

Warren G. Lee, Jr., *Grand Basileus*

Marvin Dillard, *District Representative*

Zanes E. Cypress, Jr., *Dir. of Public Relations*

# THE OMEGAN



*Founded November 17, 1911*

*Spring 2008 Edition*

***"THE VOICE OF THE SECOND DISTRICT"***

**New York - New Jersey - Pennsylvania - Delaware - Maryland**



## District Representatives Message

Brothers,

It has indeed been a pleasure serving Omega and the Mighty Second District as your 30<sup>th</sup> District Representative! I truly appreciate the invitations to the various events, and hospitality shown to myself and my family.

We stand at a very critical juncture in Omega's esteemed history. We must find solutions to the issues

which plague us internally so we are able to focus on the civic and social activities which will enrich the communities we serve. I understand your concerns for our great Fraternity, and encourage you to stay the course, ask the tough questions, and demand answers. We cannot win the game from the sidelines. Each of us must be vigilant in our zeal to achieve what is best for Omega--leaving behind any petty differences. We must be involved!

With a belief in the brotherhood envisioned by our Founders, we must stand ready to face the challenges before us with agility and a keen focus. Indeed, there are areas of concern, and we must look beyond the immediate issues to view the impact Omega can and should have within our communities and the world!

You should be proud of what Omega has accomplished—a world-class International Headquarters, a corporate residence, and a newly opened fraternity house in Greek Village on the University of South Carolina campus. These are great accomplishments and we can do more!

At this, our 60<sup>th</sup> Second District Conference, let us come together and share fraternity and friendship, but let's also ensure we address the business of this great fraternity! Let us prepare to arrive in Birmingham as a united and strong Second District!

**Yours In Omega,  
Marvin C. Dillard  
30th District Representative  
Second District**

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## First Vice District Representative's Message



*Bro. James "Scrappy" Jordan*

My Brothers,

I bring greetings on behalf of our 30<sup>th</sup> Second District Representative, **Marvin Dillard** and the **Executive Council**.

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative. It has truly been a labor of love. Throughout this year we have experienced a great deal; the loss of some of our long standing brothers, Richard H. Johnson, our 21<sup>st</sup> Second District Representative and our eldest statesmen Edward Taylor. We have celebrated major mile stones, seen new faces emerge in leadership roles and have initiated a few of our leaders of tomorrow. We have also seen the power of the internet, with information, good and bad, spreading quickly across the country.

As I reflect over the past year, I think my two greatest areas of satisfaction are

The resounding love and support I received from the brotherhood, not only in the 2<sup>nd</sup> district but, throughout the entire fraternity, as I traveled on behalf of Omega.

The dynamic team I have had the pleasure to work with and the ability to sincerely, develop **TRUE FRIENDSHIPS** throughout the process. These brothers have the desire, ability and commitment to enhance our district and our fraternity.

**Terik Tidwell**, has been an inspiring leader to the undergraduates of this district. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice DR, he has shown maturity, enthusiasm, courage and vision in setting a foundation for the future.

**Kenny Rodgers**, has served as an outstanding DKRS. His responsiveness and dedication to the brotherhood has been phenomenal.

**James Hicks**, DKF, has maintained a sense of fiscal responsibility and integrity in his duties for our district.

**Zanes Cypress**, DPR, has developed and refined our district publications .

**Milton Harrison**, our ADKRS, has played a very positive supporting role to Brother Rodgers and his office.

I am looking forward to going to Atlantic City for our 60<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> District Conference. **Brother Ernest Cheatham**, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Marshal, and the Brothers of Upsilon Alpha have been doing an outstanding job in planning and preparing to make this conference one to remember.

Moving forward, we, as Omega men, have to **"return to our roots"**, We have to get back to basics. We have to make sure we are selecting men of good intelligence, with a great respect for scholarship and the attainment of positive, successful roles in life. The founders specifically asked that we keep in the forefront the need for Omega men to prepare themselves to play positive and effective roles in all causes of humanity, freedom and dignity; Then to "occupy a progressive and constructive place" in our communities and our nation, always seeking to uplift humanity to higher levels of social and economic dignity.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> District committees will play a major role in the success of our future. When these teams plan, focus, strive and accomplish task to achieve the goals that were set forth in our constitution with the direction and vision of our District Representative, our district, fraternity and image, will be held up in our communities and to our youth as a shining light.

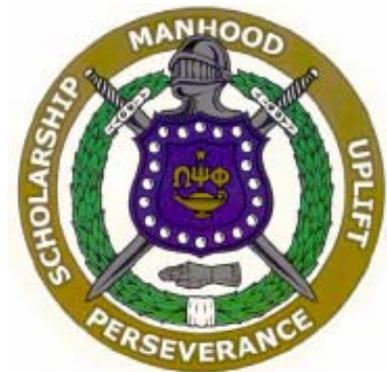
We, the Second District can become the model for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., to show what the foundation should be. We can focus on five areas to succeed: Selection, Social Actions, Economics, Public Relations, & Friendship.

Our district can, as it has before, be a shining light in Omega.

My Brothers, in closing let us look forward to the cause of Omega and let us remember that Friendship is Essential to the Soul.

**Fraternally,**

*Brother James "Scrappy" Jordan*  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative**  
**Second District**



## District Keeper of Records and Seal's Message



**Brother Kenneth Rodgers**

Brothers,

I greet you in the name of our beloved Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It has been an honor and privilege serving you in the capacity of **District Keeper of Records and Seal**. The past two years have been a rewarding experience. I thank each of you for your support and dedication to our great fraternity. As we embark upon the 60<sup>th</sup> Second District Conference, let us be mindful of the impor-

tance of our motto – **“Friendship is Essential to the Soul.”**

Often we here Brothers proclaim that we need to get back to the basics. We hear talk that “Friendship” is our way of life. Certainly, it is easy to let words flow from our mouth, but it’s time that we let our actions illustrate the true meaning of friendship. Our goal is to incorporate friendship and brotherhood into everything that we do in Omega. Every Brother, regardless of status, should be treated with dignity and respect.

The fraternity has faced some enormous challenges in the past year. The Second District must do its part to ensure we do not succumb to those challenges. We must take pride in staying above the fray and ensure that we promote all that is good in Omega. We all maintain to love Omega dearly, but often; many of us are guilty of dimming Omega’s light. How many of us can say that we have done all that we could to raise the banner of Omega, making her the best and enhancing her existence.

Each of us must take a look within to discover the values that made us presentable to Omega. We must use those values to promote the goodness of Omega. We accept the rights and privileges, and even the benefits of Omega. Now we must demonstrate our commitment to Omega by living its creed and upholding its principles.

Finally, I want to recognize and pay homage to the Brothers on the Second District Executive Council. Your commitment to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is admirable. It is my delight to serve with you. Through your efforts, we strived to be a better organization today than yesterday. Long Live the Omega Psi Fraternity.

**FIETTS,**

**Kenny Rodgers**

**Keeper of Records and Seal**

**Second District**

## International Talent Hunt Committee “Working Hard for Omega”

In 2005, Bro. Larry Pough of Theta Omicron (Rochester, NY) became the chairman of the International Talent Hunt Committee (ITHC), which consists of the Talent Hunt chairman from each of the 12 districts of the fraternity and a vice chairman, Bro. Ernest Goode from the Ninth District.

From the onset, the ITHC began working, mainly via conference calls, on updating and revising the International Talent Hunt Manual of guidelines, procedures, suggestions, and judging criteria for producing top-notch chapter and district talent hunt competitions. During our discussions several changes were made to enhance our talent hunt competitions and the criteria on which contestants are judged. The final draft of those improvements was submitted to the Grand Basileus and First Vice Grand Basileus

for approval, which was granted in January 2006. Subsequently, the revised manual was placed on the international website for access by any financial brother.

As the ITHC progressed with its work, we held an organizational retreat at International Headquarters to prepare for the Grand Conclave Talent Hunt Demonstration in Little Rock, Arkansas in July 2006. The purpose for our retreat was to continue our planning for that event; to gather historical information on the talent hunt; and to develop a long-range plan for improving all aspects of talent hunt logistics.

Due to the collaborative efforts, expertise and skills, and commitment of the members of the ITHC, the 2006 Talent Hunt Demonstration, a non-competitive exhibition, went off without a hitch. The 12 talented young people, representing the 12 districts, proved

why they were selected as talent hunt winners of their respective districts. They were professional and presented fantastic performances!

In 2007, the ITHC made a request to the Supreme Council to have a Talent Hunt Demonstration at our Leadership Conferences so that students who win in the odd numbered years that the Leadership Conferences are held can take advantage of the exposure and scholarship awards that are afforded the students who participate in Talent Hunt Demonstrations at Grand Conclaves held in even numbered years. That request was submitted and approved. Thus, beginning with the 2009 Leadership Conference, a Talent Hunt Demonstration will be held!

Since the 2006 Talent Hunt Demonstration, the ITHC has been preparing for the 2008 Talent Hunt Demonstration to be held in July 2008, at the

Grand Conclave in Birmingham, Alabama. All of the different aspects of producing a high quality Talent Hunt Demonstration are being addressed. The ITHC is working on two new projects related to the 2008 Talent Hunt Demonstration – producing a DVD of the demonstration and having the demonstration shown on regular television or on a public broadcasting station.

You don’t want to miss the 2008 Talent Hunt Demonstration in Birmingham, Alabama, for it promises to spotlight some of the most talented young people from the west coast to the east coast and from our overseas 13<sup>th</sup> District!

If you have ideas or suggestions that you feel will help the ITHC take our internationally mandated talent hunt program to “the next level,” contact your district Talent Hunt chairman. We welcome your input!

## 6th Second District Representative Ermon Jones



**Former Second District Representative**

**Founding Brother of Phi Upsilon Chapter 636**

**60 years of service to Omega and the Community**

**Pi Chapter May 1947**

**NEPTUNE** — Ermon Jones has been at the forefront of civil rights activity in the Shore area for about five decades. In that time, he has been involved in fights to desegregate township schools, open up the fire department and first aid squads to people of color and force a developer to sell homes to blacks. And it all started with a re-

buff. Jones, born and bred in Neptune, was working on his master's degree in 1957 when he approached the school district for a job in the high school. He was told no, and not politely. "We do not hire Negro teachers in the high school," Jones said he was told. "It's kind of hard to believe now, but I will always remember that." Jones, a star basketball player at the high school and a World War II veteran, took the rejection and went on to work as an engineer at Fort Monmouth. And he also decided to get active. "I joined the NAACP basically because of that," he said.

At the time, Jones said, the former Ridge Avenue and Whitesville schools were predominantly black, while the other schools were mainly white. The NAACP wanted to desegregate the schools but needed the students' parents to act as petitioners. Parents were finally found, and in 1966 a suit was brought against the district with the state education department. The result was that several years later the school district

had to develop a plan to better mix the two races. "It was a big deal," Jones said. But Jones' activism didn't stop there.

Objecting to what he saw as discrimination in the selection practices of the township fire departments, Jones led picketing at the Liberty Fire Company. The emergency services unit's policies were changed in the 1970s, he said. Jones may be best-known locally for suing the developer of the Gables to open up that housing development to blacks. Once again, Jones said, his action was spurred because he was rejected because of his race. The case went all the way to the state Supreme Court, but Jones won. And he's still in that house today.

Blacks have come a long way in the five decades since his activism began, Jones said, but some of the same internal problems remain. "One of the reasons why I served was that there was a real need then, and there's a real need now, for new leadership in the black community," he said. Still, he said, "we've come a long way."

## LGG - Educator, Bro. Michael J. Jackson wins Drake University Award



**.Fort Meade, MD** – Brother Michael J. Jackson was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He attended elementary school in St. Louis, Missouri. He was raised in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue High School in Pittsburg. Brother Jackson later graduated from Boys Town High School near Omaha, Nebraska.

Brother Michael J Jackson has been selected to be a member of the Missouri Valley Conference All Centennial Team. The conference selected the top athletes for the past 100 years. The award was presented at Drake University February 9, 2008 at half time of the Drake vs. Evansville Men's Basketball game. According to the latest AP and USA polls the Drake University Basketball team is ranked in among the top 25 teams in the United States.

Brother Jackson won three Missouri Valley Conference 440 yard dash indoor and out-

door track championships. He anchored the Drake Mile Relay team in the NCAA Indoor and Outdoor National track meets three years in a row 1968-70. In 1990 Michael was awarded the Double D Award from Drake University, which is the highest honor given to a former Drake athlete. While at Drake, he earned his Bachelor and Masters Degree. In addition he earned his Superintendent certification from Ashland University in Ohio.

Michael is a Nebraska State Gold Medal Winner in the 440 yard dash. Also, He anchored the Boys Town Mile Relay team to three consecutive Nebraska State Gold Medal Mile Relay Championships. In 1994 he was one of four selected as a Boys Town Hall of History award winner. He has lifetime membership with the Boys Town Alumni Association.

Brother Jackson is an outstanding Educator, Author, Actor, and Inspirational Speaker. He worked as principal in large Urban School Districts such as Cleveland, Seattle, Philadelphia, and Head of Charter School in Washington, DC. He published three books "The Success Principle", "A Song for You", and "Improving School Performance to Develop World Class Leaders" all found on

Amazon, national book stores, and [www.believeachievelc.com](http://www.believeachievelc.com).

Brother Jackson is also a member of Rotary International. He is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, and former member of a Rotary International Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from Iowa Rotary District 597. Michael spent six weeks in New Zealand as a Rotary Ambassador to promote goodwill and understanding among people in the world.

Brother Jackson was made at Mu Omicron Chapter in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. He served two terms as State Representative for the chapters in Washington and Oregon and Keeper of Records and Seals in the 12<sup>th</sup> District. He was nominated at the Dallas, Texas Conclave for the Omega Man of the Year and the Superior Service Award. He holds a life membership with the fraternity. As a member of Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter, Brother Jackson remains very active in the Washington DC community in areas that impact our youth. He is committed to the chapter programs and activities that inspire our youth to excel socially and academically, and to be all they can be.

## Second Annual Gamma Pi " Ques Night In Annapolis "

For the second consecutive year, Gamma Pi chapter took Omega Psi Phi all the way to the State House in Annapolis. While there was no campaign and no election, the second annual Ques Night in Annapolis sponsored by Gamma Pi was again very successful in that it gave members of the Fraternity an opportunity to voice concerns and offer its philosophical positions on various upcoming issues the State legislature faces in the 2008 session.

More than 50 members of Gamma Pi, along with a contingent of Brothers from nearby chapters, turned out for the event on Tuesday, March 4, at the Miller Senate office Building in the State Capitol complex. The Fraternity's International Vice Basileus for Governmental Relations, Peter Higginbotham, of Tau Pi chapter in Howard County, led an impressive lineup of luminaries and State elected and appointed leaders who participated. Tau Lambda Lambda and Lambda Gamma Gamma chapters also sent representatives.

Seven members of the State Legislature attended the session. They were Senators Brother Ulysses Currie of Gamma Pi (Prince George's) and Verna Jones of Baltimore City; and Delegates Aisha N. Braveboy (Prince George's), Melony Griffith (Prince George's), Nathaniel T. Oaks (Baltimore City), Frank S. Turner (Howard County) and Veronica Turner (Prince George's). In addition, former Bowie City Councilman and Mayoral Candidate Brother Michael Lyles also attended, along with Brother Dr. James L. Lyons, the Maryland Secretary of Higher Education. Brother Dr. Lyons also participated in 2007 soon after being appointed to the state's top-level higher education job.

"We are more than men of Omega. We are fathers, brothers, and uncles, and we are touching so many kids' lives," Said Brother William Blakey, Esq., who chairs the Legislative Committee for Gamma Pi and is organizer of the annual event. Brother Blakey was referring to the focus on education for this year's Ques in Annapolis meeting. In fact, one of the legislative initiatives the chapter went on record as supporting, through a letter

from Basileus Teddy Taylor, was a bill By Delegate Braveboy, House Bill 21, to increase the age for mandatory school attendance from 16 to 18.

Brother Blakey added that another concern put on the table was the rising cost of college. "Almost everybody now has to borrow money to go to college. The average age of a man and woman in college now is 26," he said.

"This was a great event and we look forward to expanding this effort in the future," said Brother Taylor, Gamma Pi's Basileus. "The entire committee is to be commended."

"The committee plans to discuss how we can improve the participation of our elected officials, as well as encourage more participation of the Basilei or representatives of the graduate Omega Psi Phi chapters in Maryland so that it will be a truly statewide event," said Brother Blakey.

## Gamma Pi's Talent Hunt Showcase Tomorrow's Stars



*Gamma Pi Talent Hunt Contestants*

**Prince George's County, Md.** - So much of the news about our youth is negative and depressing. From crime and violence to the phenomenon of "babies having babies," the headlines are filled with stories of young people who are experiencing dwindling opportunities before they can even reach their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. But Gamma Pi chapter recently showcased some of the best and brightest talent in its home territory of Prince George's County, thanks to the successful 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Omega Talent Hunt program held March 8 at Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Springdale, Md.

For more than two solid hours, about 200 people from the local community saw and heard the "future" of Black America onstage inside the cavernous school auditorium. Members of the audience sat in amazement during the performances, wondering whether they had magically been transported to the historic Apollo Theater or to the set of American Idol. Either way, the Gamma Pi talent hunt put on display for the community the face of a future for Black America that sounded and looked good. That future played itself out, quite proudly, through the gentle strains of violins, the tickling melodic dance of piano keys, the power of voice set to music, the romance of art, the elegance of dance and the storytelling of drama. The competition attracted more than 30 high school students representing high schools across Prince George's County.

"Everybody here is a winner," said Brother Leroy Barton, Gamma Pi's talent hunt chairman and himself an accomplished musician and college music instructor.

All of the students who took the stage were so skilled and talented that it was difficult to select winners, yet a distinguished panel of

judges in the performing arts had to sort it all out, and they pronounced these students as winners: Jean Askew (vocal contemporary); Camille D. Hayslett (instrumental classical); Christopher Watson (instrumental contemporary); Thais Francis (drama); Gregory Johnson (visual arts); Kendra Edwards (sculpture) and Gregory Jackson also for painting. Gamma Pi will select a representative to the upcoming Second District Talent Hunt scheduled for May in Atlantic City at the 60th District Conference.

The venue that served as the stage for the 2008 Gamma Pi talent hunt is in itself very important in Omega Psi Phi and African American history. Charles Herbert Flowers High School is named for an Omega man whom now in his late 80s and still living in the county, is also a distinguished member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

## Bro. Thomas Gordon Receives Lifesaving Award

US Customs and Border Protection (CPB) and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) recently honored ICE Special Agents Thomas Gordon and Anthony Rios for saving the life of a CBP student. During a joint ceremony, CBP Commissioner Ralph Basham and FLETC Director Connie Patrick presented the FLETC Lifesaving Award to Gordon and Rios. Special recognition and acknowledgment was also given to first responders from the FLETC and CBP staff, as well as to the support staff from the CBP Field Operations Academy and FLETC who helped with family notifications and coordination.

Gordon and Rios were recognized for responding quickly when CBP Officer Jimmy Elam collapsed on Aug. 22 soon after he began his run on the outdoor track at the FLETC facility in Glynco, Ga. A student in an ICE class participating in physical conditioning nearby witnessed Elam's collapse and immediately informed his instructor, Special Agent Gordon. Gordon and other members of his class responded and found Elam unconscious and not breathing; Elam apparently had suffered a cardiac arrest. Rios (an Emergency Medical Technician) and Gordon conducted CPR on Elam until FLETC Health Unit personnel arrived and he was



*Photo: Left to Right, FLETC Director Connie Patrick, ICE Special Agents Anthony Rios and Thomas Gordon, and CBP Commissioner Ralph Basham) Photo Courtesy of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center*

transferred to the hospital. Elam is expected to make a full recovery.

"There is little doubt that Officer Elam's life was saved by the quick response and knowledgeable actions of Special Agents Gordon and Rios, as well as all the other personnel who did their jobs so well that day," said Art Morgan, Director, CBP Field Operations Academy. FLETC Director Patrick added, "It is an honor for FLETC to present this award to officers and agents from sister components within

DHS. Training together creates a culture that promotes a common identity, innovation, mutual respect, accountability, and teamwork to achieve efficiencies, effectiveness, and operational synergies. As we see from this incident, it also saves lives."

**Brother Thomas Gordon is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity & was made in 1986 at Nu Tau Chapter in Albany NY.**

*Reprinted with permission of DHS Today.*

## Theta Omicron Chapter Presents - Project S.T. R. I. D. E.

**Rochester, NY** - For greater than eighteen years, Theta Omicron has been "Friends of Education" as partners with Rochester City School District School #4. Initially, we implemented a program entitled: Supervising, Training, Relating Ideas and Developing Excellence (Project S.T.R.I.D.E.) to assist with academic achievement and to offer a presence of African-American males who have achieved levels of success beyond what most of our targeted audience sees on a routine basis.

Over time, as social conditions have changed, so has the focus of our Saturday sessions. As a result of a "Call to Action" by Rochester's immediate past Mayor, we revised the focus of our S.T.R.I.D.E deliverable. The focus changed to developing social and behavioral skills. On two Satur-

day's per month, chapter members, under the leadership of Brother Robert Mitchell, meet with the students to deliver the agenda.

We collaborate with other professionals to deliver skills. One example is the anger management and conflict resolution modules that focus on managing one's own behavior. Our basic premise is to teach the students that they have power! The power is in the choices that they make so we teach that there is positive reinforcement for good behavior and decisions and consequences for poor behavior and poor decisions. We augment in-school activities by taking the kids on field trips where they can practice the skills that are taught. For example, when table etiquette training was delivered, we followed with a field trip to a

"high-end" restaurant for practice, observation and feedback.

In addition to receiving what we offer, we teach the students that they too are responsible to support the community. To begin the holiday celebration, the students made crafts as gifts for seniors. The students delivered the gifts to a senior facility where one of the founders of Project S.T.R.I.D.E. is now a resident. All spirits were lifted and Brother Wilfred Kenney was especially uplifted to see that his efforts of nearly twenty years ago, is still bearing positive fruit.

The members of Theta Omicron host forty students in the program. We are developing both male and female students. Most activities are integrated, however, with our female staff volunteers we are able to deliver gender specific topics as well.

## University of Maryland Eastern Shore Dedicates Hazel Hall Lobby in Honor of Brother Russell Stansbury

On Friday, December 21, 2007, President Thelma Thompson and members of her staff dedicated the lobby of Hazel Hall on the campus of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to Bro. Russell Stansbury. On May 3, 1947, Bro. Stansbury along with 13 of his fellow friends and scholars chartered the Pi Epsilon Chapter on the campus of then Maryland State College. Stansbury is the remaining surviving brother from that chartering line. This past May Stansbury and the chapter celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a weekend of celebration and commemoration.

In his very emotional remarks before family, church members, fraternity brothers and friends, Stansbury said *"He never expected such a prestigious honor"* and went on to say he only wished *"his wife, mother and father could have been in attendance."* President Thompson lauded the 1947 graduate, described as a *serious but gregarious student who enjoyed jazz and Negro League baseball when he wasn't attending classes, studying, working in the dining hall, engaging in student activities or playing on the college's football team.* She thanked him for all his contributions to mankind and the university. During the ceremony, Bro. Al Cornish read a proclamation from Hartford County Executive, James Smith declaring December 21, 2007 as *"Russell Stansbury Day"* in Hartford County, Maryland.

Stansbury a native of Hartford County has a very long and distinguished personal and professional career. He served on the Hartford County's Board of Elections for 16 years being first appointed under former Governor William Donald Schaefer, reappointed under former Governor Parris Glendening, one term under former Governor Robert Ehrlich and the current term of Governor Martin O'Malley. During that time he served a number of years as Election Board President.

Before working on the Election Board, Stansbury devoted 39 years of teaching to Hartford County Public Schools at Harve de Grace, Aberdeen and Fallston where he taught Industrial Arts in both segregated and integrated schools.



*Bro. Russell Stansbury (5<sup>th</sup> from left) and Members of Pi Epsilon Chapter at Dedication Ceremony*

He began his illustrious teaching career at the Harve de Grace Colored High School. He also served as President of the Colored Teachers Association and his school's athletic coach from 1947 – 49. Even though the school did not have its own track and field facilities, Stansbury's team won the state track and field championship. Stansbury still found time to commute on the weekends to New York University where he received his Masters in Education in 1956.

Stansbury, a NAACP and Omega Psi Phi life member, contributions over the years as a teacher were rewarded in September 2004, when he was inducted into the Hartford County Education Hall of Fame. His wife, the late Mildred Stansbury, a former English teacher and first African American woman elected as a member of the Harve de Grace City Council, was also a member of the Hartford County Education Hall of Fame, inducted in 2002.

Stansbury has dedicated his life to advancing the lives of people around him. His contributions to Hartford County's heritage earned him the label of "Hartford's Living Treasure" by the County Council in March of 2002.

Because of his countless life long contributions to mankind, the members of the Pi Epsilon Chapter, at their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

celebration, established a \$65,000 scholarship in his name and that of the late Bro. Robert Dowery, the chapter's long time advisor.

Stansbury has lived the life of a true Omega Man demonstrating everyday the four cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. Still an active fraternity member with Iota Nu Chapter, another chapter that he helped charter in 1970, In addition to serving as Basileus for two different terms, he has served in other elected and chaired or served as a member of many committees.

His community and professional affiliations include Maryland State Retired Teachers, National Education Retired Teachers, Lung Association of North Central Maryland, Treasurer of the Harve de Grace Consolidated PTA, and 63 years member of St. James AME Church.

One of his former students and fraternity brothers, Emil Cromwell stated, *"When he taught me in high school, we gave him the nickname of the rock."* Bro Stansbury has lived up to that nickname and remains today a *"rock"* in his community, fraternity and alma mater!

## Lambda Gamma Gamma's Talent Hunt Exceeds Expectations

**Upper Marlboro, MD** – On Saturday, March 22, 2008, The Capital Region Ques of Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter held its most entertaining Talent Hunt competition. The competition, jointly hosted by Brothers Heath Cheek and Dwain Harrell, was held at Dr. Henry A. Wise High School in Upper Marlboro Maryland. The nationally mandated Talent Hunt program provides exposure, encouragement and financial assistance to talented young people participating in the Performing Arts.

The Omega Psi Phi Talent Hunt competition originated in our fraternity's Sixth District (North and South Carolina) in 1945. LGG takes great pride in the display and celebration of some of the Capital Region's most talented high school aged students. Forty Six talented High School students registered for the contest this year. Due to the overwhelming response, auditions were held to limit the contestants for the sake of timeliness on the day of the competition.

Thirty one very talented contestants participated in this year's event and were judged in the categories of Vocal, Dance, Instrumental, Drama, and Visual Arts. This year, six students participated in the area of dance, 4 students participated in the area of instrumental music, three students participated in the area of drama, 8 students

participated in the area of visual arts and ten students participated in the area of vocal music. The Chairman Darryl W. Bennett and the Co-Chairman Bro. Galen Kimbrue both; stressed that the event should be a positive, motivating learning experience. The contestants were encouraged to just "do their best", without undue stress, no matter how proficient or experienced they are in their respective area.

The contest began with an invocation by Bro. Heath Cheek, a welcome by the Basileus Bro. Sherman Charles and a brief description of the origins of the Talent Hunt competition by the immediate past Basileus Bro. Angelo Riddick. Bro. Dwain Harrell and Bro. Heath Cheek kicked-off the competition.

The overall winner of the competition was Mr. Steven Garrison, a student at Wise High School. Steven was also the winner of the instrumental category. Steven gave a Gerald Albright like rendition of Jennifer Holiday's "And I Am Telling You". Steven's full, round and soulful sound along with his hypnotizing vibrato impressed the judges and the audience.

Ms. Jazmyn Richardson, a student at Suitland High School was the second place overall winner. Jaymyn was the winner of the drama category. Jazmyn's dramatic rendition of a psychopathic murder chilled the audience. She portrayed a deeply dis-

turbed teen who while being interrogated by authorities eerily explains the demented exhilaration of cold blooded murder of one of her classmates.

Ms. Courtney Reed, also a student at Suitland High was the third place overall winner. Courtney's powerful and athletic modern dance performance was executed with a hint of a classical ballet influence. Courtney gave a very fluid and energetic performance with many controlled isolations, kicks and leaps.

Mark Stewart, Jr. is also a student at Suitland High School. Mark won the visual arts category with his penciled artwork. The judges were impressed by his interesting use of perspective, lines and shading.

Dr. Sylvia Johnson made a \$5,000.00 donation to the Uplift Foundation on behalf of the United Auto Workers Union (UAW) Chrysler National Training Center. The funds will support the Foundation's mission to improve the lives of our endangered youth. Talent Hunt contestants received over \$2,000 in scholarships (bonds) and cash prizes.

The Talent Hunt program has been very rewarding to the brotherhood of LGG contemporarily and to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. over the last 60 years. The brothers of LGG will continue to search for and support our gifted youth!

## Scenes from Lambda Gamma Gamma's Talent Hunt Competition



## Lambda Gamma Gamma Achievement Week Celebration

**Greenbelt, MD** – November, 10, 2007, Basileus Bro. Angels Riddick had the distinguished honor of introducing of the keynote speaker, 1st Vice Grand Basileus, Bro. Carl A. Blunt at the annual Purple & Gold Ball. Bro. Blunt retired in April 2005 from Bank of America, as the Senior Vice President of mortgage lending for the Southwest Region. Carl holds a Bachelors Degree from San Jose State University, a Masters Degree from San Francisco State University and is currently completing his PHD while residing in Scottsdale Arizona and San Francisco California. Bro. Blunt stressed the fraternity's four cardinal principles, manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift. Bro. Blunt stressed the incorporation of those principles into the daily lives of the men of Omega. Moreover Bro. Blunt stated that we should do our homework and research the current events of the time of the founding of our great fraternity. Brother Blunt stated that we owe it to our founders to know the social and political climate during the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. During this era in American history the plight of the Negro worsened. Woodrow Wilson was President and the country was on the verge of World War I. Omega men should know that Bishop Edgar A. Love was gassed by the Germans and Professor Frank Coleman was an Officer in the U.S. Army. Dr. Ernest E. Just obtained over \$80,000 in grants for biology research programs and by 1917 Dr. Oscar J. Cooper had obtained a Doctor of Medicine Degree.

A short list of our programs include: Political Action, Assault on Illiteracy, Project Uplift, We Feed Our People, The Clothing Drive, Adopt A Highway, Easter Egg Hunt, Kids Day at Six Flags, Kids Day at the Wizards, Suitland Outreach, Youth Athletics, UNCF, Armed Forces Retirement Home Visit, RICA

(Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents), Habitat for Humanity, and providing Thanksgiving Dinners for over 20 families in need. Additionally, Lambda Gamma Gamma awarded over \$24,000 in scholarship money to deserving college bound students this past year. In light of this fact, Bro. Blunt stated that with a need so great, collectively the fraternity must do better.

Bro. Phillip T. Edmonds, the chairman of the Achievement Week Celebration again this year performed in his usual modus operand, a spirit of excellence. Bro. Edmonds was applauded by the brotherhood for performance under fire. Phil's perseverance in planning and coordinating this annual event was greatly appreciated by the brotherhood. Achievement Week Celebration fittingly started on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> with the Purple & Gold Ball. After a very compelling charge to understand the history of our fraternity, awards were present to those brothers who best exemplified the principles of our fraternity.

The Omega Man of The Year Award was presented to Bro. Reginald Vance, PhD. The Superior Service Award was presented to Bro. Yahari Butler, The Colonel Charles Young Award was present to Bro. Aaron Combs and the Citizen of The Year Award was presented to Ms. Jay McElroy. Ms McElroy is the owner of 3 web-based businesses, serving over 654,000 members and has helped to secure over \$1,000,000 in scholarship funds for college bound students. Ms McElroy also provides assistance to needy families throughout the Washington DC area.

On Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>, the chapter attended a church service at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Glenn Burnie, MD at 10am. Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is the church home of Bro. Yahari Butler.

Monday, Bro. Garvey Wright coordinated a visit to the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington DC. The AFRH actively nurtures the health and wellness of our aging national heroes in a continuum of life care services in a community setting.

Thursday, Bro. Derek Griffin coordinated the brotherhood luncheon that took place at Boiling AFB in Washington, DC.

Friday, Bros Damon Williams and Frank Wright coordinated the Reclamation Night. The purpose is to provide fellowship within LGG and to allow non-financial brothers the opportunity to enjoy fellowship, hoping that they will become financial in a chapter of their choosing.

The Birthday Bash on Saturday at the Crystal City Sheraton, provided the chapter an opportunity to enjoy a night of celebration with our many patrons. Those patrons that support LGG throughout the year helped the chapter to provide scholarships and community service to the needy. That support is greatly appreciated by the brothers of Lambda Gamma Gamma.

Finally, there was the installation of officers for the 2007-2008 fraternal year. With the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Basileus Bro. Carl Blunt officiating, Bro. Sherman Charles was installed as the new Basileus. Bro. Willie Williams was installed as the Vice Basileus, Bro. Robert Palmer was installed as the Keeper of Finance, Bro. John Archield was installed as the Keeper of Records & Seal and Bro. Michael H. Smith was reinstalled as the Chapter Editor. The week ended fittingly with dancing and a challenge by the new Basileus Sherman Charles, for each brother to become actively involved in a least one chapter activity or committee that impacts the lives of our youth.



*Keynote Speaker  
First Vice Grand Basileus Carl Blunt*



*Lambda Gamma Gamma Brothers at the  
Achievement Week Celebration*

## Lambda Gamma Gamma "We Feed Our People" (WFOP) Social Action Project

**Washington, DC** - January 21, 2008, Martin Luther King Day; The Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity along with Alpha Omega, Kappa Psi and Alpha Chapters joined efforts to show the disadvantaged that they are not forgotten.

The We Feed Our People (WFOP) event is eagerly anticipated by Lambda Gamma Gamma and is coordinated by brother Aaron Combs with the assistance of brothers Kenneth Calvin and Johnny Sidbury. The WFOP event, first organized in 1992 provides an opportunity to give something back to those who are not quite as fortunate as others. Lambda Gamma Gamma has been a leader in the activities associated with this event for the past 10 years. The brothers of Lambda Gamma Gamma rejoice in having the opportunity to leave an impression on the homeless that MLK holiday is a day where the community remembers their plight.

WE FEED OUR PEOPLE (WFOP) is a community-based coalition of concerned individuals and organizations, formed in 1988 in Washington, DC. Its purpose is to find creative and effective ways to commemorate the works and life of Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., during the nationally recognized ML King Holiday. WFOP has annually provided a nutritious meal and warm clothing for homeless citizens in the nation's capitol as a way to continue to draw attention to the plight of the poor and neglected. This year the event received the support of Washington DC's own Miss District of Columbia, Shayna Rudd.

WFOP was first launched in 1988 due to the fact that programs that provided food for the homeless, including most shelters, did not provide meals on Sundays and holidays. As a result, the MLK Holiday would harm those that he dedicated the last days of his life attempting to help - poor people. The word spread and more and more support was offered by community-based organizations including local chapters of the Omega Psi Fraternity.

Early on, students from Howard University collected coats and blankets to be handed out and a popular local radio station encouraged listeners to come to the Martin Luther King Library and bring food and blankets. Volunteers came by the dozens with

freshly cooked turkeys, vegetables, breads and warm clothes. The simple idea of three students to cook food in their homes for 12-15 homeless people had turned into an event that provided meals and warm clothing for over 800 people and had the support of over 200 volunteers.

After such an outstanding show of community support and the feeling of having worked to continue the philosophy and teachings of Dr. M.L. King, Jr. it was inevitable that WFOP would continue. The WFOP event has continued for eighteen consecutive years.

Over the years the effort became more organized and Lambda Gamma Gamma has become dedicated to the event. Lambda Gamma Gamma solicits friends and associates for unused clothing and blankets. The collection of clothing has gotten so big that the chapter rents a truck to transport the many winter garments collected by the brothers of Lambda Gamma Gamma and our patrons. In addition, the rental truck is used to transport the catered meals that feed the homeless and disadvantaged.

### Scenes from the LGG "We Feed our People Social" Action Project



## Iota Nu Celebrates Black History Month with Book Dedication Ceremony



*The Men of Iota Nu Chapter with Ms. Hasler at the Ernest Everett Just Biography Book Dedication*

**February 9, 2008**, The Men of Iota Nu Chapter in a noble effort to exemplify the Cardinal Principles of Scholarship and Uplift held a joint Black History Month Program and Book Dedication Ceremony at the Harford County Public Library, Aberdeen, Maryland. The chapter dedicated eleven copies of the **Black Apollo of Science: The Life of Ernest Everett Just**. The books were presented to the Harford County library system ensuring all eleven branches in the library system would provide the community with an opportunity to review the life and times of our Brother and one of the Founders of our beloved Fraternity. Bro. Dwayne Adams, as the

Master of Ceremonies, presented the opening remarks and a brief overview of the life and times of Founder Just. Bro. Charles Alston, a Charter Member of Iota Nu Chapter, provided an uplifting impressionable rendition of the early years of Iota Nu.

Bro. Marvin C. Dillard, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative, was the Guest Speaker for the occasion, expanding on the works and times of the fraternity's founders. Bro. Dillard closed by saying the chapter is starting a new beginning with the establishment of a partnership with the Harford County Public Library and further

indicated that Omega Men, as Leaders, should be good neighbors to the community we serve.

Bro. James Jordan, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative, spoke on the driving force behind Founder Just achievements, which was adversity. Bro. Jordan lamented the adversity Founder Just encountered throughout his life inspired him to continue his pursuit of academic success, meaningful scientific research and racial equality.

The program concluded with Iota Nu Basilus, Bro. Walter Wyatt presenting Ms. Mary Hastler, Associated Director (Harford County Public Library), with eleven books on the life of Bro. Ernest Everett Just. Ms. Hastler was overjoyed with emotions and her appreciation was warm felt throughout. She further emphasized that this was a special presentation and a start of a noble relationship, which she hopes will flourish throughout the years. In attendance was 2<sup>nd</sup> District KRS, Bro. Kenneth Rodgers, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Social Action Chairman, Bro. C. Wayne Hamer, families, friends and members of the community who all expressed appreciation and respect for the contributions and meaningful impact the men of Omega are making in the community. The ceremony concluded with refreshments, fellowship, and reminiscing of the struggle past, present and future.

## Iota Nu 2008 Mardi Gras Celebration

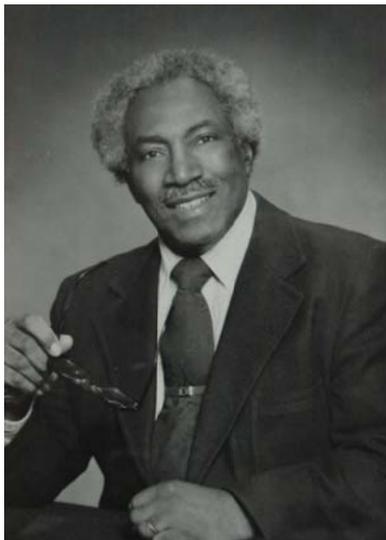
**On February 23, 2008**, the Men of IOTA NU Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. held their annual Mardi Gras 2008 Gala. The brothers of IOTA NU Chapter once again demonstrated their true Omega Spirit and pride with their continuous community involvement. The Mardi Gras Gala is one of the chapter's major fundraisers geared toward benefiting the chapter's scholarship fund. This year's event took place at the Richlin Ballroom, Edgewood, MD. It was a welcomed sight, (as always) seeing the many participants supporting this event to include visiting brothers throughout the Virginia, D.C, Maryland, Pennsylvania and surrounding communities. Once again, the community stood behind the men of IOTA NU and with their support made this event an enormous success! While Brothers Al Abramson and David White co-chaired the



*Brothers and Guest enjoying a dance at the 2008 Iota Nu Mardi Gras*

event, it could not have been accomplished without the full support of the entire IOTA NU Chapter members uniting. The entertainment provided by well know DJ Jocks Tim Watts & DJ Slice from FM 95.9 were nothing less than skilled craftsmen at their trade. The entertainment was well received by all in attendance. Prizes and other amenities were provided to selected patrons throughout the evening festivities. The night atmosphere was filled with love and enthusiasm and once again propelled the organization's position within the community as a staunch supporter of the Harford County educational community. The proceeds from this event are making it possible for the chapter to provide various scholarships for selected High School Senior during the upcoming school year.

## Bro. Eugene Elbert Ward - Omega Chapter



*Brother Eugene Elbert Ward*

**Eugene Elbert Ward** was born March 29, 1914 in South Baltimore and entered Omega Chapter on February 4, 2008, at the age of 93.

Educated in Baltimore City Public Schools and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in June 1937. After his military service, he matriculated to the Historic Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia and graduated with a B.A. in English and Social Studies in 1947. In 1953, he earned a Master Degree in Communications from American University in Washington D.C. Valuing education he earned a Masters Degree in Corrections Administration from Coppin State College in 1973.

A devoutly religious person, he was baptized and joined Macedonia Baptist Church in 1925. At the age of 12 he was the youngest person allowed to teach Sunday School. In 1962 he joined Metropolitan United Methodist Church where he served in numerous capacities, President of the Choir, Trustee, Chairman off the Administrative Board, Chairman of Social Concerns, Lay Speaker, Lay member of the Annual Conference,

member of the Maryland Churches United, and Lifer Member of the United Methodist Men.

Ward, as he was affectionately known, was a World War II Army veteran who served in the South Pacific from 1941-45. He participated in the invasion of Okinawa, the Philippines and Iwo Jima. He received the Good Conduct, American Defense, American Theater Service and World War II Victory Ribbons.

The many jobs he held were many and varied, a reflection of his many interest and talents. He began his career as a Teacher and Librarian at Page Jackson School in Charlestown West Virginia. He worked for the Veterans Administration and the Children's Center in Laurel, MD. He taught English at Booker T. Washington Jr. High and Clifton Park Jr. High, both in Baltimore City, and was a recreation leader in both Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Ultimately, he acquired a position with the Maryland Department of Correction, where he was employed fro 20 years until his retirement. He began as a Counselor and advance to Senior Supervisor of the Classification Program, the first person of color to hold this position.

An involved member of the community, Ward served a Commissioner of the Old Glory Days District of the Boy Scouts. He wad a member of the Caton Civic League, and a Life Member of the NAACP, the National Republican Party, The Association of Notary Republics, AARP, and the Presidential Committee. Ward was a well-known and outspoken member of the Maryland Classified Employees Union.



Ward was passionate about keeping the name and history of Storer College alive by re-energizing the alumni association through financial gifts and personal diligence, including spearheading the annual alumni pilgrimage to the campus for as August reunion, which continues today. His election as President of the Alumni Association was his reward for his devotion and dedication to this historical school.

In 1951, he was made in the Kappa Psi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. at Rankin Chapel at Howard University and joined Pi Omega Chapter in Baltimore, MD in 1952. He served as Chaplain for 10 years, Basilus for 2 years Delegate to the District Conference and the Grand Conclave as well as on various committees. He looked forward to gatherings of family and friends at the chapters annual Mardi Gras. He was a Life Member of Omega Psi Phi and at meetings during roll call he identified himself as **Eugene Ward, Kappa Psi 1951, Life Member #487, the first 500.**

Eugene Ward played many sports, including football and tennis. In his later years, he took up bridge and participated in many competitive tournaments around the country. He was a Life Master Duplicate Bridge player and was president of the Double Finesse Club as well as a member of the Two and Four-Bridge Club.

Eugene was a multi-talented, multi-faceted person. He wrote the class song for his high school and college. He wrote poetry and had a poem published in the First Annual anthology of College Poetry in 1946. He sang in men's choirs including Baltimore's Town Choir and the Tabor Presbyterian Choir in Washington, DC. When he sang with Tabor, he toured Nova Scotia every year and had the pleasure to sing with Mary Cardwell Dawson and the National Negro Opera Company.

## Bro. Vincent Warren Sapp - Omega Chapter



*Brother Vincent Warren Sapp*

**Brother Vincent Warren Sapp**, was born on November 19, 1925, in Chester, PA, and spent most of his childhood growing up in Trenton, New Jersey. He attended Trenton Central High School and graduated in June 1944. He also attended college and graduated from Central State University in 1950 with a B.S. in business Education.

After completing two years in the military, Brother Sapp began his teaching career. In 1954, he received a master's degree from Temple University, in Philadelphia, PA. In 1959, Brother Sapp began commuting to Philadelphia, where he taught business classes to students at the Mastbaum Area Vocational High School. In January 1988, after 28 ½ years of service, he retired from the Philadelphia School System as the Chairperson of the Business Department.

Brother Sapp comes from a large family, most of who still reside in the Trenton area. He has been an active member of the Galilee Baptist Church, Trenton, New Jersey, for over 70 years. Brother Sapp was married to the late Ida Mae Johnson Sapp for 42 years and has two children Dorinda and Joseph. He currently resides in Fieldsboro, NJ.

Brother Sapp pledged Upsilon Chapter, Central State University, and was one of the thirteen "Lampados" who crossed the burning sands and stomped his way into "Ω land" in the spring of 1949. Brother Sapp has been an active member of the Delta Upsilon chapter since 1955. He has held several offices including Basileus, Keeper of Records and Seals, and was a past Chairman of the Registration Committee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Conference.

In 1976, Brother Sapp had the distinguished honor of being named the "Omega Man of the Year". At the 2000 Conclave held in Indianapolis, IN, Brother Sapp was recognized for 50 years of service and dedication to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

## Bro. Richard Browning, IV - Omega Chapter



*Brother Lt. Col. Richard Browning, IV*

**Lt. Col. Richard Randolph Browning, IV** was born on August 4, 1966 at Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois. Richard attended elementary school in Okinawa, Japan, middle school in Coca Beach, Florida and was a graduate of Central High School in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. He attended Florida Institute of Technology from 1984-85, and graduated from

Tennessee State University in 1988 with a Bachelors of Science in Industrial Arts and Technical Aeronautics. He was the Air Force ROTC Detachment 790 Distinguished Military Graduate.

His military experience includes assignments to the Joint Staff Augmentation Cell, Operation Team, Naval Military Command Center 9NMCC, the Crisis Action Team Pentagon, Washington, DC. His tours of duty and work assignments included the Joint Air Defense Operations Center, US Army, Integrated Air Defense System, Bolling AFB, DC.; Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Operations Center, US Secret Service, FBI, FAA, NORAD, US Customs Enforcement Interagency Airspace Protection. His most recent military assignment was as the Deputy Commander of Maintenance, 201<sup>st</sup> Airlift Squadron Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland,

As a civilian pilot, he was employed with American Airlines and was a JROTC Substitute Teacher for Maryland School Systems. He as a member of the United Methodist Church Lay Speakers, Men of Allen, National Color Guard Association of the United States, National Defense University Foundation, the Allied Association and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

He was an active member of the Seaton Memorial AME Church in Lanham, MD. and became a Licensed AME Minister on March 13, 2008.

**2 Timothy 4:6-7 "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith."**

## Pi Omega Vice Basileus, Bro. John Berkley & Wife Honored by Baltimore Archdiocese

**Baltimore, MD February 8, 2008.** More than 50 Black Catholics from 16 Baltimore City parishes and one suburban church were honored Feb. 8th at the 2008 Mother Lange Awards Banquet.

The annual awards dinner – sponsored by the Office of African American Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Baltimore at Martin's West in Woodlawn – honors black Catholics who demonstrate excellence in leadership and service. Awards are also given to youths who hold key positions in the ministries of their church, said Therese Wilson Favors, director of the Office of African American Catholic Ministries.

The honorees from St. Gregory the Great Church were: Leadership: Karen Brown-Berkley, Service: Bro. John Berkley, Youth: Keisha Rigsby.

Quette Karen Brown-Berkley received the Mother Lange Leadership Award for her many years of dedication as a Youth Advisor

and former Chairperson for the Willing Workers. Under her guidance the Youth and Young Adult Ministry has enable the youth of the church to be engaged in ways never before imagined. One example was the Youth Group planning and coordinating a Mass (with choir) and birthday party at a local nursing home for one of St. Gregory's oldest members. Quette Karen is a faithful and dedicated parishioner of St. Gregory's and offers her leadership in all church activities.

Bro. John Berkley, Vice Basileus for Pi Omega Chapter, was presented with the Mother Lange Service Award for over 30 years of offering his time and talents in many capacities. Bro. Berkley is the current President of the Men of St. Gregory's, a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, and has chaired or been a member of every fund-raising committee in the church for over 20 years. He was also a member of the Basilica Anniversary Committee and a frequent speaker at St. Frances Academy.

Keisha Rigsby was awarded the Mother Lange Youth Award for being very active in the parish. She participates with the Youth Ministry and participates as an Alter Server and Usher. She was a Youth Delegate for the National Black Catholic Congress held in Buffalo, NY in 2007. Keisha has also received an Excellence in Government Award.

The awards are named for Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, a founder of St. Frances Academy, Baltimore, in 1828, and the Oblate Sisters of Providence in 1829. St. Frances Academy was the first Catholic school in the United States to educate black children, and the Oblate Sisters of Providence was the first sustained religious order for black women. The cause for Mother Lange's canonization is currently under Vatican review.



*2008 Mother Lange Service Award Winner Bro. John Berkley, with Pi Omega Basileus Bro. D. Danard Smith*



*2008 Mother Lange Award Winners: Service - Bro. John Berkley, Youth - Keisha Rigsby, and Leadership -- Que-ette Karen Brown-Berkley*

## Pi Omega Brothers Volunteer in the Baltimore Stadium Trek

The American Lung Association of Maryland's mission is to prevent lung disease and promote lung health by raising money for lung disease research and programs. Lung disease is the #1 killer of children under the age of one and the #3 killer in the United States. Lung cancer also causes more deaths than colon, breast, and prostate cancers combined.

On Saturday, March 15, 2008 brothers of the Pi Omega Chapter, Baltimore, MD volunteered in

the American Lung Association's Baltimore Stadium Trek. This event was a pledge-based, one-of-a-kind experience where individuals of all ages walked, jogged, ran and climbed in, up, down and around two of Baltimore's legendary sporting venues: Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium. The brothers participated in tasks such as route guiding, water stops, and tailgate preparation.



Pi Omega's 2008 Talent Hunt Competition

**Baltimore, MD March 16, 2008.** Pi Omega Chapter, Graduate Chapter of Baltimore, MD, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., hosted its 52nd Annual Talent Hunt Competition on Sunday March 16, 2008 at The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, located at 830 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD.

The Talent Hunt demonstration was created in 1945, and is one of the national projects of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Pi Omega has participated in this activity for over 50 years, and many of our talented high school youths have benefited from this project through all-expenses paid trips, U.S. Savings Bonds, trophies, certificates, print and televised media exposure.

Students from public and private schools in Baltimore City and Baltimore County were involved in this year's competition. The winners were as follows:

**Vocal Classical:** (1) **Troy Koger, Baltimore School for the Arts,**

(2) **Kimiesha Robinson, Milford Mill Academy**

**Vocal Contemporary:** (1) **Aysha Williams, Coppin Academy High School,**

(2) **Lenora Morris, Carver Vocational Technical High School**

**Instrumental Classical:** (1) **Bryan Alston, Mt. Zion Baptist School,**

(2) **Haikeem Johnson, Oakland Mills High School**

**Dance:** **Christine Jenkins, Mt. Hebron High School**

**Dramatic Arts:** **Erin Rigsby, Mt. Zion Baptist School**

Mr. Troy Koger will represent Pi Omega Chapter at the District Talent Hunt Competi-

tion to be held at the 2008 60<sup>th</sup> Second District Conference. This year the conference will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey the weekend of May 1-4, 2008.

During the intermission the audience was treated to performances from members of the Nathan Carter School of Music, Peabody Conservatory, and Karen's Fun House, an after school program for elementary and middle school students.

Bro. Dr. Kelvin O'Neal was the Chairperson for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Talent Hunt Competition. A special thanks to the Pi Omega Foundation for funding this year's competition. Bro. D. Danard Smith is the Basileus of Pi Omega Chapter



*First Place Vocal Contemporary Winner Aysha Williams, Pi Omega Basileus, D. Danard Smith, Second Place Winner Lenora Morris*



*2008 Pi Omega Talent Hunt Participants with Pi Omega Basileus D. Danard Smith*



*Dramatic Arts Winner Erin Rigsby, Pi Omega Basileus D. Danard Smith, Dance Winner Christine Johnson*



*2008 Pi Omega Talent Hunt intermission participants, members of Karen's Fun House and Pi Omega Basileus D. Danard Smith*

Bro. Mandel Holland's New Movie Now Available on DVD

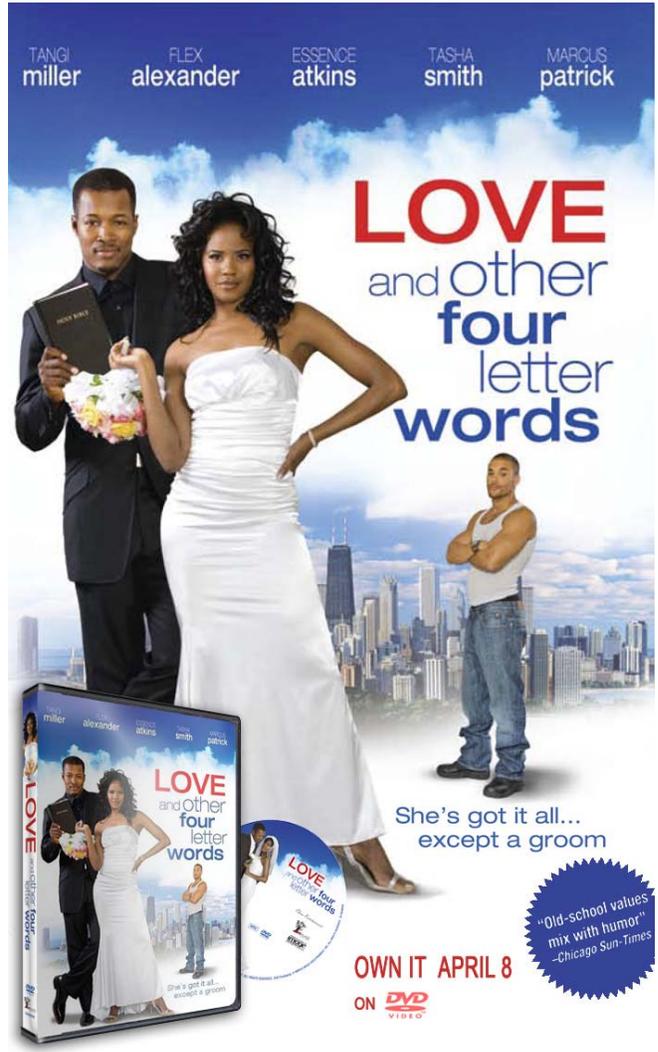


Brother Mandel Holland with his lovely wife at Beta Alpha Alpha's Dinner Dance



Brother Holland reading to school children for Beta Alpha Alpha's Social Action Project

Brother Mandel Holland of Beta Alpha Alpha Chapter in Westchester, NY. is the writer on the new movie "Love and other 4 Letter Words", which comes out on DVD April 8, 2008. Brother Holland also wrote and directed Tears of a Clown and The Other Brother starring Mekhi Phifer of ER fame.



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## Brother Jamal Joseph and Harlem Teens Raise the Roof at 80th Academy Awards

IMPACT Repertory Theatre, founded in 1997, is a Harlem-based company for 12- to 19-year-olds that empowers youth through performing arts and leadership training. The teens who performed, all of whom live in Harlem, traveled to Hollywood on Wednesday with Joseph.

IMPACT Repertory Theatre is a branch of the New Heritage Theatre Group, directed by Voza Rivers, which is the oldest African American nonprofit theater company in New York City. Columbia's School of the Arts sponsors IMPACT, providing rehearsal and performance space at the University.

"We feel like we have already won," said Jacquelen Singleton, a high school senior, who has been with IMPACT for five years. "This nomination is something we worked really hard for, and for us, it's not about the award, it's really about the message we want to deliver: Keep positive thoughts, because a positive thought cannot be denied. And that's what we did. We kept positive thoughts and now we're headed for the Oscars."

"I am very proud of the Academy's nomination, not for myself, but for the young people from IMPACT, who can now see that their work is, in fact, good enough to get the kind of recognition that it deserves," said Joseph. "I want kids in Harlem to see this as a positive example of how it is possible to achieve your hopes and dreams."

Also up for Best Motion Picture was *Atonement*, a film distributed by Focus Features, of which James Schamus, associate professor of film at SoA, is the chief executive officer. *No Country for Old Men* won the Oscar.

"[These nominations] make me proud to be the new dean of the School of the Arts," said Carol Becker. "I have just returned from Sundance, where I saw some fabulous films by Columbia alums and faculty. It is clear to me that



*Harlem's IMPACT Repertory Theatre performed Raise it Up in the film August Rush. The performance company, founded by Columbia Professor Jamal Joseph, received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Song.*

at this moment, Columbia is arguably one of the most exciting film schools in the United States."

Nominated for seven Academy Awards, *Atonement* won the 2008 Golden Globe for Best Picture—Drama and Best Original Score. In addition to its Best Motion Picture nomination, *Atonement* was also up for Best Costume Design, Art Direction, Achievement in Cinematography, Achievement in Music (Original Score), Adapted Screenplay and Best Supporting Actress.

"*Atonement's* great success here and in Europe is worth celebrating, but so too is the phenomenal success of *Lust, Caution* in Asia and in Europe, where the film is sweeping awards and doing huge box office," said Professor Schamus, who co-wrote the screenplay for the latter film.

- Story by Victoria Benitez

**Brother Jamal Joseph** is an alumnus of the Sundance Film Institute Directing Lab. He is a recipient of the American Film and Video Blue Ribbon, The Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame Competition, The N.B.P.C. Prized Pieces Award, two

Silver Apples, and a Cine Golden Eagle. He is also the recipient of a Ford Foundation film grant for the docudrama *At the Altar of My Soul*, to be shot in Cuba. His screenplays and teleplays include a semi autobiography about his Black Panther and prison experiences, *Knifehand*; *The Boy's Choir of Harlem*; *Strange Justice*; *New York Undercover*; *Ali: An American Hero*; *Nicky Barnes*; *30 Days*; *Drive By*; *Da Zone*; and *A Wake Up*. He is the director of Full Court Press as well as a number of short films and documentaries. He is also the founder and artistic director of Impact, a Harlem-based youth theater company, and executive director of New Heritage Films, a not-for-profit organization that provides training, exposure, and opportunities for minority filmmakers.

## Focus on Omega's Educators

### Brother Andrew A. Ray - Educator Extraordinaire



Brother Andrew A. Ray

**Rochester, NY** - Dr. Andrew A. Ray of Theta Omicron Chapter was born in Centreville, Mississippi. He completed his elementary and secondary education in the New Orleans, Louisiana Public School System. He achieved academic distinction by winning bronze and silver medals in statewide competition, while graduating in the Top 20 in a class of 395.

Dr. Ray's post secondary education includes a B.S. in Economics (Southern University), M.S. in Education (University of New York), M.S. in Administration and a Ph.D. in Administra-

tion and Policy from The University of Buffalo. Dr. Ray has demonstrated a life-long commitment to learning through his study at **13** colleges and universities in the United States and Africa including Yale, American University, Loyola, Wisconsin and the University of Ghana (West Africa). His thirst for knowledge has resulted in the conferring of four Professional Certificates for Post Baccalaureate Studies. His professional experience includes Economist, Teacher, Administrator, Adjunct Professor and work with the Urban League, Singer Corporation, The US Department of State and The US Congress in Washington, DC.

Dr. Ray has been honored for his extensive work in the areas of Civil Rights, Community, Education and Government. These honors include **Foreign Affairs Scholar (Department of State), Presidential Fellow (US Congress), New York State Senate Proclamation for Distinguished Community Service, The Martin Luther King Award (Xerox Employees), Omega Man Of the Year (Theta Omicron), Educator of the Year (In Roads Business and Program for Students in Science and Math), The Metropolitan Women's Network Award, The John W.**

**Thompson Masonic Community Leadership Award, United Church Ministries Man of the Year and over two dozen more.**

Dr. Ray's work in Omega is recognized worldwide. He started as a Neophyte Basilus at Beta Sigma Chapter (Southern University). He led his Chapter to major honors in the ninth District including highest GPA and largest fraternity line in the University's history (36). His graduate work encompasses holding every office in the chapter, as well as numerous committee positions. On the district level, he served as Corridor Rep, First Vice DR and DR.

Internationally, Dr. Ray served on several Supreme Council Committees. He chaired the International Membership and The Charles Drew Scholarship Committees. His Ritualistic and Rededication work is in high demand throughout Omega.

His life's motto has been **"WHEN YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES TO SLUMBER, DO YOU THINK THAT GOD WILL SAY, THAT YOU HAVE EARNED ONE MORE TOMORROW BY THE WORK YOU DID TODAY"**.

### Brother Hassan Jones- A New Breed of Educator with Old School Values



**Rochester, NY** - Brother Hassan Jones was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity inc., Theta Omicron Chapter, in Rochester, NY in the fall of 1994. Since that time, he has served as Keeper of Finance, worked on multiple committees, and is currently, the social action chair. He also received the Chapter's award for Superior Service.

As an educator, Bro. Jones has shown the same dedication and sense of purpose he has demonstrated in the Chapter. He began his teaching career in 1995 in the Rochester City School District. Mentored by the school principal, his line brother, Dr. William Stroud, Bro. Jones quickly made a huge impact on the lives of students and their families. He instituted a professional development day where once a week, students dressed up (boys- shirt and tie, girls- skirt and blouse) and welcomed professionals from the community who presented information about their career. Bro. Jones was also visible in the community-often attending his students' churches, sporting events, and homes. People who did not know him would ask his students: "Is that your father?"

His commitment to students and love for learning led him to pursue additional degrees and challenges. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's de-

gree in elementary education at the State University College at Brockport, and a master's degree in educational administration at Canisius College. In 2005 Bro. Jones moved into the role of an Assistant Principal for the Greece Central School District. Shortly thereafter, he was recruited by a private school. **He is now serving as the first black Head of Middle School in the Rochester private school system.** He is responsible for the overall operations of the school - curriculum development, staff, students, etc.

In the future, Bro. Jones, 37, married, with two sons, plans to pursue his doctorate in education and open his own school. He credits the men of Omega, especially his chapter brothers, for instilling in him manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift. He said, "By being in the presence of men who are doing great things, it inspired me to do great things also. I hope to inspire those whose lives I cross as well."

## Chi Upsilon 5th Annual Jazz Brunch

On Saturday April 5, 2008 the Chi Upsilon (Camden, NJ) chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Brunch at the Cherry Hill Crowne Plaza Hotel in its beautiful Riverside Ballroom. The event was well received and attended by a crowd of two hundred plus guests who enjoyed an assortment of food and beverages while live entertainment was provided by performances by the Tony Williams Quartet featuring Ms. Nina Bundy, Nasir Dickerson & the Renaissance Messengers featuring Ms. Charlene Boone, Subito Sounds, and The Little Jazz Giants.

Many guests received an assortment of door prizes, while others won

cash give aways, gift certificates, and participated in 50/50 raffles. Omega men from neighboring southern New Jersey chapters such as Nu Nu were in attendance in addition to road tripping brothers from northern New Jersey's Lambda Upsilon. It was an enjoyable event for all music lovers of all ages but most importantly the proceeds for this event will help to support the ongoing effort of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s yearly contribution to the United Negro College Fund and the Chi Upsilon Chapter College Scholarship Fund. This College Scholarship Fund most recently provide a \$1000.00 scholarship to a current Delaware State University student who needed assistance to remain in college this past Fall 2007 semester.



*Chi Upsilon Brothers pose for a group photo after the Jazz Brunch*

**OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.  
SECOND DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

MARYLAND      DELAWARE      PENNSYLVANIA      NEW YORK      NEW JERSEY

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OMEGA WILL SURVIVE BECAUSE BROTHERS CARE!!!

IT IS YOUR DUTY TO PROTECT OMEGA AT ALL TIMES!!!

The following men have been **EXPELLED** from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and no longer have any rights or privileges afforded to the 'Men Of Omega'.

Allron Monsanto, Psi Iota

The Brothers listed below are currently **SUSPENDED** from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. pending further investigation.  
*(If you're suspended, you're the reason!!!)*

Larry Cowan  
 Melvin Hill, Chi Delta  
 Samuel Korpoi, Psi Epsilon

Travis Mayfield, Psi Epsilon  
 Demetrius McDade  
 Edward Murray, Nu Nu  
 Ezra Naughton, Rho Lambda Lambda

Kelvin Robinson, Chi Delta  
 Andre Smith, Chi Delta  
 Jean Sylla, Chi Delta  
 Eric Watson, Chi Delta

These men should not be admitted into any formal fraternity meetings. Failure to adhere to these directives of the District Representative will result in the **SUSPENSION** of the Brother or Chapter who is in violation of the same. **THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!!!**



February 1, 2008

Greetings Brothers,

As Birmingham and Alpha Phi Chapter is the Host City for the 75<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave, we are looking forward to having you and your family in the Magic City. In order for the Souvenir Booklet to be a success we need your support. I want to solicit your support by asking you to purchase an ad for the Souvenir Booklet.

We have enclosed a price guide and information you and your patrons will need in order to solicit and submit their ads.

**PRICES**

FULL PAGE (B&W)	\$400.00	BACK COVER	\$1500.00
HALF PAGE (B&W)	\$250.00	INSIDE FRONT COVER	\$1500.00
QUARTER PAGE (B&W)	\$150.00	INSIDE BACK COVER	\$1500.00
EIGHTH PAGE (B&W)	\$100.00	CENTER PAGES (EACH)	\$450.00

**Color Ads (full pages only) add \$200.00**  
**Photo Processing Fee \$25.00 per photo**

All camera-ready Ad Copy, layout sheet and high quality photo(s) if applicable, along with payment Via Cashiers check, certified check or money order, and the authorization form must be received by May 15, 2008.

**Mail Ads, Payments and Authorization Form to:**  
**OMEGA PSI PHI, INC. CONCLAVE '08**  
**ATTENTION: HORACE W. MOORE**  
**3951 SNAPPINGER PARKWAY**  
**DECATUR, GEORGIA 30035**

**Checks or Money Orders payable to: OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.**

**Authorization Form**

You are authorized to publish our (amount of space) \_\_\_\_\_ page advertisement in the 2008 **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Grand Conclave** Souvenir Program Booklet to be held July 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Birmingham, Alabama. Herewith, please find payment to: **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Grand Conclave '08** in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. For the advertisement (and \$25.00 for each photo, if applicable) and a copy/layout of our ad.

**Please print or type**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE/HOME \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



**75<sup>th</sup> GRAND CONCLAVE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**  
**Birmingham, Alabama**

(NOTE: A separate form must be completed for each Brother)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ 00  
                     FIRST                      MIDDLE INITIAL                      LAST                      CONTROL # (FROM FINANCIAL CARD)

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                     STREET                                      CITY                                      STATE                                      ZIP

Home Telephone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-REGISTRATION FEES**

Note: Fees for extra meal and event tickets are shown below.

List # desired here		List Amount(s) here
	Basic registration fee includes Conclave Reports, Souvenir Booklet, and ALL <b>ITEMS MARKED BELOW</b> <b>Fee Depends on Submission and Pay Date.</b>	\$ _____
___ 1 ___	Founders Banquet (Black-Tie) Sunday July 13th	
___ 1 ___	Closing Banquet Thursday July 17 <sup>th</sup> @ extra tickets \$50.00	\$ _____
___ 1 ___	Undergraduate Luncheon Tickets @ \$35.00 each extra ticket	\$ _____
___ 1 ___	Friday July 11 <sup>th</sup> , R & B Concert Tickets @ \$35.00 each extra ticket	\$ _____
___ 1 ___	25, & 70 Years Service Award Breakfast Tickets & \$25.00 extra ticket	\$ _____
___ 1 ___	40, 50 & 60 Years Service Award Breakfast Tickets @ \$25.00 extra ticket	\$ _____
___ 1 ___	Saturday, July 12 <sup>th</sup> March Down/Concert Tickets @ extra ticket \$25.00	\$ _____
___ 1 ___	Civil Rights Tour July 15th to Selma and Montgomery, Alabama \$25.00	\$ _____
___ 1 ___	Alabama Adventure Theme Park Tickets @ \$25.00 extra tickets	\$ _____
___ 1 ___	<b>Omega Conclave Golf Tournament, Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am</b> <b>@ \$100.00 per player (optional)</b>	\$ _____

The fraternity does not guarantee that tickets will be available for sale on-site. **GRAND TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be accompanied by payment of fees or you may charge the fees to your VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Diners Card. If paying by check or money order, staple check to this form. If paying by credit card, complete information noted below. **For Credit Card Charge only** – charge to my credit card the amount listed in "Grand Total" above

Type of card \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Holder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date of card \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, Card Holder acknowledges receipt of goods and/or services in the amount of the total shown hereon and agrees to perform the obligations set forth in the Cardholder's agreement with the issuer of said card.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH CREDIT CARD INFORMATION ABOVE, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

**OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.**  
**3951 Snappinger Parkway**  
**Decatur, GA 30035**