop several human capabilities like self-esteem, overcoming of fear, awareness/alertness, and respect of self. If these critical areas are enhanced, a person is more likely to secure himself and enrich the promptness of his response faculties. Children today are faced with bullying. Bullying can threaten students' physical and emotional safety at school and can negatively influence their ability to learn. The best way to address bullying is to stop it before it starts. The cost to the chapter was zero.

Mount Zion Baptist Christian School is a private Christian school that came into existence in 1988 to help prepare a small group of Christian young people for leadership. Their vision is to provide an educational program that will develop students spiritually, academically, socially, financially, and physically. Their mission is to improve the whole child in the same areas in which Jesus grew.

Also, the school encourages the development of Christian leader's mindset in their students as encourage them to know God, perform their best academically, plan a successful future, have the courage to stand for what is right and help to make a godly difference in the lives of others.



*Brother Dr. Lamonte Tyle teaches Self Defense to participants*

## Pi Omega July 4th and Labor Day Homeless Feedings



*Brother Dr. Lamonte Tyler Feeding the Homeless on July 4th 2019.*

**Baltimore, MD. July 4, 2019.** Brothers from Pi Omega participated in the 4th of July Homeless Feeding 2019. The brothers provided pizza, snacks, water, and soda for 80 individuals. The brothers provided two 42-gallon trash bags filled with clean clothes. This event took place at St. Vincent de Paul Church Park which is located 120 North Front Street, Baltimore Maryland 21202

**Baltimore, MD. September 3, 2019.** Brothers from Pi Omega participated in the Labor Day 2019 Homeless Feeding. The brothers provided 10 whole pizzas, 2 cases of water, chips, hamburgers, hotdogs, soda, and pastries. This event took place at St. Vincent de Paul Church Park which is located 120 North Front Street, Baltimore Maryland 21202. Directly across the street is The Phoenix Shot Tower

# When We Wear the Gloves

Manhood.....laid low



## Brother William Glenwood Neal - Omega Chapter



*Brother William Glenwood Neal*

Brother William Glenwood Neal transitioned to Omega Chapter in May 2019. Initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., at West Virginia State College (now WVS University), Theta Psi Chapter in the Fall of 1948, Bro. William Neal also shared his love of Fraternity with his Brother Wendell Neal, Nu Psi 1947 (Virginia State College) Omega Chapter

1991, and his nephew former 12th District Representative Keith Neal Jr., 1976 Iota Epsilon Chapter at Towson State College. He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, the late Ms Josephine Wright. From their union came two Daughters, Shawn Berry, and Glynis Sampson. Brother Neal’s guidance and work ethic as an Omega man, lead both daughters to pledge Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and they pledged as undergraduate members, Shawn while attending Virginia State, and Glynis while attending Hampton Institute.

After graduating from Dunbar High School Baltimore, MD. In 1944, He was drafted into the United States Army and served in WWII while stationed in the Philippine Islands. He was honorably discharged in 1947. Following his military service, Bro. Neal matriculated at West Virginia State College graduating with honors and receiving a Bachelor’s Degree in History and Economics in 1951. He went on to complete graduate studies at Morgan State College and Towson State College (both now Universities) earning a Master’s Degree in Secondary Education. His teaching career spanned over three decades. His educational impact served thousands of students as a teacher, assistant principal and administrator in the Baltimore City Public Schools system.

Bro William Glenwood Neal was a financial member of our Fraternity for 71 years. He was a financial member in good standings his entire fraternity life. Just last year June 2018 he was awarded his 70th year of service medal at his home chapter, Pi Omega, which he joined in 1952.

He served on the Mardi Gras Committee and Raffle Ticket Committees for ten years faithfully. He was the top seller of raffle tickets. He was known to spend countless hours at the mall encouraging shoppers to buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win a brand new car. Brother Neal was also a member of Pi Omega’s Chapter Que Mentors, an auxiliary of retired Brothers and educators providing mentoring to college bound African American males, and supporting our community efforts with Matthew Henson Elementary School in Baltimore City.

## Brother Gregory Showell - Omega Chapter



*Brother Gregory Showell*

Bro. Gregory L. Showell, Sr., 71, of Milford transitioned to Omega Chapter on June 15, 2019 at the Delaware Hospice Home in Milford surrounded by his family.

Gregory was born in Wilmington, DE on September 7, 1947, to the late Wilson and Marie Curry Showell.

Gregory was preceded in death by his parents Wilson and Marie Showell. Gregory attended Banneker elementary school and was one of the “Milford Seven” in 1960 at Milford Senior High school. Gregory graduated from Delaware State University in 1969 and obtained his Master’s degree in Business in 2006 from Wesley College. Gregory worked at Sprint and Bank Of America as a Customer Service Manager. Gregory was a member of St. Paul United Methodist and loved his Church family. Gregory was a 50 year member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Inc. Psi Epsilon Chapter Dover, DE.

Gregory is survived by his wife Linda Sharpe-Showell, and children, Gregory L. Showell, Jr., Courtney (Jaclyn) Showell, Sonja R. Hammond, Franklin Cephas, Brandon, Sharpe, Jordan Showell, twelve grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

**When we say our last goodbye...He walks on Streets of Pearls**

# When We Wear the Gloves

Manhood.....laid low



## Brother Roderick E. Richardson - Omega Chapter



*Brother Roderick E. Richardson*

Bro. Roderick E. Richardson , affectionately known as “Stone Face”, transitioned to Omega Chapter on August 1, 2019. Initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Pi Omega Chapter in Baltimore, MD. on March 16, 1984, he was a life-long financial member of the Omega Psi Phi for 35 years and was Life Member #2879. Brother Richardson served the Second District as 1st Vice District Representative, District Keeper of Finance and Assistant District Keeper of Records and Seal.

Upon graduation in 1973 from Mount St. Joseph High School in Irvington, Maryland, and Brother Richardson then earned a bachelor’s degree in 1977 from Morgan State University in Baltimore, graduating Magna Cum Laude. After college, Brother Richardson took a job with the accounting firm Peat, Marwick. In 1979, he was appointed auditor for the Bank of Baltimore. In 1986, Brother Richardson joined the staff at the University of Maryland as a budget analyst. He retired from his position in 2015 due to ailing health. He was a consummate professional in budgetary matters and accounting management. His impact on Pi Omega Chapter was extensive.

Brother Richardson served as Pi Omega Chapter Basileus, from 1995-1997. He received such distinguished honors as Second District Basileus of the Year 1997, and Pi Omega’s Man of the Year 1998. He also served Pi Omega Chapter in the following leadership roles; Keeper of Finance and Assistant Keeper of Finance. In addition, Brother Richardson served on the Budget Committee, Scholarship Committee and many other committees for Pi Omega Chapter. He served as President of the Pan Hellenic Greek Council.

## Brother Danny T. Clark - Omega Chapter



*Brother Danny T. Clark*

Bro. Danny T Clark was born December 1, 1946 in Lester, West Virginia, to Elizabeth Anderson and James Clark. His family moved to Philadelphia, PA where he attended and graduated from Edison High School.

Danny entered the United States Army in 1966 as a military policeman and dog trainer. He served in Korea and Japan. Danny was also an Adjutant General in the United States Army Reserves.

He attended and graduated from LaSalle College, (now LaSalle University) in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and a minor in Psychology. Upon graduation from LaSalle University Danny moved to Rochester, NY.

Danny was a proud, dedicated, and active member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. He was initiated into Theta Omicron Chapter, Rochester, NY on May 9, 1981.

Danny had a strong work ethic. He worked for the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department until his retirement in 2002.

Among his many interests and hobbies were his love of jazz music, playing saxophone and flute. His love for music resulted in him continuing to study at the Eastman School of Music. He was an avid fisherman and a third-degree black belt in Judo and Karate.

Danny is survived by his children, Damian (Jehan) Clark, Nikia Clark and Adrian Barton; his siblings and grandchildren, Sean and Christopher Hargrave and Sloane Harper Clark and host of relatives and dear friends. Danny was known as a classy, stylish dresser and lover of fine cars. We will miss his free spirit.

**When we say our last goodbye...He walks on Streets of Pearls**

# When We Wear the Gloves

Manhood.....laid low



## Brother Arthur “Art” Williams - Omega Chapter



*Brother Art Williams*

Bro. Arthur “Art” Williams III was born on October 9, 1946 in Rochester, N.Y. Art passed peacefully in his sleep in January 20, 2019 at Strong Hospital.

Art, as a young man was very active at Mt. Olivet in Boys Scouts and Sunday School. Art graduated from James Madison High School in 1964 where he was an outstanding athlete, participating in hockey, soccer, bowling and baseball (his first love). Upon graduation he entered the United States Navy, where he received an honorable discharge. After the Navy,

Art attended Monroe Community College before transferring to Kentucky State College (now Kentucky State University) in Frankfort, KY. While at Kentucky State Art majored in Business Administration and played on the baseball team.

In 1969, Art was inducted into Omega Psi Phi. Fraternity through Psi Psi Chapter. Upon graduation, Art returned to Rochester, became active with Theta Omicron Chapter, and began his 30+ Year career with Xerox Corporation. While employed at Xerox Art worked as a Manufacturing Expediter, later becoming a Purchasing Officer. He retired from Xerox in 2009.

Art was a man of many talents who loved to joke, “to know Art was to love him.” He was a man who never let the grass grow under his feet. You could always find him on the mound of someone’s diamond, throwing softballs pitches or the neighborhood bowling alley, throwing bowling balls, like his father. After retirements from Xerox, Art became an avid golfer. You could always find him stylishly dressed and ready to impress. His love of golf allowed him to fulfill one item on his bucket list, to attend the Master’s. If he was not playing golf, he was volunteering at the LPGA tournaments in Rochester.

Prior to his illness, Art was a dedicated member of Theta Omicron chapter and served on Theta Omicron Scholarship Foundation UNCF Golf Committee. He oversaw procurement for the 1991 and the 2005 Second District Conferences and 1999 Shirtsleeve Conference. Art also was a member of Theta Omicron Chapter Fundraising committee and Cookbook Committee. Art always helped to provide uplift to the brotherhood.

## Brother William H. Watson - Omega Chapter



*Brother William H. Watson*

Brother William H. Watson, Sr. entered Omega chapter on September 18, 2018. He was initiated into Omega through Theta Omicron Chapter on July 31, 1979. Bro. Watson completed undergraduate and graduate studies at the Eastman School of Music where he studied piano and music theory. As a member of Theta Omicron Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Bro. Watson took a keen interest in the Talent Hunt program for high school students. He served as the chapter’s chairman for four years. He also served as an advisor for the fraternity’s International Talent Hunt Committee and was instrumental in developing the current adjudication guidelines. Bro. 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. In addition to serving as a Minister of Music, he was a founding member of the jazz ensemble, A Few Bad Apples. Bro. Watson had an extensive career as a music director in community theater and GEVA. Bill also volunteered as a Gateway Music Festival Musician. Bro. Watson was a past musical director of the “Omega Select Chorus” of Rochester, NY.. The Rochester community has lost a musical genius. The Watson family has lost a loving husband, father, brother and grandfather. Theta Omicron will greatly miss Bro. Watson’s quiet demeanor and leadership as we sing “Omega Dear.”

**When we say our last goodbye...He walks on Streets of Pearls**

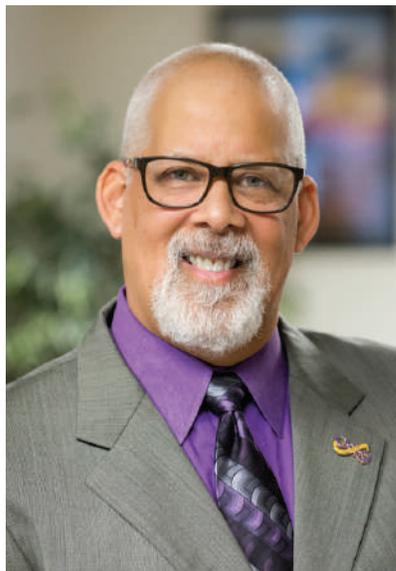


# What's On the Minds of Omega Men

## Opinion/Editorial Section



### A Lifetime of Brotherly Friendship



*Brother Garry M. Keel, Ed.D.*

At the shirtsleeve conference, I had the opportunity to sit on a panel of Brothers spanning 8 decades of Omega discussing the importance of friendship in relation to how Brothers interact with each other.

As I listened to each speaker and watched the power point presentation about the genesis of friendship in our beloved organization, it dawned on me that the closer that we are as friends, the closer we are to finding and maintaining a lifetime of Brotherly friendship. Furthermore, I thought that we (it will take all of us) might be able to alleviate some of the negativity that has reared its ugly head in Omega by ensuring that Friendship stays in the forefront of our interactions with each other. Instead of highlighting the trauma and consequences of poor behavior that occurs when some members needlessly challenge each other on some disparate aspect of Omega or when some members show poor judgement in working with candidates, perhaps we can work on encouraging and highlighting the importance of Friendship. But how do we do that? Friendship at its rudimentary core is something that is individualized and means different things to different people in different ways. However, in my 42 years in Omega, I have noticed at least one common denominator that is almost always present when Brothers talk about and exhibit long term friendships. It is when Brothers engage in activities with other Brothers through each other's non-fraternal family. I have had the good fortune to share Friendship with a number of Brothers, including my Five to Survive Line Brothers, many Brothers from Iota Gamma, Delta Upsilon and NU NU chapters and as Dean/MSP chair for 3 separate group of men seeking Omega. I was encouraged in my early years of Omega by many Brothers to get to know and interact with the non-fraternity family members of my Line Brothers and other Brothers with whom we interacted. They believed then, as I do now that by interacting, not just with Brothers, but with their non-fraternal family members, you can develop a closeness and friendship that can stand the test of time.

It is those same lessons that I have attempted to share with those young men who were left in my charge. Those young men, some from the 70s, some from the 80s and some from the 2000s were instructed to learn more than just the history of Omega, its cardinal principles, its founders, and the mandated programs. It was stressed to them in words and deeds, that they can never truly find a lifetime of Brotherly friendship, if they did not first find and become friends of each other. What I believe and what I stressed during those "process periods" is that establishing and maintaining Friendship is not a simple cut and dry roadmap for everyone. It takes work and a desire to be someone's Friend. However, what I do believe is that Friendship can start and can become stronger when Brothers get to know and interact with other's respective non fraternal family. Over the years, I have engaged in some of the following activities and listened to examples by other Brothers about building a lasting Brotherly friendship through family interactions. The list is not all inclusive, it just offers some examples. Know the names of a Brothers immediate family; and his family know yours Attend a Brother's family event (Holiday gathering, graduations, birthday parties, a child's sporting event, etc.) Visit a Brother's family member who is in the hospital and/or who might unfortunately be incarcerated Take a road trip to a Brother's hometown and have him talk about his hometown Attend a celebration of a Brother's or his family member's non-fraternal personal achievement Congratulate a Brother's child for an academic accomplishment Ask a Brother about his family and listen for common discussion points Go out with Brothers and their wives/family to a non-fraternal event Celebrate a holiday experience at the home of a Brother and his family

From Pre-Omega days through and until we enter Omega chapter, it is the interactions through shared family experiences that helps to make a lifetime of Brotherly Friendship.

*Brother Garry M. Keel, Ed.D.  
Delta Upsilon Chapter Health Initiatives Chair  
Iota Gamma Chapter, March 18, 1977*



# What's On the Minds of Omega Men

## Opinion/Editorial Section



### My Journey from Omega to Islam and Back Again

I was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, through the Theta Sigma chapter at Dillard University in New Orleans in the fall of 1980. Hailing from Philadelphia, PA, I had plenty of exposure to both the Nation and the Sunni brothers as well as the other various amalgamations of emerging Black Muslim ideologies in the post civil rights era. Through that exposure and influence I began to shed any notions of Christianity although coming from a Christian family at the time. I first encountered the men of Omega Psi Phi in the fall of 1979 as a freshmen in college. I attended what was then called a "Smoker" or what is currently called an interest meeting. There was a word of prayer to open the meeting, which was customary of all the groups at Dillard, as it is a Methodist institution. When my time came as a sophomore to join the Lampados Pledge Club, I was interviewed and asked did I accept Jesus Christ (peace be on him) as my lord and savior. I replied I was not a practicing Christian. I was told, "well one day you may become one. But for now that will not eliminate you." I became Muslim in 1989 and was still tethered to this dunya (worldly existence) but two years later I took my Shahadah and declared my faith as a Muslim. I was just as exuberant to be a Muslim as I was to be the Bruhz. And anyone who knew me when I entered the fold of Omega will tell you that was pretty hyped lol. My sojourn into Islam took me away from my roots in Omega. It was almost akin to a Mormon on mission in terms of my zeal and willingness to serve God. Not fanatical but absorbed by my faith to the degree I wanted to study and learn and leave off all I felt was inconsistent with what God had planned and ordained for me as a Muslim. I studied and learned the Arabic alphabet just as I studied and learned the Greek alphabet almost ten years earlier. I became a drum major for Islam just as I was an owt bruh for Omega. In 1993, I made the pilgrimage or Hajj to Mecca, Saudia Arabia and crossed those burning sands just as our father Abraham (peace be on him) had done centuries before. And just as I had done on the campus of Dillard when I crossed the burning sands of Omega in 1980. I learned how to be a friend and a brother through Omega. I developed a deeper faith and trust in God while pledging. I brought those lessons with me as a Muslim into my new faith. I returned to Omega some years later as a fully immersed Muslim and still a member of Omega. I had reconciled my membership in the fraternity through a strong foundation in Islam and through the teachings of our founder Bishop Edgar Amos Love. When young Edgar Love began to envision a fraternity he did so in direct opposition to the elitist fraternity already present on campus. He observed that group was "a bigoted group who were status conscious" and "even color conscious". It was Edgar A. Love that envisioned a fraternity dedicated to social justice and committed to friendship. Edgar A. Love's dedication to God, community and the camaraderie of men bound by friendship taught me that being a Muslim was perfectly in line with being a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. As it pertains to the great question is Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated a Christian Fraternity? This is no mystery at all. The men who framed the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity were all deeply religious individuals including a future Bishop among them. These men went through great pains to instill aspects of their Christian faith in many facets of the nomenclature of their newly formed fraternity's doctrine. They included Biblical stories and tales as references in initiation ceremonies. They also were reverent of

God's plan for members of all faiths by not specifically referencing him by a title of any denominational designation. Thus, they came to arrive at the title of "Supreme Basileus" which to them was the God of the membership, the Grand Conclave, the Supreme Council and all men on earth. The term is contained within the ritualistic text of the Fraternity and known to all members to represent the varied titles reserved for the one supreme God! The fraternity's unapologetic and clear position of all men of faith and different nationalities being eligible for membership has long been established. Supreme Council Letter #13 dated June 6, 1949 is the definitive ultimatum by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity declaring all men eligible. It states, "all qualified men regardless of race, creed, color or national origin be eligible for membership into the fraternity...." and that the constitution and bylaws as well as the ritual be changed accordingly. Interestingly enough the decree mentions "Moslems" by name. Mind you this was a part of the minutes of the 35th Conclave and implemented in a ritual revision, which our Founders were a part of. Now as for the Christian principles they were revised in SCL #13 to reflect the very tolerance that the Christian faith espouses as its cornerstone virtue of compassion and acceptance to assure membership to all men. When it comes to the Christian principles of the brotherhood of mankind and the love of neighbors and friends and a love for God and all his messengers who taught the oneness and beauty of All Mighty God we as Muslims concur with that as well. Islam is not a foreign or alien religion. It originates in the same peninsula as the Judeo-Christian faiths do and together the three are known as the Abrahamic Tradition as we all come from the same father Abraham (peace be on him). We must end a debate whose origin is in extreme evangelical divisive language and White nationalism. Enslaved Africans came to this country in the hulls of slave ships not as free people. They were a collection of Muslims and practitioners of traditional African religions. I doubt the difference in faith was their man point of contention if any. They had to form new bonds of friendship to combat a common enemy. We cannot let the devil and Donald Trump divide us with Islamophobia and calls for a Muslim band within our own ranks. Muslims have been in Omega for decades if not from the beginning. Take the example of those who came before us. This is not what our ancestors practiced. We are a God fearing fraternity of men of African decent. Let's not tear asunder what God brought together.



**Brother Qasim Rashad**  
2nd District NAACP Chair  
2-ΩΣ-80  
LM 7431



# What's On the Minds of Omega Men

## Opinion/Editorial Section



### Dr. Andrew Ray 39th Grand Basileus

Andrew A. Ray was born in Centreville, Mississippi, to parents Perry and Ruby Ray. His early years were spent with grandparents Leona and Albert Crockett, while his parents relocated to New Orleans, Louisiana in search of better work opportunities.

Andrew's early education was in the Mount Zion Baptist Church School in Centreville. The extreme segregation in the south forced blacks to create other avenues for educating their children. The Mount Zion Church School consisted of two rooms i.e. elementary in one room and secondary in the other. After a few years at the church school, Andrew's parents sent for him and his sister to join them in New Orleans.

Enrolling in the segregated school system in New Orleans, Andrew continued to flourish in the face of significant challenges. His parents enrolled him in the Ebenezer Baptist Church Boy Scout Troop 152. Andrew advanced in scouting from Cub to Life Scout, to Jr. Assistant Scout Master. Along his scouting journey he accumulated numerous Merit Badges and status in the coveted Order of the Arrow. He met extreme disappointment in being told that black scouts would not be permitted to advance to Eagle Scout.

The significant under funding of the black schools in the city, was counterbalanced by the outstanding work of the black educators, who refused to allow under funding, to nullify student achievement. Andrew excelled at the elementary and secondary levels. He won several academic competitions in city and statewide venues. He graduated in the top 20 students in a class of 395.

Upon graduation, Andrew enrolled at Southern University where he received a very positive image of Omega during the Homecoming Activities in his freshman year. While walking across campus, he encountered a very festive group of men adorned in purple and gold. The ladies were dressed in red and white. Andrew recognized two of the men as his secondary coach and teacher. He approached his former educators and inquired as to why they were on the campus and what was going on. His former educators explained that they were members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and immediately suggested that he consider joining the brotherhood. Reflecting on the educators' positive presence in his educational journey, Andrew joined the next Lamp Club and was eventually initiated into the Beta Sigma Chapter of Omega at Southern University. Andrew had the unique privilege of being elected the Neophyte Basileus of Beta Sigma. During his term as Basileus, the Chapter Membership grew by fifty brothers. Beta Sigma became Chapter of the Year and achieved top academic status.

Beta Sigma Chapter became a major factor in the Civil Rights Movement. Chapter members were elected to the Student Government and other influential positions on the campus. From the latter positions, Omega Men achieved historic status in the protests for equity in resources for Southern in relationship to LSU and other white colleges and universities. That struggle continues to the present.

One incident that brought national media attention was the campus shutdown via student protest after several students died in route to the hospital due to the train refusing to clear the two entrances to the campus. He and others demanded that an overpass be built over the tracks to prevent future blockages of the entrances. When a state official responded "tell those niggers, we aren't building no damn bridge over the tracks", the students shut down the campus. We were soon joined by the staff and

Stokely Carmichael.

With the intense media coverage and the Omega suggestion that all students at Southern should all apply to attend LSU, since Southern is being treated so unfairly. Student leaders soon received another message from the state official-"tell them niggers they will get the damn bridge." The over pass stands in the present!

While at Southern, Andrew was one of fifty students, nationwide, who earned selection as a Foreign Affairs Scholar in the US Department of State in Washington, DC. This opportunity afforded him the close interactions with POTUS, Secretary of State, Cabinet Members, Ambassadors, Congressional Members and other high officials and agencies of the US Government.

Upon graduating from Southern with a degree in Economics, he was selected as one of the one hundred graduates nationwide to receive an appointment as a US Presidential Fellow assigned to the US Congress. While there, Andrew interacted with the Appropriations Committee. The latter served him well, upon his later selection as the 39th Grand Basileus of Omega. He gained operational skills that positively impacted the financial and international functions of Omega.

In addition, to fulfilling the particulars of his Presidential appointment, Andrew enrolled in graduate studies that led to three Masters Degrees and a PhD. In addition, he studied at 13 colleges and universities including the University of Ghana in West Africa. Along his graduate and professional journey he received over three dozen awards and honors; including the Dr. Martin Luther King Award, New York State Senate Proclamation for Exceptional Community Service, Metropolitan Women's Network Award, Dr. Charles Drew Fellow, John W. Thompson Masonic Community Leadership Award, In Roads Business Development Award, Alpha Phi Alpha Humanitarian Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Twenty Pearls Foundation Everyday Hero Award, Educator of the Year, Administrator of the Year, Freedom Foundation Fellow, Omega Man of the Year (Chapter and District), Frank Coleman Founders Award, The Iota XI Elder Honor Award and the Omega Bridge Builder Award.

Andrew's service to Omega grew geometrically, in concert with his service to his community. Over four, decades he worked in the administrations of Dr. Moses C. Norman, Dr. C. Tyrone Gilmore and Dr. Dorsey C. Miller. Serving as a member and/or the Chair of the International Membership, Personnel, Scholarship, Undergraduate and Awards Committees and Secretary to the Dr. Charles Drew Commission. Within the Second District, Andrew served on a number of committees and he advanced to the positions of First Vice District Representative and District Representative at the 75th Anniversary of Omega in Washington, DC.

The twenty five years leading up to the Centennial Anniversary of Omega; Andrew immersed himself in the support of Omega programs. His dedication is demonstrated through his mentoring via Project Aspiration, producing over 30 young men eventually becoming Omegas. His tutelage in the realm of the National Essay Contest resulted in a National winner and two runners up. Andrew's community and educational participation led to his local chapter, Theta Omicron, being selected as the First Devine 9 Organization, to be honored by the City School District of Rochester, as A Friend of Education Awardee. He was very instrumental in increasing student participation in Omega's academic and Talent Hunt programs.

The several years prior to the 2010 Grand Conclave, Andrew and the



# What's On the Minds of Omega Men

## Opinion/Editorial Section



### Dr. Andrew Ray 39th Grand Basileus

Omega Brotherhood were witnesses to a growing toxicity between several Grand Officers and Brothers, who questioned the operational functions within Omega. The toxic environment boiled over into open email confrontations that became of major concern to the Brotherhood and friends of Omega. Andrew determined that the growing confrontation was becoming an ever present danger to the wellbeing of the Fraternity and decided to put forth a proffer, aimed at resolving the underlining items fueling the confrontation.

Andrew, who at the time held no office or other position in Omega, contacted the then Grand Basileus and stated, "Brother Grand, this confrontation is not good for you or this Brotherhood. Let me help you." He then reached out to the Brothers who had the pertinent issues fueling the confrontation. After a brief period of collective dialogue, both sides accepted the proffer and the confrontation was arbitrated. When asked, how the issues were resolve; Andrew responded, "A Friend can do for us...." In the 2008-2009 Fraternal year, a group of past Grand Officers requested the then Grand Basileus to appoint a committee to develop a plan for Omega's Centennial Celebration. Three committee chairs were appointed and removed, within an eight month period without cause. Finally, Past Grand Dorsey C. Miller assumed leadership of the Centennial effort and proved to be exceedingly successful in moving the process forward. Andrew became very flustered upon hearing the sitting Grand Basileus inform the committee members that "If the committee goes to DC to prepare for the Centennial, all participants must pay their own expenses; because there is no money in the Fraternity." Upon recovering from that shocking statement; the committee members paid their own expenses and commenced the yearlong challenging work, that resulted in an outstanding Centennial Celebration for over 25,000 participants throughout the DC area.

The upcoming 2010 Grand Conclave in Raleigh, North Carolina would feature an election for the leadership team, that would guide the Brotherhood into its second century. Andrew was deep into reflective moments of his journey in Omega. In particular, his conversations with Founders Cooper and Love, Grand Basileus Avery's reveal of serious matters involving the then Keeper of Finance at the Denver Conclave, and his bold decision to run for Grand Basileus from the Conclave floor, after hearing the reading of PM&M Audit Firm's dolorous report. The Firm concluded that, "The way Omega has been keeping books, is foreign to all known means of accounting!"

When H. Carl Moultrie, Chair of the election process inquired as to why Andrew had approached the mic; Andrew responded "Brother Chair, after hearing the Audit Report, I have determined that this Fraternity needs leadership. Therefore, I nominate myself for Grand Basileus." Andrew got a second and a total of three votes in the election!

The Grand stating that there was no money in the Fraternity in 2009, as we were one year out from Omega's 100th Celebration, was unbelievable. Andrew thought that such a pronouncement was as dolorous as the financial picture at the Denver Conclave. It was at that moment that Andrew decided again, "that Omega needed leadership" and entered the field of five candidates for Grand Basileus.

In the entire history of Omega, there had never been five candidates for Grand Basileus. Andrew surmised that the Brotherhood saw a pressing need for a change in what had been a lock step "whose next road to lead-

ership," with a once in a lifetime event for the Brotherhood approaching. Andrew entered with focused platform to restore Omega's financial position and its image as the Founders had prescribed.

The opening session of the 2010 Grand Conclave was astounding to the Brotherhood. The outgoing Grand Basileus refused to give a report to the Grand Conclave. This unprecedented action by the Grand Basileus, was seen as an affront to the Conclave Delegates. When candidates were granted time to address the delegates and the District Caucuses, Andrew stated that, "if elected to lead the Fraternity, there will never be a time in which; I would disrespect the Brotherhood by refusing to present, The State of the Fraternity to the Brotherhood. Andrew won the election by plus 300 votes!

Upon winning the 2010 election, Andrew's call was to Past Grand Basileus James Avery, who had encouraged him to become a candidate. Grand Avery had been very ill and expressed his hope that he would live to see Omega return to capable hands. When Andrew shared the news of his win; Grand Avery strongly stated, "Tell the Brothers that I am all right now. Omega is in good hands." He transitioned into Omega Chapter a short time later.

Andrew immediately began addressing the many issues that had been negatively impacting the growth of Omega. They included consultants costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, low morale among employed staff, lack of an employed Executive Director for five years, no employed Financial Manager for a year, low finances and credit rating, building maintenance items, multiple loans to entities, resulting in significant numbers in default, multiple legal matters requiring immediate resources and attention, an immediate need for updating and preserving records, repairing relations with the hospitality industry, the university communities and more.

Andrew dismissed five consultants, saving \$30,000 a month; engaged HR professionals to review personnel items and conduct the process that resulted in the hiring of an Executive Director. He hired a Financial Manager and quickly completed accounts payable and receivables. He moved for the sale of an entity that resulted in Omega being released from guarantor status and the repayment of multiple loans to the Fraternity. The negotiation of a MOU to upgrade working spaces for Omega staff was crucial in addressing working conditions. An IT professional was engaged to evaluate the present status of Omega's platforms and suggest recommendations for upgrades. The aforementioned actions contributed to a two million dollar improvement in Omega's financial position within the first two years of Andrew's administration.

Completing items from the 2010 Conclave, a successful Centennial Celebration in 2011, a second Grand Conclave in 2012, a Leadership Conference in 2013 and another Grand Conclave in 2014 comprised as formidable a challenge as Omega leadership had ever faced. Meeting the significant challenges energized the team to look to the future while addressing the present conditions. Out of the later vision came two monumental successes, the establishing of Omega Endowments at ten HBCU(s) and Omega becoming the first Devine 9 to achieve Founding Donor status for the African American Smithsonian Museum at one million dollars.

In responding to those who questioned the cost of the Smithsonian engagement and the Omega Endowments; Andrew explained that the en-



# What's On the Minds of Omega Men Opinion/Editorial Section



**Dr. Andrew Ray 39th Grand Basileus**



*39th Grand Basileus Dr Andrew A. Ray at the Monument after the Rededication Service at Howard University*

downments would give meaning and image to our Cardinal Principle of Scholarship. The engagement with the Smithsonian would give true meaning to the often expressed belief that “Omega is a world class organization; it then follows that Omega should be on the world stage. The Smithsonian gives entry to the world stage.”

There were other notable achievements during the 2010-2014 administration. With the invaluable assistance of Brothers James Elam and National Parks Director Stanton; the Colonel Charles Young Home and the home of Dr. Carter G. Woodson were brought into the United States National Parks Service. The partnership between the Fraternity and the Life Membership Foundation delivered significant financial support in bringing the projects to fruition.

In a capitalistic society, having financial resources or access to them is critical. Andrew's team will forever be proud of improving the Fraterni-

ty's financial position by six million dollars during the four year span. He was also reflective, in realizing that there was still much to do in Omega's second century. In making the latter point, he often used the relay race as a metaphor to facilitate understanding. He regularly shared that “life is a relay race. If when the baton comes to you and the team is behind; your job is to run your leg of the race to the very best of your ability. This may include, making up the stagger and hopefully giving the team a lead. Thus, when it is your time to hand off, you will have given the team a chance to win. Importantly, you don't want to miss the hand off, for if you do, not only do you lose; the whole team loses.”

Dr. Andrew A. Ray, 39th Grand Basileus, confidently stated at the 2014 Grand Conclave “My team moved Omega forward in multiple areas. As we hand off to the next administration; Omega is in a much better place. I know that our Founders are pleased. God Bless this Brotherhood.”

# IF...

IF you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:  
If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
' Or walk with Kings - nor lose the common touch,  
if neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!

**Rudyard Kipling**

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**Bro. Larry Pough**  
**District Talent Hunt Chairman Emeritus**  
Ph:

## Suspension List

The Brothers listed below are currently **SUSPENDED** from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. pending further investigation.

2	12	Mu	Bethea	Canaan
2	16	Pi	Egiefameh	Andrew
2	51	Epsilon Sigma	Williams	Anthony
2	92	Psi Epsilon	Jackson	Rashon Q.
2	324	Omicron Delta Delta	Smith	Steven Robert
2	324	Omicron Delta Delta	Comer II	Wayne D.
2	333	Omega Delta Delta	Williams	Jamal
2	543	Upsilon Phi	Ray III	James
2	616	Alpha Upsilon	Hammick	Selvin
2	616	Alpha Upsilon	Liverpool	Steve
2	616	Alpha Upsilon	Frank	Keston
2	616	Alpha Upsilon	Capps	Kwesi
2	616	Alpha Upsilon	Johnson	Hakeem
2	626	Lambda Upsilon	Showell	Donald W.
2	707	Chi Rho	Brown	Bilal
2	707	Chi Rho	Obijuru	Charles
2	707	Chi Rho	Cox	Marques
2	707	Chi Rho	Joyner	Dallas T.
2	707	Chi Rho	Irving	Julian
2	737	Epsilon Pi	Turner	Roosevelt
2	737	Epsilon Pi	Daniels	Jamar
2	912	Iota Lambda Lambda	Mayo	Claude
2	912	Iota Lambda Lambda	Holloman	Aaron M.
2	916	Nu Lambda Lambda	Harris	Craig M.
2	916	Nu Lambda Lambda	Mitchell	William Earl
2	954	Gamma Mu Nu	McLeish	Joseph
2	958	Eta Mu Nu	Norman	John H. III

## Expulsion List

These men should not be admitted into any formal fraternity meetings.

2	16	Pi	Taylor	Timothy
2	92	Psi Epsilon	Scott	Jacque
2	187	Chi Delta	Montgomery	Troy D.
2	187	Chi Delta	Smith	Andre L.
2	187	Chi Delta	Thompson	Kenneth E.
2	289	Delta Mu	Walker	John K.

Last Revised January 30, 2019

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FOR THE **72<sup>nd</sup>**  
**SECOND DISTRICT CONFERENCE**  
AT THE WESTIN PITTSBURGH HOTEL  
APRIL 30-MAY 3, 2020  
HOST CHAPTER IOTA PHI



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