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# THE OMEGAN

Voice of the Second District



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc

Fall Edition 2016

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Memoriam

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District Representative  
Sherman L. Charles

District Public Relations  
Zanes E. Cypress, Jr.

2014 - 2015 INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS  
GRADUATE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR  
**OMICRON CHI CHAPTER**  
SECOND DISTRICT

OMICRON CHI CHAPTER  
PLAINFIELD, NJ  
2ND DISTRICT  
80th Grand Convocation 2016, Las Vegas, NV

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# THE OMEGAN

“Voice of the Second District”

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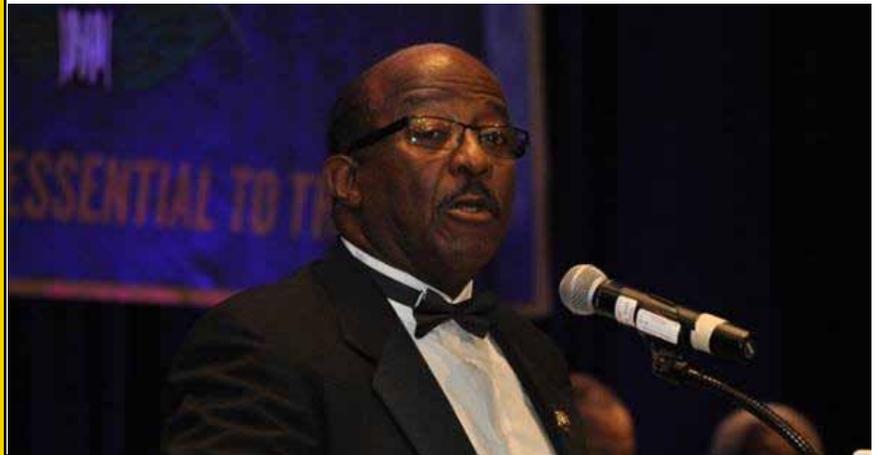
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The OMEGAN is the Official Organ of the Second District of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The Second District is comprised of the Great States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, It publishes three editions annually, Fall, Winter and Conference Editions, for the Members of the Second District and is widely distributed Internationally throughout all Twelve Districts of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Contact 2ndDistrictPR @oppf.org.

The Mighty Second District - Home of  
39th Grand Basileus Dr. Andrew A. Ray



Grand Keeper of Records and Seal  
Kenneth Rodgers



Grand Counselor D. Michael Lyles, Esq.



Article Submission Deadlines:  
October 15, January 15 & April 1

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# Message from the District Representative



## Brothers of the Mighty Second District!

It is with great honor and humility that I address you in this issuance of the Omegan. A lot has occurred since our 68th District Conference and the Second District has excelled on many levels during the summer months. Our new leadership team has transitioned into their roles and has made a significant impact in moving the 2nd District forward in our fraternity.

During this period we executed an outstanding District Re-organization Meeting and presented our 2nd District Strategic Plan to the membership to set an azimuth for the District and our brotherhood. Our leadership team prepared the 2nd District for a major role as a difference maker at the 80th Grand Conclave, in Las Vegas, Nevada. We re-elected Brother Kenneth E. Rodgers as Grand KRS and Brother D. Michael Lyles as Grand Counselor, and elected Brother Timothy Taylor as International Undergraduate Representative. During the 80th Grand Conclave, Omicron Chi Chapter received the Achievement Week, Small Chapter of the Year Award and Pi Omega Chapter received the Social Action Large Chapter of the Year Award. Additionally, the 2nd District received the following International Scholar Awards for 2016: Grand Basileus Award: Bro. Emeka Modubuogo, Herman Dreer Award: Bro. Saddoq Iddrisu, 2nd District Scholar: Bro. Tremayne McKemme, and the Montague Cobb Medical Scholar: Bro. Kevin Purcell. Also, our 2nd District Talent Hunt candidate participated in the International Talent Hunt demonstration.

During this period, we also executed an outstanding James S. Avery Shirtsleeve Conference, hosted by Omicron Chi (OX) Chapter, in Plainfield, NJ. We started with a Town Hall Meeting then the conference presented several panels on health issues impacting African American men and on Chapter Officer training. Our District Undergraduate Summit, at Rutgers University was an outstanding event hosted by our Undergraduate Council.

The Brothers from the 2nd District stood shoulder to shoulder with the 3rd District as we marched in for the dedication of the Smithsonian National African American Museum dedication on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Please make your way to Washington, DC to see this outstanding Museum/Exhibit.

All of our energy is focused on mobilizing Brothers, Senior Brothers, families, and communities to vote in the Presidential and local elections in November. We continue to have forums on provisions for solutions to address the Social Injustice Issues we face. We continue to solicit support in signing the petitions for the Safer Officers & Safer Citizens Act of 2015 (Black & Blue Initiative) and for passage of the Sentencing Reform & Corrections Act (S.2123) and the Sentencing Reform Act (H.R. 3713).

Several locations were devastated by flood waters from Hurricane Matthew including our own, Brother Thomas E. Lee, Jr., 7-Spr10-AY. Keep his family in prayer and continue to support them. Brothers Excellence is the Standard in which we execute our business in Uplifting our Communities, even in Social Media. I am humbled and honored to serve the 2nd District and this great organization. Great Leadership in all chapters is required at this point and time of our lives to address the social issues that face us.

Long Live the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the 2nd District,

Brother Sherman L. Charles  
35th District Representative, Second District

# Message from the

## Director of Public Relations

**Brethren,**

I humbly thank the 35th Second District Representative, Sherman Charles and my dear Brothers of the Second District for allowing me to continue to serve as your Director of Public Relations. Having served for 10 years, it continues to be a labor of love and a responsibility not taken with a minimum of concern. Each Chapter Director of Public Relations, Chapter Editor, Reporter, Photographer and Brothers in general are vital contributors to the goals of the Fraternity, highlighting the success stories of Chapters and accomplishments of Brothers in the Second District. We must always be mindful that we are the guardians, chronicling the History of the Second District for future generations to come.



The 2016 Fall Edition of The Omegan is our largest edition to date, covering the 68th Second District Conference, the Second District presence at the 80th Grand Conclave in Las Vegas, Omega at the Grand Opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Omegas Fatherhood Reception during the Congressional Black Caucus and the James S. Avery Shirtsleeve Conference hosted by the Mighty OX, Omicron Chi Chapter, of Plainfield, NJ. In this edition, Brother Dr. Jedan Phillips extends his session on health issues at the Shirtsleeve Conference to his inaugural Physicians Corner article “Our Health, Our Main Priority”. Pi Omega and Omicron Chi Chapters are highlighted, receiving international awards at the 80th Grand Conclave. We reprinted the Second District “Tribute to 6th Second District Representative Ermon Jones” previously published in the Conclave Souvenir Journal. He was our Senior Past District Representative and continued to serve Omega with distinction and honor until his transition to Omega Chapter.

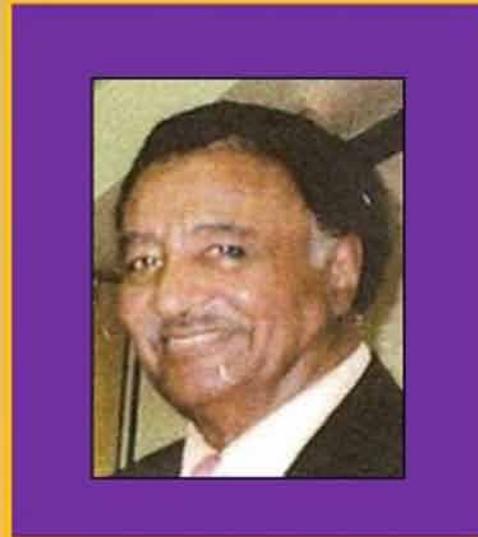
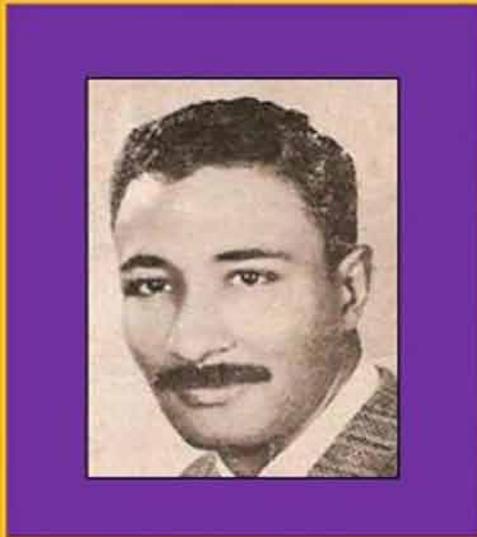
Each District Director of Public Relations is charged by the Editor to the Oracle to publish a robust publication showcasing the activity of Chapters and Brothers in their respective districts. With this 84 page edition, I believe we have accomplished this goal. Our Fraternity Constitution and Bylaws mandate the Oracle should be published, printed, and mailed quarterly each year. This hasn’t occurred since prior to fiscal year 2007, primarily due to the cost constraints associated with printing and mailing. We, at the Second District, addressed this issue years ago by printing only the Conference Editions, while continuing to publish and archive the Fall and Winter Editions online. The International body should consider adopting this procedure as a solution to address this issue.

Finally, I want to thank the Brother Jeff Covington and the Second District Life Membership Committee for selecting me as Honoree for the Life Membership Luncheon at the 68th Second District Conference. It is truly humbling to be honored for service you truly enjoy. Omega Publications are to be scholarly publications containing literary work intended to be insightful and thought provoking featuring the aristocracy of Omega intellect. To have a small part in contributing to such a goal is truly fulfilling. Thank You for the gift, I will wear it with pride.

Fraternally,

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

**In Memoriam**  
**Brother Ermon Kelly Jones**  
**( 6<sup>th</sup> Second District Representative – 1956-1959 )**



**Blanche ( Spouse ) 1928-2014 ...**

**Daughters, Geneva and Janel**

***A Legacy of Service, Age 92***

Initiated PI Chapter – Morgan State University 1947;

Life Member, # 929;

A Founder of Phi Upsilon Chapter, 1952;

Basileus, Phi Upsilon Chapter;

D. R. 1956;

Phi Upsilon Chapter .. Omega Man of the Year;

Phi Upsilon Chapter .. Citizen of the Year;

68 Year Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Service Honoree;

Community Activist and Civil Rights Leader;

Former NAACP President;

Housing Bias Suit; School De Facto Segregation;

Local Church Involvement 1930 – Present.

**All of the Above and More ... Because of God's Grace !!!**

# Congratulations on the 80<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave

from the 2nd District Representatives in Tribute to  
Brother Ermon Jones who joined Omega Chapter on  
May 7, 2016



Benjamin Jeffers, 28th; Gregory Ackles, Sr. 29th; Marvin Dillard, 30th; Kenneth Rodgers, 31st; James Hicks, Jr. 33rd; Milton Harrison, 34th; Sylvester Wilkins, 22nd of 1st District Ermon Jones, 6th; Norman Johnson, 11th; Milton Johnson, 12th; Ted Greer, 14th; Adam Mckee, 16th; Andrew Ray, 20th; Calvin Zellars, 24th; Lee Bernard, 27th;



Fred Scott, 15th; Walter Wrenn, 18th; David Wharton, 23rd; Michael Freeman, 25th;



Terrel Parris, 26th; James Jordan, 31st; Sherman Charles, 35th

## 68th Second District Conference



*34th Second District Representative, Milton Dewey Harrison, bids farewell at the Founders Banquet*

**Rockville, MD. April 28-May 1, 2016.** The 68th Second District Conference, hosted by Mu Nu Chapter, was held April 28- May 1, 2016 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bethesda Maryland, under the leadership of District Marshall, Robert Jamison. Over 700 Second District Brothers registered for the conference. The first event of the conference was a Public Forum titled “Our Call to Action: Achieving Excellence for All Students in All Communities”. This was a panel discussion of school superintendents and elected officials discussing how communities can use their political strength and social resolve to ensure adequate funding for schools and how community members can partner with their local governments to ensure excellence by design in any school district. Ritualistically, the conference was officiated and opened by 34th Second District Representative, Milton Dewey Harrison. Grand Basileus, Antonio F. Knox, 1st Vice Grand Basileus, Dr. David Marion, and Sons of the Second District, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Kenneth Rodgers and Grand Counselor, Michael Lyles, Esq. attended and addressed the conference.

Fiscal year 2016-17 marked a change in administration for the Second District Leadership on the Executive Council. Elections were held and the newly elected officers received their Oath of Office at the Founders Banquet. The newly elected 2016-17 Second District Officers are as follows: Sherman L. Charles, 35th 2nd District Representative; J. Kendall Smalls, 1st Vice District Representative; Brandon Ashworth, 2nd Vice District Representative; Anthony Jones, Dist. Keeper of Records and Seal; Lee Rideout, Dist. Keeper of Finance; Bertrand Harry, Dist. Counselor; Dwain Harrell, Dist. Chaplain; Zanes Cypress, Jr., Dist. Director of Public Relations; Desmond “Skip” Victor, Dist. Keeper of Peace; Milton D. Harrison, Immediate Past Dist. Rep.; Adebowale Sodeke, Undergrad Rep.; Iniobong Etuk, Undergrad Rep.; Emeka Madubuogo, Undergrad Rep.; Charles Johnson, 69th Dist. Marshall; Jamal Parker, Dist. Photographer; Paul Ramseur, Asst. Dist. KRS; and Adrian Wilcox, Asst. Dist. KF.

The Founders Banquet was held on Saturday April 30, 2016 and the Founders Stand-ins were Brother Larry Pough for Founder Oscar J. Coper, Brother Darren Fails for Founder Frank Coleman, Brother Peter K. Higinbotham for Founder Edgar A. Love and Brother George Thomas for Founder Ernest E. Just.

Each year awards are given for exceptional service to Omega and the communities we serve. The Undergraduate, Small and Large Graduate Chapter of the Year were awarded to Delta Mu, Omicron Chi and Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapters, respectively. Brother C. Donald Bowser, Jr., of Pi Omega Chapter, received the Basileus of the Year Award. The Undergraduate Omega Man of the Year was awarded to Bro. Siddiq Iddrisu of Delta Mu Chapter and the Graduate Omega Man of the Year was awarded to Bro. Edward Murray, Jr. of Xi Phi Chapter.

The Superior Service Award was given to Bro. Eric “Moby” Brown of Pi Omega Chapter and the Founders Award was given to Bro. Kevin Woodhouse of Xi Phi Chapter. The Undergraduate Advisor of the Year was awarded to Bro. Joseph English. The COL Charles Young Leadership and Citizen of the Year Award recipients were Bro. Terrance J. Williams and Dr. Marco Clark representing Mu Rho Chapter, respectively.

For the third consecutive year, Pi Omega Chapter received Large Social Action Chapter of the Year Award and Omicron Chi received Small Social Action Chapter of the Year Award.

The High School Essay Contest Winners were as follows: First place Ms. Genae Hatcher, representing Iota Nu Chapter; Second place Ms. Niya Jeter, representing Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter and Third place Mr. Jacob Mahoney, representing Theta Omicron Chapter

During the Undergraduate Luncheon, the Second District awarded over \$36,000 in scholarship awards for exceptional scholastic achievement to undergraduate and graduate Second District Omega Men. The Second District and International Scholar of the Year, Brother Tremayne McKenith, received \$3500. Brother Kevin Purcell received the \$2500 Montague Cobb Award. Brother Emeka Madubugogo received the \$3000 Grand Basileus Award. The \$2500 Ronald McNair Award was given to Brother Kalen Parrott. The \$2500 George Meares Awards was given to Brother Ron Osbourne-Williams. Brother Siddiq Iddrisu received the \$2500 Herman Dreer Award. The \$2500 H. Carl Moultrie Award was given to Brother Marc Halloway. Brothers David Ferguson and Garrick Beauliere received \$2500 each for the Founders Award for graduate and undergraduate Ome-

*Continued on page 7*

# 68th Second District Conference



*l-r 35th Second District Representative, Sherman L Charles & 1st Vice DR, J. Kendall Smalls receive Oath of Office*

*Continued from page 6*

-ga Men, respectively. Kappa Chapter received \$500 for 2016 Scholarship Chapter of the Year. The following undergraduate and graduate Brothers received \$1000 grants for high scholastic achievement: Lorenzo Prillman, Charles Allen, Richard Dickson, Shawn Diggs, Padrick Kane, Jason Frazier, Odaro Oghodaro, Sandile Manzini, Cameron Martin, Oluwaseun Oke, James Railey and Martin Reavis.

First, second and third place winners in the Talent Hunt Competition were awarded \$500, \$400 and \$300, respectively. The first, second and third place winners in Contemporary Instrumental category were Clarence Brown, Nelson Brown and Armani Works, respectively. The first, second and third place winners in the Classical Instrumental category were Che-Young Lee, Aston Woolery and Maxwell Chambers, respectively. The first, second and third place winners in the Dance category were Jasmine Clark, Davontay Haynie and Serena Simmons, respectively. The first, second and third place winners in the Contemporary Vocal category were Alyssa Perez, Shailen Abram and Andre K. Jones, respectively. The first, second and third place winners in the Classical Vocal category were Katyrah Davenport, Celine Coverdale and Cassia Trusty, respectively. The first, second and third place winners in the Visual Arts category were Kaila Hammonds,

Courtney Culp and Tyler Moore, respectively. The first, second and third place winners in the Dramatic Interpretation category were Travis Nelson, Elonzo Vereen, Fatou Thiam, respectively. The Over All winner was pianist, Che-Young Lee, representing Eta Pi Chapter in the Classical Instrumental Category. She will represent the Second District in Las Vegas at the 80th International Grand Conclave and will receive a \$1000.00 grant from the Omega Life Membership Foundation.

At the Life Membership Luncheon, Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc. (OLMF) Region II Officer, Brother Gregory E. Ackles, Sr., informed 2nd District Life Members OLMF will hold its 2016 Annual Meeting and Luncheon at Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel, Las Vegas, NV, on Sunday, July 24, 2016 and need to attend and vote on major upcoming issues affecting OLMF. Life Member #7407, Brother Zanes Cypress, Jr., Second District Director of Public Relations, was honored at the luncheon and received a life member bomber jacket gift for his service to the Second District.

On Sunday May 1, 2016, the final public event held was a Non-Denominational Worship and Memorial Service officiated by newly elected District Chaplain Dwain Harrell and, in customary and usual ritualistic form, the conference was closed by the 34th Second District Representative, Milton Dewey Harrison.



*2nd District Omega Man of the Year Ed Murray*



*High School Essay Contest Winner Ms. Genae Hatcher,*

# Sherman Charles Elected 35th Second District Representative



*Brother Sherman A. Charles  
35th Second District Representative*

**Bethesda, MD. April 28 - May 1, 2016.** Bro. Sherman “Shorty Bang Bang” Charles was elected the 35th District Representative at the 68th Second District Conference. Bro. Charles’ work in Omega began in 1978 where he was initiated at Rho Theta at Prairie View A&M University and he has served in been a member of leadership in 3 different Districts (the 2nd, the 9th and the 13th and 3 different countries (Germany, South Korea and the United States).

During his 38 years in Omega, Bro. Charles has been recipient of the following awards:

International Founders Award Lifelong Service, 2012; 2nd District Founders Stand-in Award, Dr. Oscar J. Cooper, 2009; 2nd District Omega Man of the Year, 2010 & 2015; 2nd District Founders Lifelong Service Award, 2012; 2nd District Graduate Chapter of the Year, 2009 & 2010; Omega Man of the Year, Iota Nu Chapter, 1993 & 1994; Omega Man of the Year, Lambda Xi Chapter, 2001; Omega Man of the Year, LGG Chapter, 2006, 2009 & 2014; Founders Award Lifelong Service, LGG Chapter, 2011; Founders Award, LGG Chapter, 2003 & 2005; 25 Year Service Pin, 73rd Grand Conclave; 1st Place, Washington DC Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Step Competition, April 2000; 1st Place, Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Step Competition, May 2000.

Bro. Charles has committed his life to Omega which is reflected in his numerous recognitions for service at the chapter, District and International levels. Bro. District Representative states that “it’s all about the work and excellence is the standard.” Please join all of the Brothers of the Second District in congratulating Bro. Charles for his hard work and election to Second District Representative.

# 68th Second District Conference Founders Stand Ins



*Founders Stand Ins- Bros. Larry Pough, Darren Fails, Peter K. Higginbotham, and George Thomas with 34th 2nd DR Milton Harrison, 39th Grand Basileus Andrew Ray Achievement Week Chairman, Eric Harley*

## 68th Second District Conference Awardees



*Pi Omega Large Social Action Chapter of the Year, with Large Graduate Chapter Basileus of the Year C. Donald Bowser, Jr. and District National Superior Service Award Winner Eric "Moby" Brown*



*Lambda Gamma Gamma Large Chapter of the Year, 2nd Place in the Graduate Large Social Action Chapter of the Year; and The Rudolph W. Powell Creative Award for Retention*

## 68th Second District Conference Awardees



*Mighty Omicron Chi - Small Chapter of the Year and Small Social Action Chapter of the Year*



*Small Graduate Chapter Basileus of the Year Reggie Lassiter*

## 68th Second District Conference Awardees



*l-r 35th 2nd DR and Mrs Sherman Charles, Kevin Woodhouse Founders Award Winner and Corridor Representative of the Year, and 34th 2nd DR and Mrs. Milton D. Harrison*



*Omicron Iota 2nd Place Small Social Action Chapter of the Year*

## 68th Second District Conference Awardees



*Brother Gordon Everett - District Representative's Award*



*Brother Terrence J. Williams - COL Charles Young Award*

## 68th Second District Conference Awardees



*Dr. Maceo Clark - Citizen of the Year Award*



*District Awardees from Corridor V with District Omega Man of the Year, Edward Murray (center)*

# 68th Second District Conference Bro. Ronald E. McNair



## Undergraduate Luncheon Honorees





# Second District Youth Leadership Conference



*Second District Youth Leadership Conference Participants*

**North Bethesda, Maryland. April 28 to May 1, 2016.** The Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated hosted its 68th District Conference in North Bethesda, MD. During the 68th Second District Conference the Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) was conducted at Thomas Wootton High School on Saturday, April 30, 2016. The theme for this year's conference was "Life Principles to Live By: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

At the Youth Leadership Conference, organized to mirror our four Cardinal Principles, young male students enjoyed interactive breakout sessions designed to enhance their skills in the areas of academics, social interaction, civics and leadership. The focus on our Cardinal Principles was to broaden understanding of what it takes to be a successful young man in the 21st century. The conference served to place a spot light on characteristics and strategies needed to be leaders in today's society.

## Youth Leadership Conference Breakout Sessions



# Omega Honors Members of Congress and Law Enforcement at CBC Fatherhood Reception



*Grand Basileus with Honorees at the Omega CBC Fatherhood Reception*

**Washington, D.C. September 16, 2016.** During the 46th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Legislative Conference, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s 40th Grand Basileus, Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., hosted The Fatherhood Reception held on Friday, September 26, 2016 at the Hamilton Crown Plaza located at 1001 14th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. at 7:00 p.m. The event honored Omega's distinguished members serving in Congress, The Honorable James E. Clyburn, from the 6th Congressional District in South Carolina and The Honorable Henry "Hank" Johnson, from the 4th Congressional District of Georgia. In addition, a special \$10,000 donation was presented to Tom Joyner for the Tom Joyner Foundations' work in its support of higher education at HBCUs and Tracy Martin, father of Travon Martin, was honored for his work with the Travon Martin Foundations' Circle of Fathers at Florida Memorial University. The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Brother Mark Jackson, former Third District Representative, and musical entertainment was provided by the Just Friends Band, comprised primarily of Men of Omega, including Second District Representative Sherman Charles.

A Special Salute was given to Omega Men in Law Enforcement, recognizing exceptional Omega Men that selflessly and willingly put themselves

in harm's way each day to protect and defend the community they serve. Omega applauds and commends all men and women who daily meet the challenges of law enforcement head on with creativity and resolve. These Omega Honorees included Sheriff James E. Clemmons, Jr., Sheriff of Richmond County in Rockingham, NC; Ambassador Gentry O. Smith; Anthony "Tony" P. Patterson, Lead and Sr. Homicide Detective on the DC MPD; Chief Terence M. Calloway, FAMU Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety; Jiles H. Ship, Commissioner at New Jersey Police Training Commission; Chief Frank Adderley, Chief of the Fort Lauderdale, FL Police Department; Deputy Chief Rodney Bryant, Deputy Chief of the Atlanta Police Department and Chief Clarence D. Williams, III, Chief of Police of the City of Riviera Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida. Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., 40th Grand Basileus stated, "We are honored to recognize these awesome stewards of humanity. Their selfless and tireless service is to be highly commended and our communities are made better because of their commitment and leadership. The Brothers of Omega are so proud of what their stellar excellence and all that they do to impact communities around the nation. Their service is a direct reflection of the founding principles of our great Fraternity and Brotherhood."

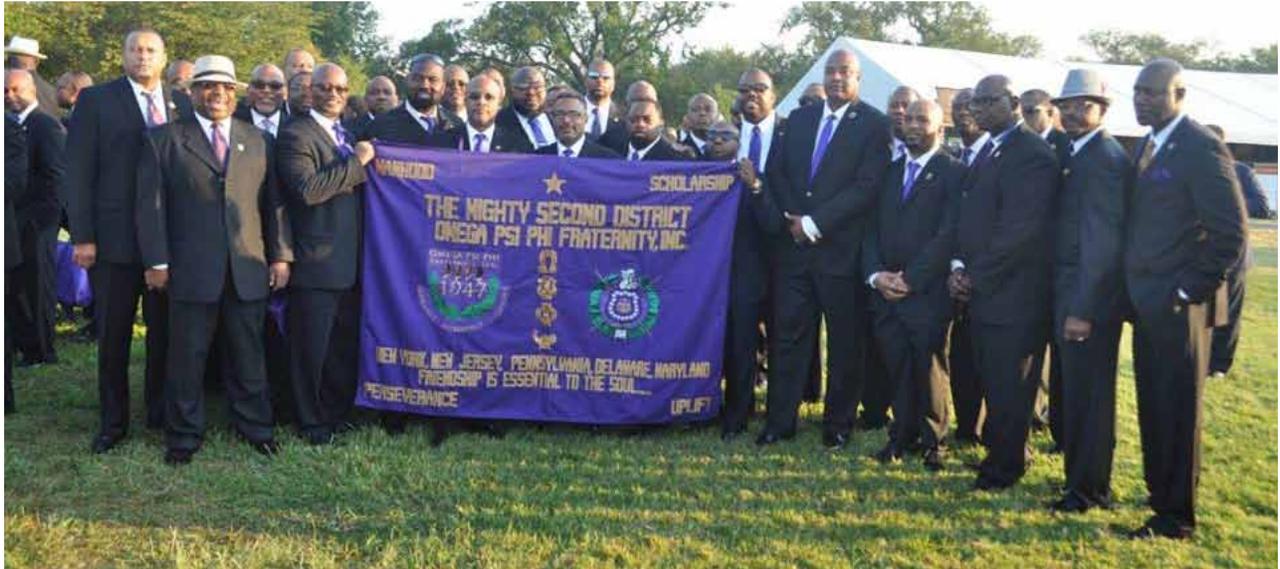


*Grand Basileus honors Tom Joyner*

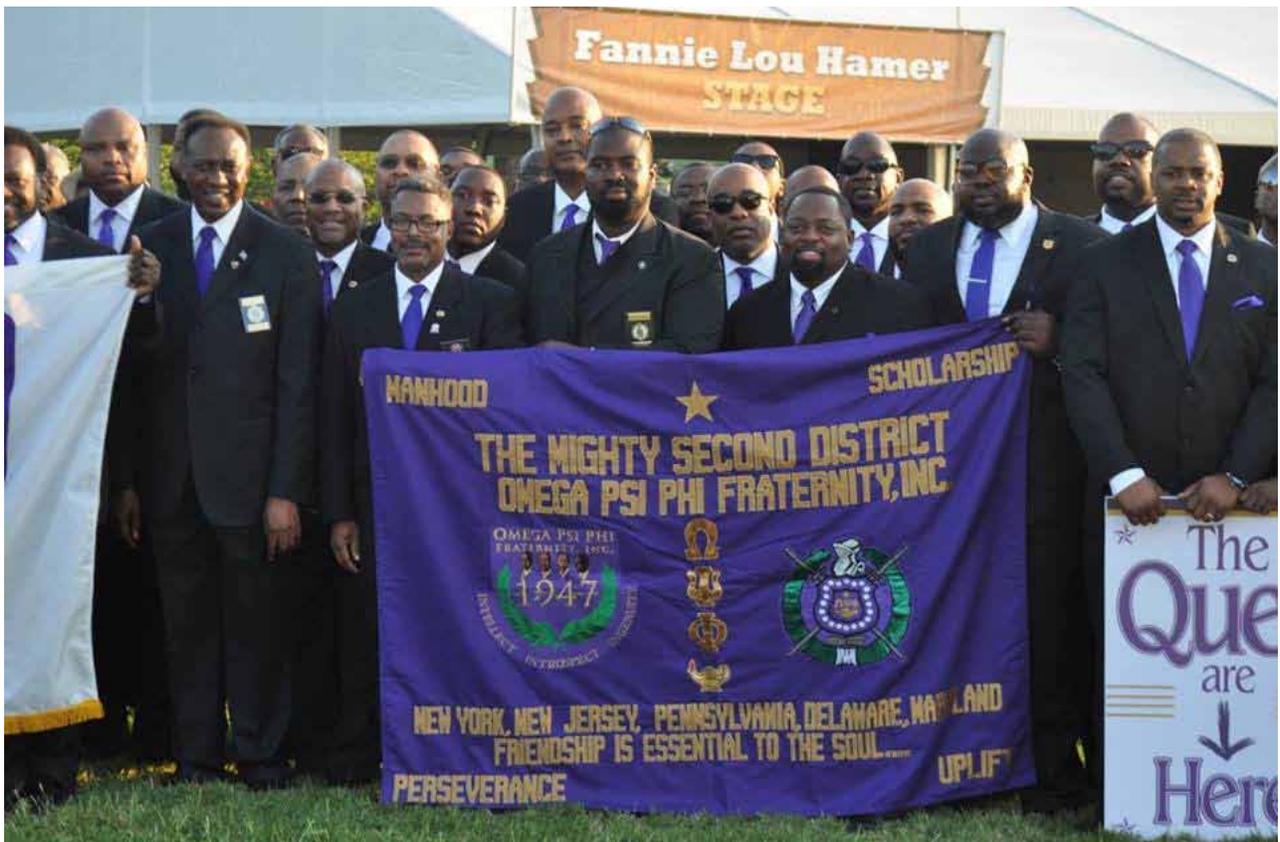


*Grand Basileus Antonio Knox, with Tracy Martin, Bros Robt Fairchild, 3rd DR, Ezekiel Dennison, Jr. and Grand Chaplain Rev. Dr. Staccato Powell*

# Grand Opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture



# Grand Opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture



## **Grand Officers Receive Oath of Office at 80th Grand Conclave in Las Vegas**



## **Pi Omega International Large Graduate Social Action Chapter of the Year at 80th Grand Conclave in Las Vegas**



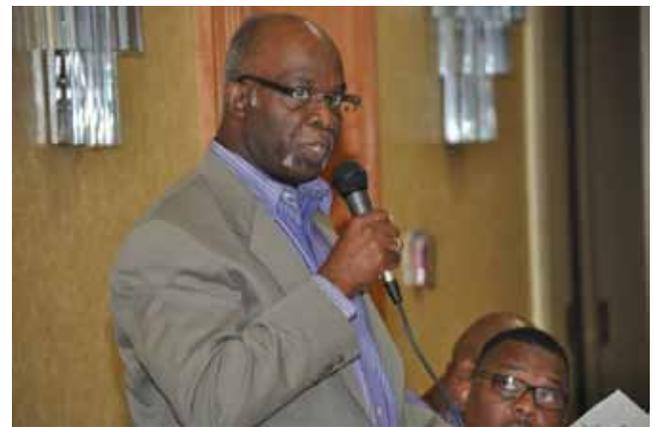
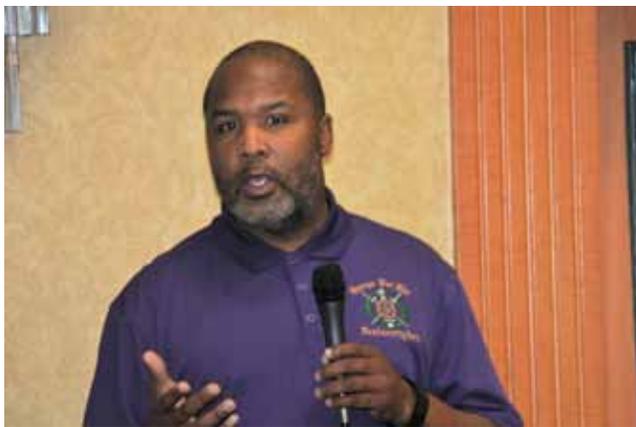
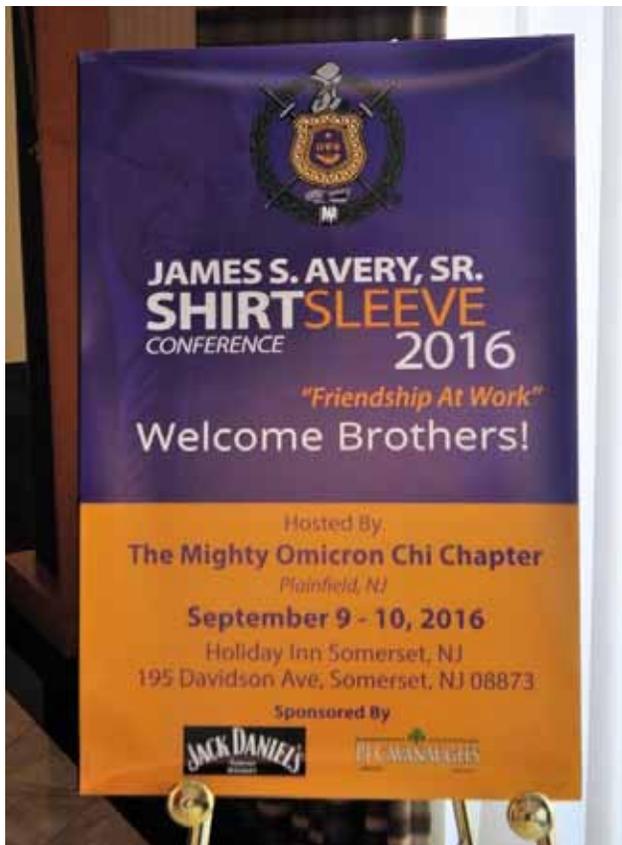
# Omicron Chi International Small Graduate Chapter of the Year and Small Graduate Social Action Chapter of the Year at 80th Grand Conclave in Las Vegas



## Omicron Chi 5K Prostate Awareness Walk at Shirtsleeve Conference



# James S. Avery 2016 Shirtsleeve Conference



# James S. Avery 2016 Shirtsleeve Conference

**Plainfield NJ. September 9-10, 2016.** The Brothers of the Mighty OX, Omicron Chi Chapter, hosted the 2016 James S. Avery, Sr. Shirtsleeve Conference. On Friday, September 9, 2016, at the request of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Second District Conference and the Men of Omicron Chi, its local chapter, the city of Plainfield, New Jersey residents came to Washington Community School to have an open dialogue in hopes of promoting unity between community residents and the law enforcement. Over 100 concerned citizens who attended the “Building Bridges between Law Enforcement & Community that lead to a Brighter Future” Town Hall meeting thanked Omega for much needed initiative. Later Friday Night, Omicron Chi Chapter hosted 2016 Funny Bone Comedy Show, sponsored by Jack Daniels, with over 400 in attendance. Before the Business of the Shirtsleeve Conference began, on Saturday morning, Omicron Chi Chapter conducted a 5K Prostate Cancer Awareness Walk, followed by a continental breakfast. The conference was opened with a prayer by District Chaplain Dwain Harrell and welcome by First Vice District Representative, J. Kendall Smalls and Leon Smith, Basileus Omicron Chi. He informed attendees, the first Shirtsleeve Conference was held in 1965 and its purpose was to be a weekend of action, where Brothers rolled up their collective sleeves to create action steps to move the Second District forward in the upcoming fiscal year. Themed “Friendship at Work”, 31st District Representative James Jordan presented Omicron Chi Chapter with a framed poster signed by the leadership in 2009, when the shirtsleeve conference was renamed to honor 28th Grand Basileus, James S. Avery, Sr. Brother Paul Ramsuer shared a message to the Brotherhood from Mrs. Avery. Past District Representatives in attendance were 39th Grand Basileus and 20th 2nd Dr. Andrew Ray, 25th 2nd DR Mike Freeman, 26th 2nd DR Terrel Paris, 28th DR Benjamin Jeffers, 29th DR Gregory Ackles, Sr., 31st 2nd DR James Jordan and current Grand KRS and 32nd DR Kenneth Rodgers.

The first session was a Men’s Health Seminar, Brothers who are survivors of prostate cancer gave heart to heart talks of how prostate cancer has affected their lives. Brother Dr. Jedan Phillips gave a clinical perspective of the need for yearly PSA test and Prostate and Colon Cancer Screenings.

A Mental Health discussion was led by First Vice Grand Basileus, David Marion. He elaborated on his “Brother You’re On My Mind” Initiative. Health and Wellness Chair, Brother Tony Hayes gave a discussion on the need for physical fitness, Brother Ron Williams gave his perspective on mental health issues from a governmental perspective, in his dealings with the Social Security Administration and Brother G. Todd Taylor gave a perspective on mental health issues in children, stemming primarily from past trauma.

Fatherhood and Mentoring Chair, Brother Donald Williams welcome the opportunity to “Tell 2nd District Story” of the incredible successes the 2nd District Chapters are conducting under the Fatherhood and Mentoring Program. He stated the major tenets of this committee are Public Awareness, Partnerships, Celebrate and Uplift the Image of Fathers and Public Advocacy with a focus on funding and legislation.

39th Grand Basileus, Andrew Ray, and 29th Second District Representative, Gregory Ackles, Sr., gave reflections on the life of Brother James S. Avery, Sr., the History of the Shirtsleeve Conference and challenged Brothers to talk to Past District Representatives. Reflections on the Town Hall were given by Event Chair, Brother James Edmonds, Event Moderator Brother Qasim Rashad and Brother Charles Coleman.

After lunch, the breakout sessions were as follows: Basileus Key Challenges led by Brothers Edward Murray and Reggie Lassister, Keeper of Records and Seal Challenges led by District KRS, Anthony Jones Public Relations, Keeper of Finance Challenges led by District KF, Lee Rideout, Reclamation and Retention Best Practices led by Brothers Robby West and District Reclamation and Retention Chair, Jeffery Blanchard, Effective use of Social Media in Social Action led by Brothers Byron Ward and District Social Action Chair, Dwayne White and Public Relations Best Practices led by District Director of Public Relations, Zanes Cypress. Artifacts and Memorabilia Chair, Alfonso Morrell exhibited an outstanding artifacts and memorabilia display. 39th Grand Basileus, Andrew Ray and 35th Second District Representative, Sherman Charles discussed Supreme Council issues and District Chaplain Dwain Harrell closed the 2016 Shirtsleeve Conference with a prayer.



## James S. Avery 2016 Shirtsleeve Conference



## Kappa Omega Burns Mortgage



*Kappa Omega Brothers Burn Mortgage*

**Harrisburg, Pa. October 15, 2016.** Kappa Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. celebrated a historic milestone in the history of the chapter. Through diligence, dedication, perseverance and hard work the brothers paid off the mortgage for their Fraternity House. Their building, the former Pleasantview Fire Station located at 2020 State Street in Harrisburg, was purchased, after much deliberation, on September 15, 1984 under the tenure of the late Basileus Garland Lipscomb. This was the second time the Brothers of Kappa Omega Chapter paid off the mortgage, with the original mortgage being retired under the leadership of Basileus Lance Freeman in 1992.

After the original mortgage was paid the Brothers contemplated their vision for the sustenance and growth of their chapter, and diagrams for remodeling and expanding the building were established. The plans included implementing a catering service and eatery (Manna Café) which would become a major source of financial stability for the chapter. Also

with the assistance of Brother Jesse Rawls Sr., the Chapter obtained a liquor license which further enabled the chapter to be economically viable. Brother Wes Gumby presented a brief history of the chapter during the Mortgage Burning Ceremony, The proceedings were witnessed by a packed house including Chapter Brothers and their family members, as well as eight past Chapter Basilei. The Mortgage Burning Committee, under the leadership of Co-chairmen Brothers Warren Enoch and Ron Kinnaird, organized a truly commendable and praiseworthy celebration which included live jazz and a feast worthy of the occasion. There were commendations presented from the Mayor of Harrisburg and other notables who congratulated the chapter for being a positive organization strongly committed to the uplift of the local community.

Chapter leadership and the Brothers of Kappa Omega look forward in great anticipation and contemplation to the bright, unencumbered future in the growth and development of the Mighty Kappa Omega Chapter.

## Shirtsleeve Conference Plainfield, NJ Town Hall Meeting



*Shirtsleeve Conference Plainfield NJ Town Hall Participants*

**Plainfield, NJ. September 9, 2016.** In light of recent events that have happened nationally, police involved shootings and officers being shot, the city of Plainfield, New Jersey came together on Friday, September 9, 2016, at the request of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Second District Conference and the men of Omicron Chi, it's local chapter presence, in the community to have an open dialogue in hopes of promoting unity. The event was moderated by Mr. Qasim Rashad, Radio Host, WURD Radio 900am Philadelphia and member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

This is one of many events that occurred inside of the Omega's regional "James S. Avery Shirtsleeve Conference" weekend. During this meeting serious matters pertaining to the future life of Omega and the community are discussed. It is Omega's equivalent to the "Brookings Institute. The Second District and the Omicron Chi Chapter has received high marks from citizens who attended Friday's (September 9) "Building Bridges between Law Enforcement & Community that lead to a Brighter Future" town hall meeting at the Washington Community School. "I just want to make a commendation, I am so happy with what is happening here this evening," said one member of the audience of approximately 100 participants. He further applauded the community sponsors by expressing his appreciation for its methods to promote transparency including the holding of the "Building Bridges" town hall meetings.

"I am proud of this," said James Edmonds, Event Chairman for Omicron Chi Chapter, while adding that he was happy to see that local government and law enforcement was able to connect with the people to keep them abreast of what is taking place in the community.

Local government was represented by the following; Councilwoman Bridget Rivers, and Freeholder Linda Carter. Activist Norman Deen Muhammad and local residents represented the community interest. Public Safety and Police Director Carl Riley, of Plainfield and Sergeant Brown represented the law enforcement community. "We already have a very good relationship [police and community] but I felt that we needed to be here to address the community. And that in the end we will stand together as a community unified together," said Co-Chairman Richard Wyatt, who helped organized the meeting. District Representative, Sherman Charles led a contingent of Omega men from across the region in ensuring the attendees that Omega wants to remain an important partner with the community.

Police Chief Riley encouraged the crowd to talk about concerns they had, giving them a wide latitude. The conversation was both passionate and transparent. First Vice District Representative, Kendall J. Smalls, Chapter Basileus, Leon Smith and community members hope that giving both sides a chance to talk it will bridge any gap that exists.

## Omicron Chi Voter Registration Drive

**Plainfield, NJ -** Voting is a civil right guaranteed to U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years of age. The Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.-Omicron Chi Chapter, and the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Central New Jersey Alumnae Chapter came together for a Voter Registration Drive during the Plainfield Independence Day Parade.

According to James Edmonds, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. member, as first time registrants, people were surprised at how easy the process was and had many relevant questions regarding voting and the upcoming election. Some college bound students were concerned about how they would be able to vote while out of state. The volunteers gave them information and forms for Absentee Ballots and Mail in Ballots, along with a cold bottle of water.

Edmonds said, "Our Social Action & Political Action Committees are diligently working on our getting the vote out campaign. It is a critical piece in taking ownership of our towns, cities and lives. Our goal is to collaborate with other community based organizations to get this done." Registrants will be able to vote in the November General Election. Edmonds said that even the students were looking forward to participating in electing a new President and perhaps the "very first woman" in Novem-

www.opp2d.org



*Omicron Chi Brother registering a Young Man to vote*

ber. Our High School students, young adults and first-time registrants are on their way to making a real impact on the future of this country," and Omega wants to be a prominent agent in this process said Edmonds

## Omicron Chi Coffee with a Cop Initiative

**Plainfield, NJ.** A recent community outreach initiative sponsored by the Plainfield Police Department as a way to build trust and understanding with city residents has been deemed a tremendous success by organizers. City police, along with community sponsor, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. - Omicron Chi Chapter hosted the “Coffee with a Cop” event on Saturday morning, October 1, inviting residents to sit down and share a cup of joe with a municipal police officer at Dunkin Donuts at 1 Clinton Avenue, in Plainfield, NJ.

They also had an opportunity to register to vote in this year’s election as a booth was sponsored by Omicron Chi Chapter. Coffee with a Cop offers a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and get to know their officers. Most contact between law enforcement and the public happens during emergencies or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship-building with the community, and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. Coffee with a Cop breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

“We hope that community members will feel comfortable enough to ask questions, bring concerns or simply get to know our officers,” said Police Officer and Omega brother Mike Lucky. Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the county, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.



*Plainfield NJ. Residents having Coffee with a Cop*

According to Omicron Chi Chapter President, Leon Smith, II, These interactions are the foundation of community partnerships.”

## Omicron Chi National Reading Day

**Plainfield, NJ. July 21, 2016.** Up to two months of reading skills can be lost over the summer, however, studies show that reading four to five books over the summer has a positive impact comparable to summer school enrollment. On July 21, 2016 the Brothers of Omicron Chi Chapter implemented a new program that assaults this particular focus of illiteracy. This new initiative was developed directly out of Omicron Chi Chapter and chaired by Bro. Marcell L. Pickens, Jr.

Studies show that as early as grade one, Summer Learning loss can be recognized in children and that the equivalent of one month of overall learning is lost after summer vacation. In light of this evidence, it is no wonder that many of the children in our communities are falling behind and/or having trouble keeping up with their curriculum. Any many cases, teachers are having to spend the first couple of months of the school year in review of the previous year’s material rather than moving on to next level subject matter.

Now that we’ve identified the problem, what is the solution you might ask? Oxford Learning recommends only 2-3 hours per week during summer vacation to prevent any learning loss. Ms. Janelle D. Williams, Principal of Arbor Intermediate School in Piscataway, NJ suggested the following:

“During the summer, parents should allow their child to read for enjoyment, at a level designated by their teacher or by having their child pick “just right” books to read. When selecting the “just right” book, a child can choose a text which they find interesting and begin reading the first few pages. If a child is able to read the book without stumbling often over words or phrases and is able to answer questions about the book, it is most often a good choice to read. In addition, parents should find out the basic academic needs or prerequisites for their child’s next grade. For example 4th and 5th grade students should have a strong grasp on multiplication facts in order to more easily solve increasingly complex problems and concepts that will be introduced in the next grade.”

With all of this great research and experience in mind, Omicron Chi chapter decided to designate 3 hours during one day in the middle of Summer 2016 to read to and read with the children of the Plainfield, NJ community. A total of 22 men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and 21 children along with their parent(s)/guardian(s) were in attendance. Omicron Chi Chapter also partnered with the Plainfield NJ Public Library, DJ Ovaflow, G.M.C., and the Plainfield Police Department.



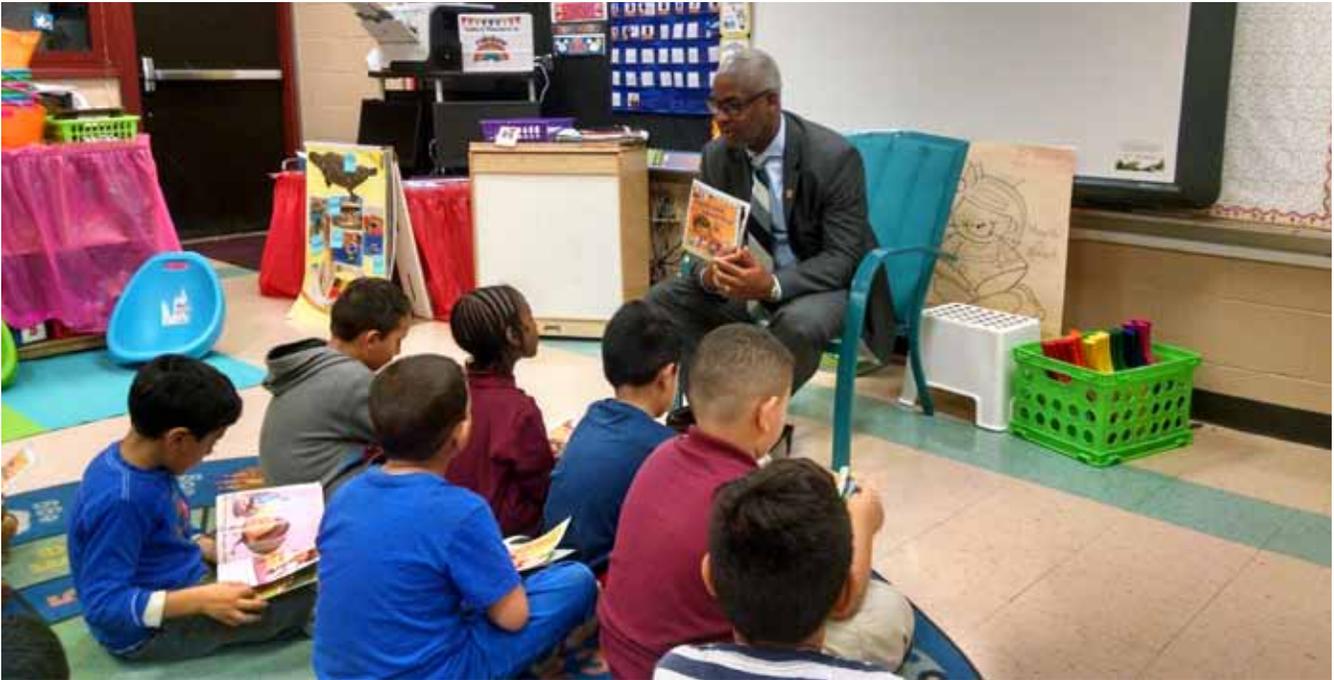
*Brother Byron Hurt Reading with his Daughter*



*Brother Richard Wyatt II's Son Participates in NSRD*

Our vision for this ongoing effort is to not only make a difference in the local community but lead the way for others to implement the same program in their own communities regardless of fraternal affiliations. Omicron Chi Chapter plans to launch a major campaign to see National Summer Reading Day a federally recognized holiday through petition within the next few months. If your chapter, or, other organization(s) would like to participate in the 2017 National Summer Reading Day, please visit [www.nationalsummerreadingday.com](http://www.nationalsummerreadingday.com) for more details.

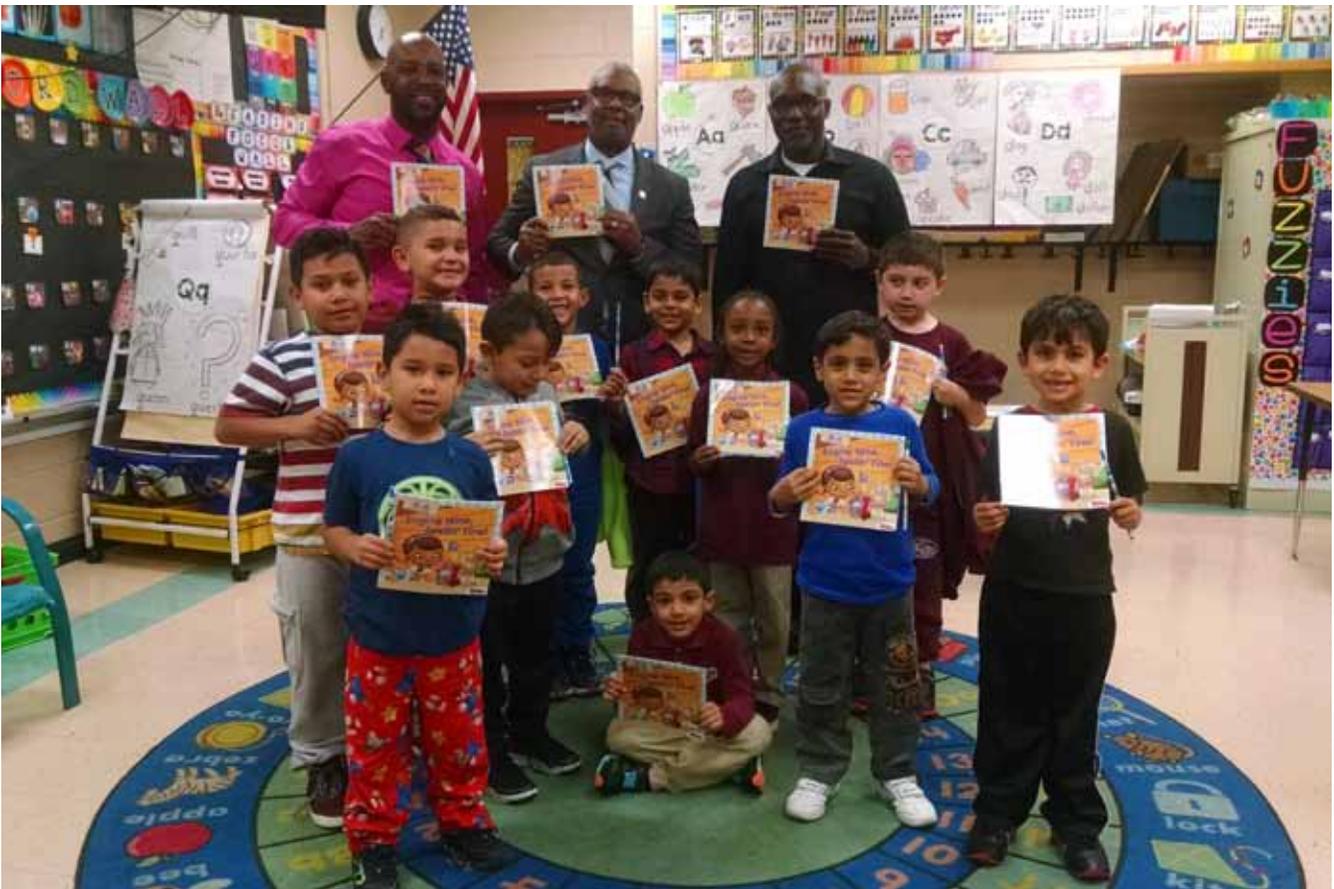
# Nu Lambda Lambda Omega Reads: Brother to Brother Program



*Nu Lambda Lambda Brother reads to boys from PS #17 at the Omega Reads Brother to Brother Program*

**Jersey City, New Jersey. October 11, 2016.** The Parent Council of Public School #17 in Jersey City, New Jersey in collaboration with The Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Nu Lambda Lambda Chapter, started a reading club called OMEGA Reads: Brother to Brother Program. On the second Tuesday of each month from 6-7PM, Brothers from the Chapter come

out to read, show support and their love of reading to the young men in Kindergarten and 1st Grade. The first OMEGA Reads session started on October 11, 2016 and will continue through the school year. The Chapter's goal is to help develop the young men's passion for reading and to continue the fight against illiteracy.



*Nu Lambda Lambda Brothers and the boys from PS #17 show the book read together in the Omega Reads Program*

## Physicians Corner- Our Health, Our Main Priority



*Brother Dr. Jedan Phillips*

We, as a people, are at a time of crisis here in America. There are many issues in our community that demand our energy and enthusiasm. The crucial component to ensuring that we are able to meet these demands, is our health. Unfortunately, United States health statistics indicate that African-American men suffer more in comparison to other ethnic and gender groups when it comes to health outcomes. So how do we begin to take control of our Health. We have to acknowledge some realities about ourselves. Firstly, African-American men are less likely to see a doctor regularly for routine medical checkups. Many of us have been taught from a young age to push through “pains” because of not wanting to show any signs to the outside of weakness. African-American men are also less

likely to engage in regular exercise. We have higher rates of being overweight and have greater incidences of diabetes and heart disease. This all suggests that many African-American men manage their health in a reactive way instead of using a preventative approach. As a person who owns an automobile and a home, I see that a reactive approach to managing those things can be more costly to me than taking a preventative approach. This tends to be our approach with our health. Most wait until something happens to decide that they need to begin taking care of themselves. We wait until a medical crisis arises and then realize how important it is to have a doctor that we see regularly.

We must first identify a family doctor or primary care physician. It is much better to have a doctor when you don’t need one, than to wait till you need one to realize that. So you must familiarize yourself with your health insurance so that you can identify a suitable provider for yourself and your family. You should then set up a medical checkup with the doctor. This checkup can be done so that if there are any areas of concern pertaining to health, a plan of action can be developed and initiated. In preparation for that checkup, there are a few things that should be done. We must find out our family medical history. This means finding out about medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancers that have affected our first degree relatives which would be our parents and siblings. Also you should create a list of questions or issues that you wish to discuss with the doctor during your visit. Sometimes, we may need to come to that visit with an advocate. Many of my male patient’s come to their appointments with their significant others so they make sure that they don’t miss any items that they needed to discuss with me. At the end of the visit, make sure you understand all the goals set up by you and the doctor. If you have any additional questions or concerns that you should ask your doctor! Remember there are no dumb questions nor too many questions! So let’s make that first appointment with the doctor to take the initial steps of getting a handle on Our health.

Bro. Dr. Jedan Phillips, MD, Chi Kappa, 1988, is a Family Practitioner at Stony Brook University Medical Center and Clinical Associate Professor, Stony Brook University Medical School.

## Coppin State appoints 25th 2nd District Representative Mike Freeman Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs

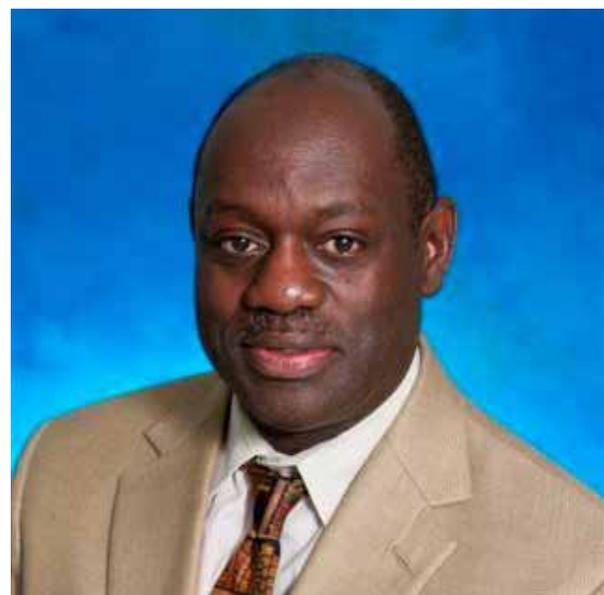
**Baltimore, MD. August 1, 2016.** Coppin State University has appointed Dr. Michael A. Freeman to the position of Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs effective August 1, 2016. His primary responsibility is for the development and leadership of all aspects of student recruitment, retention activities, and student affairs.

As Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Freeman will lead a broad set of campus entities including but not limited to; Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar’s Office, Student Activities and Leadership, Housing and Residence Life, the Summer Academic Success Academy, Career Services, Student Support Services, Transfer and Transition Services, University Counseling Center, International Student Services and ROTC.

“I am excited about joining the Coppin State University family. I look forward to contributing to Coppin’s legacy of academic excellence, and quality student life experiences,” Freeman said.

Freeman has over 25 years of experience in higher education administration that includes previous posts at the University of South Florida, Tennessee State University and St. Mary’s College of Maryland. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Iowa and his Ph.D. in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Maryland, College Park.

In a statement released to campus, President Maria Thompson lauded Freeman’s leadership and diverse experience in higher education. The post of Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs is new to the university’s structure; combining two previous positions.



*Brother Dr. Michael A. Freeman*

Dr. Michael A. Freeman is the 25th Second District Representative and a member of Pi Omega Chapter.

## Brother COL Alfred F. Abramson III Promoted to Brigadier General



Brother COL Alfred Abramson

**Bel Air, MD. September 2016.** The US Senate confirmed Brother Alfred F. Abramson III, initiated Nu Psi 1987, will be promoted to Brigadier General. Colonel Abramson was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Chemical Corps in 1988 and has held a variety of management and leadership positions. Currently, he is the Deputy Joint Program Executive Officer for Chemical and Biological Defense, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Virginia State University as well as a master's degree in strategic studies from the Army War College, a master's degree in strategic policy from the Naval War College, and a master's degree in chemistry from Johns Hopkins University.

Brother Abramson has been an active member of the Iota Nu Chapter since 2003. He was instrumental in re-activating Iota Nu chapter after a period of dormancy. His leadership in the chapter includes serving as Vice-Basileus, KRS, chairman of the Mardi Gras committee, and a charter member of the Iota Nu Uplift Foundation, Inc, an affiliated non-profit which has donated over \$30,000.00 dollars in scholarships. Brother Abramson exemplifies the qualities of an Omega Man through unselfish service as a mentor, advisor, and role model for younger brothers to follow. He is married to the former Pamela Daise, and they have four children.



## Brother Yahari H. Butler 2016 Air Combat Command NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award Recipient

**Washington, D.C. September 2016.** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award honors military members and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees, men and women, who have supported the DoD mission. The award recognizes those military and civilian members whose attributes best epitomized the qualities and core values of their respective Military Service or other Department of Defense (DoD) Component and enthusiastically supported the civil rights movement in Armed Forces or the Federal civilian workforce.

General Herbert J. "Hawk" Carlisle, Commander, Air Combat Command (ACC), recognized Brother Yahari "Sho Tyme" Butler as one of two recipients for the 2016 NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award. ACC operates more than 1,300 aircraft, 34 Wings, 19 Bases, and more than 70 Operating Locations worldwide with 94,000 active-duty and civilian personnel. Brother Butler is an active member of the Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Washington DC Alumni Chapter of Stillman College, Tri-City Chapter of Blacks in Government, Washington Inter Alumni Council Chapter of UNCF, Beacon Light Lodge #50, San Antonio, TX, First Baptist Church of Guilford, Columbia, MD, and recently appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for Arundel Lodge, their first and only minority representative. Brother Butler's recognition reflects great credit upon himself, and fellow members of the United States Air Force.



Brother Yahari Butler

## Brother Kevin Purcell receives AMA Physicians of Tomorrow Award

The American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation recently announced that Kevin Purcell, a fourth-year medical student at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, is one of 15 medical students nationwide to receive the 2016 Physicians of Tomorrow Award.

He is the fifth Boonshoft School of Medicine student to receive the award since 2012. He will receive a \$10,000 tuition-assistance scholarship. Recipients were nominated by their medical schools and chosen based upon academic achievement and financial need. The AMA foundation has awarded more than \$61 million in scholarships to deserving medical students since 1950.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Purcell comes from a medical family. His father is a vascular surgeon and his mother is a registered nurse. In addition, his aunt is a pediatrician. He credits his parents and his aunt with encouraging him to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.

“My aunt provided me with emotional support, love and affection. Purcell earned his undergraduate degrees in black studies and cell molecular biology from State University of New York at New Paltz in 2010. He earned his Master of Science in physiology and biophysics from Stony Brook University in 2012 and a Master of Public Health from State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in 2013.

During his undergraduate years, he cofounded the mentorship/community service organization “Get Up & Get Out” and worked as a youth counselor, community volunteer and college host. The organization exposed at-risk youth in the New York City area to higher education and its ben-



efits. He also was a workshop facilitator for the Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI), hospital/school-based anti-violence intervention program. In addition, he co-founded the Purple Boot Initiative (PBI) in the Harlem section of Manhattan. PBI offers minority youths reading classes, different forms of physical activity and crafts. After he graduates from medical school in May 2017, Purcell plans to begin his residency in orthopaedic surgery. He is applying all over the country for residency programs. He is excited to see where he will be for the next five years of his life. Ultimately, he would like to practice in Brooklyn after completing his residency.

During his second year of medical school, Purcell was selected to serve as an adjunct member of the Boonshoft School of Medicine Admissions Committee. Along with the other members of the committee, he interviewed candidates and voted on applications.

“I used this opportunity to educate the admissions committee faculty members on the minority student experience in most colleges throughout the United

States.”

Purcell participated in several student organizations during medical school. He traveled to Ghana on a medical mission trip as part of the Boonshoft School of Medicine’s International Education Program. He plans to travel to Cambodia on another medical mission trip in February 2017. He also participated in the American Medical Association Medical Student Section and the Student National Medical Association. In addition, he was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Kevin Purcell was initiated in Omega in 2007 through Zeta Psi Chapter while attending SUNY, New Paltz.

## Second District Undergraduate Summit



*Undergraduate Brothers of the Mighty Second District with Advisors and Supreme Council Members*

**Baltimore MD. September 24, 2016.** Bro. Brandon Ashworth, the current Second Vice District Representative conducts the annual Second District Undergraduate Summit at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ hosted by the Tau Zeta chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The summit brought together over thirty five chapters as well as seventy undergraduate brothers accompanied by their undergraduate advisors. The summit also welcomed special guests Bro. Sherman Charles, District Representative of the Second District, Bro. Kendal Smalls, First Vice District Representative of the Second District and Bro. Timothy Taylor, Immediate Past Second Vice District Representative of the Second District and International Undergraduate Representative. The undergraduate council consisting of brothers Adebowale Sodeke, Iniobong Etuk and Emeka Madubuogo helped to create a number of riveting and eye open-

ing breakout session to get the undergraduates engaged and keep them entertained. A few of the breakout session that were held include Executive Board Training led by Bro. Michael Breeden, Immediate Past Keeper of Records & Seal of Pi Omega chapter, Undergraduate Advisor Training led by Bro. Anjuan Collins, Undergraduate Advisor, Be Owt or Be Talked About led by Bro. Emeka Madubuogo and Roles of an Undergraduate Advisor led by Bros. Evan Murray, Immediate Past Undergraduate Advisor and Marcus Rountree, Basileus of Tau Zeta chapter. The sessions sought to inform both new and seasoned members how to effectively navigate MyPage, what it truly means to be an “owt bruh” and run your yard and the relationship that is necessary for an effective undergraduate partnership respectively.

## Undergraduates in Action

### Kappa Chapter Puppies on the Quad



*Kappa Chapter Brothers with Helping Hounds Dog Rescue workers*

Syracuse, NY . September 26, 2016. The Brothers of Kappa Chapter began their Omega Week at Syracuse University by spreading joy and helping hands. The Brothers did this with the support of Helping Hounds Dog Rescue, a dog rescue shelter in the Syracuse area. The Brothers brought five puppies to campus for members of the SU community to get a much needed stress relief. This included letting by-standers take pictures, videos or even just play with the energetic yet tamed puppies. This was received well by many SU students and faculty, truly getting the week started on a positive note. The Brothers also took in donations and volunteers for the Helping Hounds Dog Rescue and helped students understand that the dog rescue work is not free and could use volunteers to help the dogs get energy

### WorQowt with Kappa Chapter



*Kappa Chapter Brothers at the WorQowt*

Syracuse, NY . October 29, 2016. As Omega Week was on its home stretch, the brothers of Kappa Chapter held “The WorQowt” as a way to get the campus in fighting trim. With the help of Bro. Prince-Tyson Gulley ’13, the brothers held a workout session in which Gulley helped lead participants through many different body weight exercises. These exercises helped strengthen core and stamina while acting as a way to get cardio in and have a little fun while working out. The brothers used this event as a way to truly show members of the Syracuse University community that working out and living a healthy lifestyle can also be fun. This event also showcased the great training abilities by Bro. Gulley and his expertise and understanding of the human body.

### Family Feud with Kappa Chapter



*Kappa Chapter Brothers and AKA's participating in the Family Feud event*

Syracuse, NY. September 21, 2016. The Brothers of Kappa Chapter partnered with the Iota Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. during their week when we brought the game show, Family Feud, to Syracuse University’s Watson Theater. Collectively, we wanted to center the game around health. Brother David Woodson (Spr ’16) served as the game show host and targeted each round about the importance of having healthy relationships, spending money strategically, and having safe sex.

### Kappa Chapter Domestic Violence Awareness



*Kappa Chapter Brothers with Bevely Gooden*

Syracuse, NY. September 28, 2016. The Brothers of Kappa Chapter invited Beverly Gooden to Syracuse University’s Watson Theater to shed light on domestic violence. Ms. Gooden told her story and spoke about the significance behind her hashtag, #WhyIStayed. Ms. Gooden not only shared her experience, but also gave advice on what to do in such a situation. Syracuse was just one of the many stops for Ms. Gooden, who has been actively sharing her story since 2011. Beverly Gooden’s #WhyIStayed has given women and men the confidence to tell their story.

## Brother Capt. Clarence Thomas, Jr. Retires from the U.S. Navy

**Bethesda, MD, June 3, 2016.** Bro. Captain Clarence Thomas, Jr., Gamma Zeta, 1977, Mercer University, was celebrated during his retirement from the U.S. Navy during a ceremony at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The guest speaker was Bro. Dr. Kevin C. Greenaugh, Gamma Zeta, 1974, Mercer University.

Bro. Thomas was recognized for his outstanding 30-year career, retiring at the rank of U.S. Navy Captain (O-6). He trained as member of the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps where he demonstrated ever-increasing knowledge and skill over his 30-year career, culminating in his last duty assignment as the Director for Administration at perhaps the Nation's most prestigious medical facility – Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Bro. Thomas received a direct commission in the U.S. Navy and attended Officer Indoctrination School in Newport, RI, before being assigned to his first duty station at the Naval Medical Command, Northwest Region, Oakland, CA. His career also included duty assignments at U.S. Naval Hospital, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Naval Health Sciences Education and Training Command, Bethesda, MD, Naval School of Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, U.S. Naval Hospital, Rota, Spain, Naval Personnel Command, Millington, TN, Naval Hospital, Pensacola, FL, deployment to Fleet Hospital Three in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and with the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, D.C. During his career, Bro. Thomas also served as an Adjunct Instructor at Columbia Union College.

Bro. Thomas earned a Bachelor's of Science in Biology/English from Mercer University and a Masters in Public Health from St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. Bro. Thomas is a member of Mu Nu Chapter, Montgomery County, MD, where he has served as Keeper of Records & Seal, Vice Basileus, and is the Immediate Past Basileus and a former Mu Nu Chapter Omega Man of the Year. Congratulations to Bro. Thomas and his family on an outstanding career and best wishes in his future endeavors.



Brother Captain Clarence Thomas, Jr.

## Alpha Upsilon Fundraiser for Youths' Medical & Funeral Expenses



Basketball participants and the plaque posted at the Park Slope School #282 in honor of Sadir N. Glover



**Brooklyn, New York, March 17, 2016.** Brother Kyle Plant organized a Memorial/Fundraiser Basketball Game for Sadir N. Glover, a sixteen year old Brooklyn hoop star who lost his 2 year battle with leukemia on Monday, February 29, 2016. The game was held at Park Slope School 282, Brooklyn, New York. Sadir attended this school from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8. Family, friends, alumni and the Men of Alpha Upsilon

Chapter supported this event. Participants raised over \$2000 to help the family offset medical and funeral expenses. A portion of the proceeds has also been earmarked as a donation to Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital where Sadir received his care and treatment. A Memorial Plaque will also be mounted in the school gymnasium. The Men of Alpha Upsilon Chapter are proud to have been a part of such a noble and worthy cause

## Brother COL Walter Nall Relinquishes Brigade Command to Brother COL Michael McLean



Bro. COL Walter Nall and Bro. COL Michael McLean

West Trenton, New Jersey June 25, 2016. Brother Colonel Walter R. Nall relinquished Brigade Command of the 57th Troop Command to Brother Colonel Michael A. McLean. The 57th Troop Command is the Higher Headquarters for the 150th Aviation Battalion, the 21st Civil Support Team (WMD), and the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. This Command has had units deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Kosovo.

Brother Colonel Nall is a Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Brother Colonel McLean is a Veteran of Desert Shield/Storm. Both of these proud Omega Men also worked together in response to natural disasters, which is the primary mission of all National Guardsmen.

Brother Colonel Nall was initiated into Omega in Tuskegee while attending Troy State University and Brother Colonel Michael A. McLean was initiated into Omega while attending Seton Hall.

The 57th Troop Command provides command and control for several logistical, administrative, and aviation units in the NJ Army National Guard. The Command also provides emergency response for floods and similar disasters along the New Jersey coast.

## Lambda Upsilon Participate in African Heritage Parade

Paterson, N.J., Saturday June 18 2016 –The Men of Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. participated in the annual African Heritage Parade. The purpose of the Parade is to create a sense of pride for Paterson, N.J. African Heritage. The parade takes the participants through the heart of Paterson and eventually crosses Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King drive. Many local organizations participate in the parade and make it successful. Parade watchers have the opportunity to enjoy the bands from the local high schools, floats from organizations and businesses and Greek organizations. The parade ended in Eastside Park and the activities continued. The park had many vendors and children activities. The park goers were also entertained by dance routines by the young talented dance groups.



Lambda Upsilon Brothers at the Parade

## Lambda Upsilon Jazz Brunch Fundraiser



Lambda Upsilon Brothers with award recipients: Darius McDowell, Kamroon Malloy and Shaheed Brimley-Thompson

Paterson, N.J., Sunday June 26, 2016. The Men of Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. hosted a Jazz Brunch and Tricky Tray. The purpose of the Jazz Brunch was to present book scholarships to two deserving youth from Paterson and one deserving youth from Passaic. As part of its internationally mandated programs, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. provides financial assistance to students and non-members

by providing scholarships to deserving students. This year’s winners of the book scholarships displayed qualities of leadership, academic excellence as well as athletic excellence. This year’s scholarship recipients are Darius McDowell, Kamroon Malloy and Shaheed Brimley-Thompson.

In addition to presenting scholarships, attendees were treated to an afternoon of music and fellowship.

## Lambda Upsilon Voter Registration Drive



*Lambda Upsilon Brothers at the Voter Registration Drive*

**Paterson, N.J., Thursday August 11, 2016.** The Men of Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. partnered with the Paterson Division of Recreation’s Summer Camp Day in the Sun for a voter registration and education drive. The objective for the event was to educate un-registered college-age students on the importance of voting and to register

them for the upcoming election. Lambda Upsilon has taken on the task on engaging college-age students on the importance of voting and educating them on how their vote does count. The voting table was well received and 10 college-age students were registered at the event.

## Lambda Upsilon Welcome Students Back to Young Mens Leadership Academy



*Lambda Upsilon Brothers welcoming students back to school*

**Paterson, N.J., Tuesday September 6, 2016.** The Men of Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. welcomed back the returning students to the Young Men’s Leadership Academy. The students were greeted to the motto of “all the way up” and encouraged with positive uplift. The Young Men’s Leadership Academy is a nurturing environment for the students and provides a safe learning environment to prepare the

students for success. The school is led by Brother Vernon Maynor and is serving the community in a positive way. The Men of Lambda Upsilon enjoyed the experienced of interacting with the youth and the students were receptive to the encouragement they received. The Men of Lambda Upsilon plan to make the greeting of returning students an annual event for the chapter.

# Lambda Upsilon Voter Registration Drive with Divine Nine



*Lambda Upsilon Brothers and Divine Nine members participating at the Voter Registration Drive*

**Paterson, N.J. October, 2016.** The Men of Lambda Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. participated with Devine Nine organizations for a voter registration. The voter registration drive was held during a back to school night and the objective for the event was to educate parents and guardians on the importance of voting and to register them for

them for the upcoming election. Devine Nine organizations in Paterson, N.J. along with Lambda Upsilon have taken on the task on engaging unregistered voters on the importance of voting and educating them on how their vote does count.

# LGG’s ChockliQue Lounge Fundraiser



*Brothers and costumed guest at the ChockliQue Lounge Fundraiser*

**Arlington, VA. April 9, 2016.** This year, LGG changed things up from the usual Mardi Gras and opted for a new event, the ChockliQue Lounge. It was held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA. Being LGG’s major fundraiser, there was quite a bit of pressure changing up the typical budget format, but Brothers Tim Worley, the event’s chair, and Corris Bullock, the co-chair, successfully convinced the Brothers to have faith.

The ChockliQue Lounge presented a Cotton Club Review with the expectation that all attending guests and members would suit up in Roaring 20s attire to watch the event’s theme and atmosphere, and that they did. Ladies wore their flapper dresses and men donned classic tuxedos, zoot suits,

wide brimmed hats and black/white speck shoes. Patrons consistently gave positive comments throughout the entire evening about the lounge’s appealing décor and the casino. They also appreciated the opportunity to dress up in costumes which showed honor to our heritage.

Bro. Worley stated that “Our patrons were able to enjoy a wonderful night at a classy event; enjoying the lounge’s signature chocolate martini, dark and light chocolates and other complimentary treats.” Other kudos were given to the music choices of both DJ E-Street as well as world-renowned trumpeter, Bro. Willie Bradley. As one patron put it, “I can’t wait until next year’s event in the Lounge because trumpeter Willie Bradley is the truth!”

## Lambda Gamma Gamma Golf Tournament for Prostate Cancer Research and Awareness



*LGG Golf Tournament Contestants*

**Joint Base Andrews, MD. June 3, 2016.** The Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter (LGG) hosted the LGG Gold Stroke Classic Golf Tournament 2016 on Friday, June 3 at Joint Base Andrews. Brother Aaron Combs, this year’s chair, stated that “The event was a huge success and we couldn’t have hoped for a better outcome. The weather was perfect and we actually went over our projected number of golfers.”

Tournament participants played in the 2-Man Best Ball format. Prizes were awarded for the top 3 teams in the following categories: Men, Women, Mixed, Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin for both men and women. There were also dozens of raffle prizes given away to lucky golfing participants.

Brother Jamal Miles, this year’s Co-Chair, pointed out that “This year was a banner year for the Gold Stroke Classic as the event had more female golfers, more corporate and individual level sponsorships and more hole sponsorships than any of the previous tournaments. Further, the event was completely sold out 2 weeks prior to the event date.”

Raising funds for the area’s youth and for prostate cancer awareness is dear to LGG as a chapter and the Brothers fully supported this worthwhile endeavor. To the point, Brother Combs went on to say that “we couldn’t have pulled off this event without our patrons, our sponsors, like Porsche of Annapolis) who provided 3 cars for the tournament), and the Brothers in the chapter.”

## Lambda Gamma Gamma Barbeque Battle

**Washington, D.C. June 25 – 26, 2016.** Each year the Brothers of Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter, LGG, participate in the Annual Safeway Barbecue Battle in downtown Washington, DC. The BBQ Battle has raised millions of dollars and donates tons of food to local charities like the Boys & Girls Clubs, the Capital Area Food Bank, the USO and Wounded Warrior Project.

One of LGG’s stalwart brothers, Bro. J.C. Bozeman, led this committee continuously for many years. He often said it was among his favorite committees. After Bro. Bozeman’s passing in 2014, Bro. Benson Macon and Bro. Corey Sanders, chair and co-chair of the BBQ Battle Committee, respectively, suggested that the committee be renamed the “J.C. Bozeman” Boys & Girls BBQ Battle. The committee and the members of the chapter unanimously agreed to the renaming of the committee.

Continuing our annual tradition, the Brothers of LGG provided superior customer service at the beverage station serving water and soft drinks to the patrons of the BBQ Battle. Despite rain for much of Saturday, the crowds increased on Sunday as patrons came in droves. The overall event raised more than \$55,000 for local charities including Butler-Wyatt Clubhouse #2, United Service Organizations USO (Metro Area), and the Capital Area Food Bank.



*LGG Brothers at the Barbeque Battle*

## Lambda Gamma Gamma Represents at the 68th Second District Conference



*Lambda Gamma Gamma Brothers display awards with the DR at the Founders Banquet*

**Bethesda, MD. April 28 - May 1, 2016.** This year at the 68th Second District Conference, Lambda Gamma Gamma (LGG) Chapter was the recipient of several appointments to District leadership, District-level chapter awards and two performance and scholastic awards.

Bro. Sherman "Shorty Bang Bang" Charles was elected the 35th District Representative at the 68th Second District Conference. Bro. Charles has committed his life to Omega which is reflected in his numerous recognitions for service at the chapter, District and International levels. Bro. District Representative states that "it's all about the work and excellence is the standard." Other Second District leadership changes included Bro. Dwain "Big Wain" Harrell being appointed 2nd District Chaplain and Bro. Lloyd "LA" Davis being appointed as Parliamentarian.

LGG also was the recipient of three District-level awards for its hard work

and service over the past twelve months. Those awards include the following: 1st Place in the Graduate Large Chapter of the Year, 2nd Place in the Graduate Large Social Action Chapter of the Year; and The Rudolph W. Powell Creative Award for Retention

At the Talent Hunt, LGG contestant Clarence Brown, III, won 1st Place in the Instrumental - Contemporary category with his piano performance. LGG's High School Essay contestant, Niya Jeter, won 2nd Place in the 2nd District High School Essay contest.

Bro. Micheal Parham, Jr., Basileus of LGG, stated that he is immensely pleased with LGG's political and social accomplishments at Districts. "We work because it's simply in us. But to be recognized and respected by our Brothers is a supreme honor. Our chapter is humbled and will not let the Mighty Second District down."

## Lambda Gamma Gamma Annual Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive

**Capitol Heights, MD. July 17, 2016.** Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter, LGG, completed its annual Dr. Charles Drew Memorial Blood Drive. This event falls under our fraternity's mandated programs and is so important to the Brothers as well as the recipients of the donations. Over 30 individuals heeded the call to provide blood to those in dire need and 16

pints of blood was collected. As in past years, The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square provided the venue and additional publicity for this worthwhile event as part of their annual health fair. Brother Darrell Morrison was the chair of this year's event and he was aided by his co-chair, Brother Reginald Harris, who is also a member of The Kingdom at Sanctuary Square.

## Corridor IV Cookout

**Piscataway, NJ. July 17, 2016.** Corridor IV held its annual cookout at Johnson Park in Piscataway, NJ. Corridor IV which consist of 18 chapters, Graduate and Undergraduate, throughout the State of New Jersey was well represented. The cookout is designed to promote Fellowship and Camaraderie amongst the chapters. Each chapter contributes a dollar figure as well supplies to offset the costs. The cookout is not exclusive to just the fraternity, friends and family are welcome.

The cookout was well attended with over 200 people. There was music, good food, laughter, stepping and moist of all a good time had by all. All was not lost in just having fun, there was the business of Omega to conduct as well. The "Mighty OX" Omicron Chi Chapter also took the

time to set up a Voters Registration table at the cookout. The Mighty OX took this opportunity to reach as many individuals as possible while at the cookout and I must say it was a success!!

In addition, Omicron Chi chapter uses this cookout to help foster Reclamation and Retention throughout the state. Brothers that are not financial or part of a chapter are encouraged to join or just simply support a local chapter. With this two pronged approach we feel that not only are we doing our civic duty as far as Voter Registration, but also promoting harmony and friendship throughout the fraternity.

We are forever grateful and indebted to our founders, because Friendship is truly essential to the Soul!! "Long live Omega Psi Phi"

## Lambda Gamma Gamma Talent Hunt



LGG Talent Hunt Chair Bro. Ferguson, Talent Hunt Winner Clarence Brown III and LGG BAsileus, Michael Parham

**Springdale, MD. March 19, 2016.** The Brothers of Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter, Fort Meade, MD., held their Annual Talent Hunt 2016 program at the Charles Herbert Flowers High School on Saturday, March 19, 2016.

Thirteen (13) high school students participated in the various categories of Drama, Dance, Visual Arts, Instrumental and Vocal. Brother Antonio Ferguson served as the program chairman and Brother Brian Wilson and Brother Yahari Butler served as the committee co-chairmen of the event. Brother Ferguson expressed how fortunate they were to have a diverse variety of “such amazing high school talent” in this year’s event.

The winners of the Talent Hunt 2016 program were as follows: Visual Arts: 1st Place - Bethlehem Maleku, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; Dance: 1st Place – Kya Ellis Charles H. Flowers High School; Drama & Poetry: 1st Place – Alexis Hayes, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; Vocals: 1st Place – Jeremy Little, Bishop McNamara High School; 2nd Place – Kmaia Mix, Bowie High School; 3rd Place – Martin Tanter, DeMatha Catholic High School; Instrumental: 1st Place – Clarence Brown, III, Piano, Woodbridge High School; 2nd Place – Damon Squier Violinist, Duke Ellington School of Arts; 3rd Place – Kyla Frank Flute, Duke

Ellington School of Arts.

Clarence Brown, III (Woodbridge High School) who won 1st place in the Instrumental category also won first place in the overall program. Clarence will go on to represent the chapter and perform in the 2nd District Talent Hunt program which will be held during the 68th District Conference on Saturday April 30, 2016 in Rockville, MD. Clarence will perform in the Instrumental category and Bethlehem Maleku will represent in the Visual Arts category.

This year’s Talent Hunt program was graced by the performance of jazz musician and fraternity brother Willie Bradley. Bro. Bradley performed several selections during the intermission of the event and also served as a sitting judge for the vocal & instrumental categories. Brother Bradley expressed how pleased he was to see such remarkable and talented high school students perform.

Brother Ferguson went on to state that he has every confidence that Clarence and Bethelehem who will be representing and chapter will be positioned well at this year’s 2nd District Talent Hunt program which should prove to be extremely competitive.

Congratulations to all of this year’s performers.

## Lambda Gamma Gamma and BSA Troop 2019 Reach the Highest Heights

**Waverton Cliffs, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. May 31, 2016.** Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter and Boy Scouts of America Troop 2019 have had a strong relationship thanks to Scoutmasters Bro. Lloyd (LA) Davis and Brothers Darnell Edwards. Since 2010, Bro. Davis has worked to not only keep the minds of these fine young men inquisitive, but to also strengthen their physical well-being.

This year, part of that development led them to the Appalachian Trail over Memorial Day Weekend. After 5 months of planning, map reconnaissance, menu planning to include macro-nutrient estimation for the task at hand, developing a packing list and being quizzed over, and over again, Scouts Boguille and Henry, with Scoutmasters Brothers Lloyd Davis and Darnell Edwards, accompanied by Col. (Retired) Victor John, cousin of Bro. Davis, commenced the 62 mile sojourn on the morning of Friday, May 27. Everything they would need for the next four days of walking the hills, no make that Maryland mountains of the Appalachian Trail was carried on their backs.

Rather than enjoy the sun, pools and barbecues, the BSA Troop 2019 embarked on a 4 day, 62-mile hike through drizzle and, more discouraging, constant rain. Boguille and Henry filtered their own water, prepared their own meals, and navigated using map and compass to find their way. Along the way Brothers Davis and Edwards, and Mr. John constantly quizzed, cajoled, hinted and pointed the Scouts to a set of their own de-

termined decisions.

The entire adventure was based on our Four Cardinal Principles: Manhood - Be decisive. Calculate possible outcomes, make a decision and be accountable for what happens or fails to happen. Scholarship - Learn something every day and for every encountered situation. Look around the world and the circumstances in which you find yourself, study the facts, learn from your mistakes, and employ your experience to assist you in make good, sound decisions. Perseverance - Stick to the task at hand. Our motto was, like the US Navy SEALs, “Tomorrow was the only easy day, and when you think you’re down you always have 40% more to give.” 62 miles of rugged hiking carry 50-60 pound backpacks speaks volumes for perseverance. Uplift - Be a team player and have concern for others. If you see someone in need, someone that looks like they’re out of water, struggling to continue, ask if they need help, offer your extra water, or just give a kind and helpful word.

That last 8 miles from the Edward G. Garvey Shelter northeast of Harpers Ferry to the historic town of Harpers Ferry was completed in just under 3 hours. That’s 22:00/mile with an extra 50-60 pounds of equipment and gear carried in backpacks. That’s a pretty fast clip for anyone, especially carrying such a heavy load. Thanks to the time and attention paid by the Brothers to these young men, they will do doubt develop into men of high moral character, strength and one day uplift those around them in the fashion that Brothers Davis and Edwards have.

## Lambda Gamma Gamma Visit Armed Forces Retirement Home

**Washington, D.C. November 11, 2015.** Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter found a diamond in the rough when they visited the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) in Washington, DC, also known as the Soldiers Home, for their annual uplift service on Veterans Day. Retired Air Force Captain Charles Matthew Jones, Mu Psi '50 eagerly greeted his brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity after missing their visits for the past 3 years. Born December 25, 1925, the Waynesboro, VA native is the oldest of 8 siblings. Upon finishing high school, Brother Jones went into the Army in 1944. When the war ended he enrolled into North Carolina Agriculture and Technology College in 1948. Majoring in Physical Education, Brother Jones lettered in baseball as well as track and field. He joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Interest Club, then the following year (1949) he entered into the Lampados Club and after a year Brother Jones entered into the Realms of Omega.

Upon graduating from college in 1952, Bro. Jones taught and coached all sports at Lunenburg High School in Victoria, VA and won the state basketball championship. Bro. Jones also coached basketball at Saint Paul College and won the championship there in 1957.

Brother Jones enlisted in the Air Force in 1958 and was stationed in Germany where he attended Officers Candidate School and taught school for the youth whose parents were in the military. His exemplary career record in the military (as a Sargent in the Army and a Captain in the Air Force) qualified him to be in the Soldiers Home for rest of his life. As an Omega Man, Bro. Jones continues to be a shining example of the Cardinal Principles expounded by our Founders.

The Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) is an independent Agency in the Executive branch of the US Government. The AFRH provides residences and related services for certain retired and former members of the US Armed Forces (24 US Code 10, Subchapter 411). The Chief Operating Officer (COO) is the head of the Agency and its communities and is subject to the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of Defense. The origins of the AFRH go back to the 19th century. The US Navy first established the US Naval Asylum in 1831, and then the US Army established the US Soldiers' Home in 1851. Ever since, thousands of former US military service members have enjoyed a safe and secure retirement here. In 1991, the two distinct Homes merged as one: the AFRH.



*L-r LGG Brother visiting with Brother Charles Jones at the AFRH*

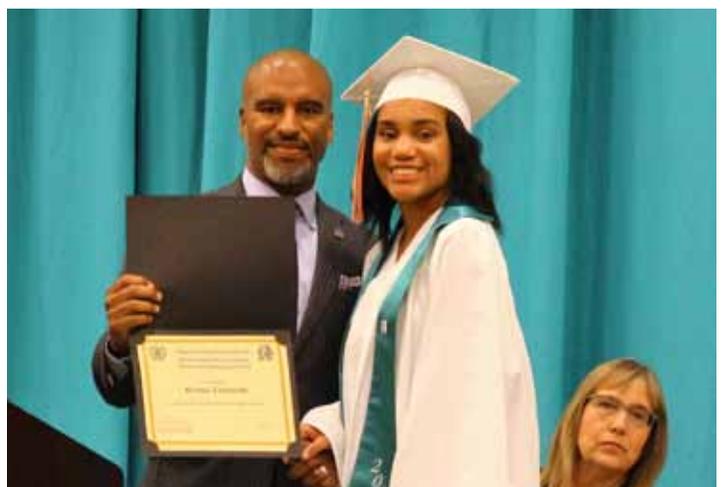
The AFRH has evolved into the premier retirement community for America's military veterans. It offers modern facilities, dynamic activities, healthy meals, wellness programs, advanced care, and much more. The AFRH currently has two communities in Gulfport, MS (AFRH-G) and Washington, DC (AFRH-W).

## LGG's Uplift Foundation gives \$30,000 to High School Seniors

**Ft. Meade, MD. June 2016.** Each year, Lambda Gamma Gamma (LGG) Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in conjunction with The Uplift Foundation, conducts its Colonel Charles Young Memorial Scholarship Program and awards scholarships to talented, college-bound high school seniors in the Maryland, Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. The chapter prides itself on providing financial assistance to aspiring college freshmen in their pursuit of higher education through accredited colleges and universities. The scholarship winners are selected based on criteria such as scholastic achievement, community service, community and teacher recommendations and monetary need. In addition, the chapter supports previous winners who are currently in college. Over the last ten years the chapter has awarded over \$300,000 to local high school students.

This year, LGG's Colonel Charles Young Memorial Scholarship recipients are the following: Royal Purple Winners (\$1,500) - John Fitzgerald Attaway, C. D. Hylton High School; Stanford Becton, Bullis School; Andre Boone, Charles Herbert Flowers High School; Anthony Box, Wakefield High School; Briana Edmonds, Westlake High School; Trianna Jones, Meade High School; Deja McKnight, Reservoir High School; Anthony Thornton, Suitland High School.

Old Gold Winners (\$1,000) - Jasmine Brunson, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; Kayla Chesley, Henry E. Lackey High School; Brandon Davis, Robinson Secondary School; Micah Floyd, Oxon Hill High School; Todd Mackall, Jr., Dr. Henry Wise High School; Mariah Stewart, Ellington School of the Arts; Greg Ward, Woodbridge High School.



*Brianna Edmonds receiving Royal Purple \$1500 Scholarship from Uplift Foundation*

The Uplift Foundation is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our youth from disadvantaged backgrounds and promoting positive growth and development in the communities that we serve. The Uplift Foundation is currently composed of more than 150 volunteers who proudly serve more than 400 youth each year through various community service projects.

# Iota Nu Omega Weekend



*Iota Nu Brothers at the Community Cookout*

**Harford County, Maryland. August 5-6, 2016.** The Iota Nu Chapter held their Annual Omega Weekend on 5-6 August 2016. The event started on 5 Aug 2016 with the Annual All-White dance. Over 300 patrons attended and were feted with dancing, vendors, a still photographer, and refreshments. Brother Mark Thomas, Basileus, welcomed the guests, who were entertained by DJ So-And-So. The proceeds from the event will help sponsor Omega’s mandated programs of Social Action and Scholarship. The Omega Weekend ended with the Annual Community Cookout held

on Capa Field at the Army installation of Aberdeen Proving Grounds-Edgewood where we also recognized and thanked our sponsors for their support of Omega Psi Phi, Iota Nu Chapter throughout the 2016 year. The cook-out this year was supported by the Quettes, who supplied the sides and desserts. The Brothers manned the grill, and cooked hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, and fish. The Omega Weekend was successful due to the efforts of the Co-chairman, Brothers Charles Gibson, 84, Epsilon Sigma, Aurelio Burton, 08, Iota Nu, and Michael Bennett, 14, Iota Nu.

## Iota Nu Book Donation



*Iota Nu Basileus Mark Thomas, Ms. Patrice Brown and Bro. Duane Adams at Book Donation*

**Edgewood, Maryland. August 26, 2016,** In a joint effort between Brother Dwayne Adams (96-KH) and Brother Dwayne White, 2nd District Social Action Committee Chair, over 300 books were donated to the Edgewood Middle School. Ms. Patrice M. Brown, principal, accepted the books on behalf of the school. The book donation is a continuation of a long chapter tradition which began with annual book donations to the Harford and Cecil Counties during the month of African American History in February in support of the Assault on Illiteracy Fraternity Initiative.

## Iota Nu Feeds the Homeless



*Iota Nu Brother Charles Gibson serving food to the Homeless*

**Edgewood, Maryland, September 19, 2016.** The Brothers of Iota Nu Chapter participated in the semi-annual Sharing Table sponsored by the Greek Letter Organizations of Harford County. The Sharing Table is a local organization that operates a soup kitchen every Saturday at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church. The Sharing Table organization provides vegetables, salad, desserts and drinks and the serving group provides the entrees. This year, working in partnership with other Greek Letter Organizations in Harford County, Iota Nu provided the hamburger entrée for up to 120 patrons. This year over ten Brothers and three volunteers participated, assisting with the set-up, serving, and clean-up.

## Mu Omega Blood Drive

**Philadelphia, PA. June 4, 2016.** The Men of Omega Psi Phi, Mu Omega Chapter, held its annual Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive on Saturday, June 4, 2016, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, open to the public allowing members of community to donate blood. Brother Jesse Smith, Chairman of the blood drive, stated in 2016, thousands of people in the surrounding communities will be diagnosed with cancer. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment. Donating blood is a meaningful way to give back to the community and to provide patients and their families hope for tomorrow.

In honor of Omega Brother Dr. Charles R. Drew, “who pioneered creation of the now indispensable Blood Bank process during World War II”. The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., partnered nationally, with the American Red Cross to help save lives through the gift of blood donation. Common recipients of donated blood are cancer patients, heart-surgery patients, premature babies and accident victims.

“Mu Omega is committed to making a difference in the lives of others,” said Garfield Jackson, Basileus of Mu Omega Chapter. This commitment has provided the inspiration and vision, started by Chapter brother, Dr. Allen E. Thomas Ph.D., to begin the Annual Blood Drive. That bold initiative to promote volunteerism, citizenship and service to the community is now a mandated program throughout the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., which has over 800 Chapters worldwide.

Mu Omega’s annual Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive collected 25 units of whole blood and 4 donations of double red cells. Each blood donation saves three lives. We were extremely excited to have the opportunity, once again, to host this annual event.



*Mu Omega Brother giving the Gift of Life*

## Mu Rho Partnership with Anne Arundel County, Department of Social Services (DSS) National Fatherhood Dialogue on Fatherhood



*Thabiti Boone, 2nd DR Sherman Charles and Mu Rho Brothers Fatherhood Partnership with A.A. County, MD. D.S.S. Launch event*

**Annapolis, MD. June 25, 2016.** 2nd District Representative, Sherman Charles, Whitehouse and Omega Psi Phi International Representative Thabiti Boone, Mu Rho Basileus, Jeffery Diggs kicked-off a new initiative under the Fatherhood and Mentoring Program.

Men of Mu Rho Chapter are excited to announce the partnership with Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services (DSS) to promote fatherhood and family support to strengthen communities in the county.

Mu Rho teaming efforts will promote and facilitate the socio-economic well-being of African American residents by assessing individual and family needs and linking people to services.

Mu Rho will work with the DSS as part of a sustained effort to provide county residents access to an array of health and human services such, individual and group counseling, literacy, assessment of reading levels, employment opportunities, and one-on-one tutoring and family management counseling for children, teens, adults and families.

2nd District is excited about this initiative because it’s supports the strategic direction for teaming “Omega efforts” with other organizations to reach young fathers to uplift them and support mentoring programs that inspire our young people who are growing up without fathers in their homes.

# Omega Participates in National Fatherhood Dialogue



*Panelist on the Fatherhood Dialog Dais*

**Prince George’s County, MD. Saturday, June 18, 2016.** 2nd District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was represented by Donald Williams II, the new Chairman for the Fatherhood and Mentoring Program. The Prince George’s County Dialogue on Fatherhood was attended by approximately 200 men, women and basketball teams.

More than 200 participates attended the first significant event for the National Fatherhood Initiative Advisory Committee supporting the Prince George’s County Dialogue on Fatherhood sponsored by 9th District County Councilman, Mel Franklin and Reid Temple A.M.E. Church in Glenn Dale, MD.

The 2nd District objective under the Fatherhood and Mentoring program is to become a teaming partner in what is sure to become a premier annual event that focused on uplifting men, strengthening fatherhood in the county. 2nd District across the five states wants to team our efforts with other like-minded organizations to reach young fathers to uplift them and continue programs that inspire our young people who are growing up without fathers in their homes.

Former Wizards player Etan Thomas who retired from professional basketball after spending 11 seasons in the NBA, (8 season with the Wizard), moderated a workshop led by nationally-renowned panelist on Saturday, June 18 to kick-off the Father’s Day weekend from 1 to 4 p.m.

Donald Williams II, the new 2nd District Chairman for the Fatherhood

and Mentoring program witness powerful testimonies from Mr. Robert Griffin II the father of RG3, former quarterback of the Washington Football Team. Dr. Lonise Bias, the mother of former basketball star Len Bias, spoke forcefully from personal experience, describing her devastation after the University of Maryland basketball player died in 1986 from a cocaine overdose, and when her second son, Jay, was killed several years later in a drive-by shooting. Also, a panel guest was Michael Sweetney the Oxon Hill high school graduate who played under the legendary Coach John Thompson at Georgetown University spoke on mental health challenges and peer pressure growing up. William “Tipper” Thomas, a football player at Randallstown High School, and a top recruit at Morgan State University life altering event is now 26. He was shot twice outside in the school parking lot about two months before he was schedule to graduate. Pastor Ricardo Payne, Lighthouse Baptist Church, in Washington, DC who has a heart for fathers and young men joined the District 9 County Councilman, Mel Franklin to kick-off a wonderful Fathers’ Day Weekend.

Men of the 2nd District our primary objective under the Fatherhood and Mentoring program is to finding teaming partners in your community that uplift young fathers and continue the tremendous mentoring programs that inspire young people, especially our young males who are growing up without fathers in their homes.



*Fathers attending the Fatherhood Dialog*

## Zeta Iota Iota Youth Leadership Summit



*Zeta Iota Iota Brothers with youth at the Youth Leadership Summit*

**Philadelphia, PA. July 9, 2016.** Zeta Iota Iota Bridge Builders Mentorship Program was created to empower young African-American males in our community to reach their goals by providing guidance and positive direction. The program’s aim is to improve self-esteem, social competence and avoid high-risk behaviors by providing relationships with caring, professional adults who work to help them reach their full potential. Never before has the need been greater for young African- American males to be exposed to positive images of manhood. The Brothers of Zeta Iota Iota Chapter are excited to serve as positive role-models for our young Bridge Builders.

Our Male Youth Leadership Summit is an exciting day for male youths from the ages of 8- 18 to participate in various interactive workshops facilitated by very knowledgeable and experienced individuals relating to topics addressing community and social issues that affect their educational and social development.

The theme for our male youth leadership summit is: “Educating and Empowering Our Future Leaders of Tomorrow”.

Goal: To conduct Male Forums to discuss relevant issues that impacts our young males with the recent tragedies that is gripping our communities across the country.

Location: Harambee Institute of Science & Technology Charter School, Philadelphia, PA

On Saturday, July 9, 2016 approximately 25 young males participated in a day of interactive workshops facilitated by the Brothers of Zeta Iota Iota Chapter focusing on Conflict Resolution, Civic and Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, and Interacting with Law Enforcement.

Men of Zeta Iota Iota were very excited to hold conversations and positive dialogue on

Community / Police Relationships, Creating and Establishing Businesses, Mentoring Support and Making Wise Life Changing Decisions.

## Xi Lambda Lambda Takes Rockland Omega Academy to Westpoint

**Rockland County, NY. April 23, 2016.** The Brothers of the Xi Lambda Lambda chapter Rockland Omega AcaDemy (ROAD) committee took six young mentees on a tour of West Point Military Academy. This tour was arranged by Bro. Col. Gaylord Greene (Ret) of Phi Nu chapter. On this trip were Brothers Gerald Inman, Dennis McGloster, Tyrone Bailey and T. Ed McBride. The mentees were Elijah Pecou, Elijah Gray, Jordan Carroll, Jaden Herrera, Dylan & Paul Daccarett. Also present were former mentee Taron Tann and female guest Beverly Placide.

Omega’s own, Bro. Captain Tunde Osilaja provided the orientation and admissions brief. The mentees were given a timeline that they should follow if they have a desire to attend West Point. It was stressed upon them that if they are selected to attend and they make a serious commitment to succeed then West Point will provide everything possible to prevent them from failing. They will also graduate with the tuition of \$250,000.00 forgiven.

After having a pizza party and receiving souvenirs courtesy of West Point brothers, we then visited The Cadet Chapel, houses the largest church organ in the world, and was shown that the stained glass windows were donated by each graduating class, this stopped in 1967 due to running out of window space. We also visited General Roscoe Robinson Auditorium, named for the First Black 4 Star General and a Brother of Omega Psi Phi, Academic Buildings in Thayer Hall, Jefferson Hall Library, and Trophy Point.

The mentees were able to interact with the cadets (Bros. Cadet Rufus Huffman, Cadet Terry Lee, and Cadet Sharheem Taylor) who provided the guided tour of the campus and answered many questions.

www.opp2d.org



*XLL with Omega AcaDemy at Westpoint*

Again, the purpose was to expose the young middle school boys to a well discipline college and to see how much of a honor it is to serve our country and the hard work it takes to graduate with honors.

## Tau Pi International Service Awards



*Tau Pi International Service Award Recipients*

**Columbia, MD. July 2016.** For the 80th Grand Conclave in Las Vegas, Tau Pi Chapter had 29 Brothers eligible to receive a service award. This was the first Conclave for the expansion of additional awards. The five additional awards are for 30, 35, 45, 55, and 65 years of service.

Of the 29, eleven Bruhs qualified to be a recipient. We had one 70 year recipient, Bro. Sherman J. Polley; two 65 years, Bro. Frank F. Fennell and Bro. Charles L. Brown; one 50 year, Bro. William D. Peterson; three 45 years, 16th Tau Pi Chapter Basileus Bro. Arthur C. Colbert, Jr., Bro. Alwin W. Collins, and Bro. Lawrence Pittman.

Our 40 year recipients are highly distinguished Bro. Milbert Brown, Editor to the Oracle plus former 24th Second District Representative and 6th Tau Pi Chapter Basileus, Bro. Calvin C. Zellars. In addition, we had a 35

year recipient, 11th Tau Pi Chapter Basileus Stephen W. Williams; and 30 year recipient Bro. Ronald Britt. Of the 11, three (Colbert, Brown and Zellars) were able to attend the Conclave to officially receive their awards.

Unfortunately and sorrowfully, our 70 year recipient Bro. Sherman J. Polley transitioned to Omega Chapter in August. The chapter notified the family that IHQ will mail his Service Award within the next two months. Tau Pi Chapter is extremely proud of its service award recipients. We are grateful that they have meritoriously served the chapter and fraternity in an exemplary manner over these years. Congratulations, on how good and pleasant these faithful brothers have fulfilled the sanctity of their oath that they swore many decades ago.

## Tau Pi Fishing Trip



*Tau Pi Brothers on the fishing trip*

**Columbia, MD. August 6, 2016.** Fishing and fellowship go hand and hand, and on August 6, 2016, five brothers from Tau Pi chapter set sail for a great day on the Chesapeake Bay. Leaving out of Solomon’s Island, Maryland aboard the “Shea-D-Lady”, Brothers Steve Grice, Brent Coleman, Richard Rogers, Marty Harlee, and Dwayne Chambers anticipated catching enough fish to at least make the trip worthwhile, but expectations were exceeded as they caught over 100 fish.

Their catch of the day included Norfolk spot, croakers, and cobia. Even greater than the successful day of fishing, brothers had a great time telling “fish tales”, and old stories. While fishing, brothers shared their journey to Omega as well as their ideas as to how to move the chapter and fraternity forward. Upon returning to the dock, Brother Rogers gave brothers a “crash course” on how to scale and clean fish. As brothers were dressed in their purple and gold, many onlookers stopped to inquire where we were able to catch so many fish. As always, the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. always attract a crowd!

The trip was organized by Brother Richard Rogers with the support of Basileus Henry Jenkins as a way to foster brotherhood and fellowship at every opportunity. This was the first of future fishing trips and one of many activities planned to reclaim and retain more brothers.

## Tau Pi Brother Frank Turner Honored by NAACP



**Columbia, MD.** The Jenkins Odoms Freedom Fighter Award recognizes Howard County community members who are champions of political and social justice within Howard County. The Freedom Fighter works to ensure the economic, educational, civil, political, and social equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination within the political process, criminal justice and education systems, as well as works to improve the socio-economic status of people of color; seeks the elimination of harsh and unfair sentencing practices while working to secure

equal enforcement of the law; advocates for the enactment of municipal, state and federal legislation designed to improve the educational, political and economic status of communities of color; and seeks to increase registration and voting while eliminating barriers to the ballot box.

Maryland Delegate Bro. Frank S. Turner has been selected for the award this year. Bro. Turner entered Omega Psi Phi Fraternity on Tau Pi Chapter

seventh line in 1985, “The Incredible 13”.

He was the floor leader on Gaming legislation in 2007 and 2012; the Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2013 and the Freedom to Vote Act in 2016. Delegate Bro. Turner, a former Professor of Business Law & Legal Environment at Morgan State University 1974-2014, has received numerous awards related to both his legislative work and his teaching career.

In October of 2014, due to his effort in helping to obtain over \$3 million to purchase the Smith Farm, the sports field at Blandair Park was named in his honor. Bro. Frank Turner has published over 15 articles that have appeared in learned journals and in May 2015 Morgan State awarded him the status as Professor Emeritus.

Delegate Bro. Frank S. Turner is a Maryland Delegate in Howard County District 13. He was first elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1995. Delegate Bro. Turner currently serves as Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Committee and Chair of the Election Law Subcommittee. He has served three years as the former Chair of the Howard County Delegation. He is also a member of the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee and the Maryland Black Caucus. Previously, Delegate Turner served seven years on the Appropriations Committee, was Acting Chair and Vice Chair of the Education and Economic Development Subcommittee and Chair of the Personnel Oversight Committee. He sponsored the first successful legislation prohibiting texting while driving and revised multiple sections of the adoption laws of Maryland.

## Tau Pi Brother Demetrius Ball Educator/West Point Graduate

**Columbia, MD** - Howard High School Social Studies teacher Bro. Demetrius Ball has immersed himself in school leadership roles since joining the staff in fall 2012. Bro. Ball, a West Point educated army veteran, brings a unique perspective to his U.S. History and Leadership classes. Even though Bro. Ball knew from an early age, while growing up in Findlay, Ohio, that he wanted to go into education, he couldn’t pass up the opportunity to first attend West Point. There he majored in human and regional geography, making him more conscientious about cultural differences, which has proven useful in the army and now in the classroom. Bro. Ball said his military background, with tours in Iraq and Kuwait, impacted his teaching because he “learned how to work with folks from different backgrounds. It made me comfortable in a variety of situations and environments.”

When his wife’s job brought them from California to Maryland, they decided to move to Columbia for the educational opportunities for their young family. “Howard County schools’ reputation precedes itself,” Bro. Ball said. He worked in Baltimore City his first year in Maryland before joining Howard High School.

“I really enjoy Howard,” Bro. Ball said. “The students and staff are amazing. There’s support to try things in the classroom. I can see myself here a long time. It’s been a great opportunity for growth.” One of his biggest administrative opportunities has been his Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support (PBIS) team co-coordinator role, in which he oversees the maximization of academic and social behavior outcomes through the school’s rewards and discipline systems.

One of his favorite aspects of Howard, and the HCPSS, is that it encourages students to challenge themselves as leaders. Bro. Ball said that as a student, “without teachers encouraging me, I wouldn’t have taken leadership roles.” As such, the Leadership class he now teaches perfectly aligns with his focus on encouraging the next generation to create legacies of helping others. He also mentors African-American males through his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, Tau Pi Chapter of Howard County. Bro. Ball, who played football in college, has also coached football and track at Howard. His interest in others led him to start a podcast series profiling Howard teachers, and his tendency to reflect on the big picture leads him to blog on educational thought leadership topics. He also actively communicates with educators on Twitter and Voxer, a Walkie Talkie app for team com-



*Brother Demetrius Ball*

munication.

Bro. Ball continues to pursue professional learning opportunities to grow as a teacher, and one day, as a principal. He’s completed a master’s in secondary education from University of Phoenix and an administration certification from Coppin State University. He said, “I want to have a bigger impact, reach more kids, more families. It goes back to the army. I’m always thinking big picture, having to be aware of much more than what’s immediately in front of me, having a plan for what’s coming in the future and adjusting to that.”

Bro. Ball during the summer has left Maryland again for California. He has accepted an Assistant Principal position in Oakland, California.

## Tau Pi Annual Planning Meeting

**Columbia MD. August 20, 2016.** Tau Pi Chapter held its annual planning meeting in one of the beautiful buildings located on Howard County Community College Campus. Basileus Henry Jenkins, Jr. chaired the meeting and had three primary goals and objectives. Goal one was Leadership. Each Executive Officer had a Power Point presentation of their expectations for the year and recommended budget. Goal two focused on calendar, committees and the chapter proposed budget. Goal three was taking a strategic look at where we want the chapter to be in three years. The bulk of the meeting was dedicated to Fund Raisers and Social Actions events. Thorough review and analyses were discussed on past performance in conjunction with lessons learned. We had some extensive discussions on what do we need to add or delete. Committee chairs were required to provide very detailed reports delineating each activity and its associated cost. Did they have adequate manpower; did they allocate enough time; and was their budget sufficient? If additional resources are required for the upcoming year, the committee chair had to present the necessary justification.

As with any fiscal year, some committees had to replace chairman and some members. The proverbial question is what skills and talents are required to be effective. How can you incorporate new technology? Was an understudy identified to eventually step up and chair the committee? Were any Neophytes added to the committee for personal growth and development? Were any metrics used to objectively measure the performance of the committee?

Overall, it was a good meeting. However, the work of Omega is and will always be challenging. Traditionally, fellowship and good fun will always be a close second.



*Tau Pi Brother at the Planning Meeting*

## Tau Pi Mentoring End of Year Celebration



*Students receiving awards at Tau Pi End of Year Celebration*

**Columbia, MD. June 6, 2016,** Tau Pi Mentoring held its Annual Mentee End of the Year Celebration at Guilford Elementary School in Howard County, Maryland. The purpose of the celebration was to acknowledge the academic success and cultural enrichment of mentees. It also serves as an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding service of high performing mentors and support provided by special subject matter non-mentors. Awardees received certificates or plaques in reconnection of their performance. The celebration was attended by mentees, mentee family members, mentors and special guests. With a program of 28 mentees, ranging from elementary to high school students, celebration attendance exceeded 100 guests.

Awards were given for outstanding achievement in math, science, foreign language, attendance, robotics, most improved academic performance



*Matt Elam signing memorabilia for students*

and honor roll recipients. In an effort at improving creative thinking and problem solving skills, Outstanding Chess Player Awards were presented by Tau Pi's Mentoring Chess Master, Bro. Chester Williams. Mentee reception to playing chess and STEM initiative was two of the most successful endeavors of the mentoring program.

The highlight of the program was our surprise keynote speaker, Matt Elam. Matt is defensive safety for the Baltimore Ravens and played collegiately at the University of Florida. As a memorabilia, he autographed a football for each mentee.

All awards were presented by Tau Pi Mentoring Co-chairs Bro. Jerry Watkins and Bro. Frank Miles along with Guilford Elementary School Educators for Alternative Education, Ms. Tanya Holland. The mentoring program is a partnership between Tau Pi Chapter and Howard County's Board of Education.

## Tau Pi -My Brothers Keeper



*Bro. Frank Fennell, Sr., Lambda Epsilon "51, 86 years old.; Bro. Carl L. Haggins Nu Psi "48 ,88 years old. and Bro. Oliver S. Jackson, Zeta Ps "60, 80 years old*

**Columbia, MD** - During the planning of Tau Pi Graduate Chapter 40th Anniversary, it was quite noticeable that many of our Brothers had significantly aged. Most of the Charter Brothers were in their late seventies and eighties. Also, a large number had not been to chapter meetings or activities in quite a few years.

The chapter already had some events and activities that catered to Senior Brothers. However, none kept them fully involved in the business of Omega. To address these shortcomings, Bro. Jerry Watkins submitted a proposal to initiate a committee called "My Brother's Keeper. He knew that in order for his ideas to be sustainable, a formal and structured process had to be put in place.

To be eligible, a Brother must be 80 years or older. We have eleven brothers in this category with two in their nineties. Eight of the Eleven are Life Members and historically pay their dues. MBK Committee Members consist of eleven brothers paired with one of the Senior Brother. They either volunteered or was selected based on their relationships; lived closed by; attended the same church; or were initiated in the same chapter.

Bro. Watkins has taken the responsibility of sending Birthday, Christmas, and Father's Day cards. All cards are signed by Chapter Bruhs attending the preceding chapter meeting. Transportation for a Senior Brother, if requested, is provided to attend the chapter meeting of his birthday month. To further honor these brothers, we called them "Most Noble Lords". They sit on the front row at chapter meetings. When the KRS is asked to take the roll, all brothers stand until the last MNL introduces himself.

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The Eleven Committee members are tasked to call or visit the MNL at least once per month especially if he does not regularly attend chapter meetings. He assists the MNL in remitting dues payment. If eligible to receive a Service Award, he will coordinate with KRS and assist in the completion of Form 80. At the 80th Grand Conclave in Las Vegas, four of the eleven were recipients of an award. One was for 70 years; two were for 65 years; and one for 45 years. Unfortunately none were able to attend. Sorrowfully, Bro. Polley who received his 70th Service Award transitioned to Omega Chapter in August. The committee assists the Social Action Committee in identifying which MNL need assistance in snow removal. My Brother's Keeper committee also includes the widows of our departed brothers. A lot of our widows are Greeks and have supported our chapter in a multitude of events. They have attended Fraternity Conclaves, Leadership Conferences, District Conferences and chapter events. They are now invited to our events as a complimentary guest. We sent them Christmas and Mother's Day cards, and for some we have provided snow removal.

The past few years, another significant need surfaced. We had several Bruhs lose their spouse after being married for over some 20 to 50 years. Many became depressed and had withdrawal symptoms. If requested, MBK will provide them with a list of Bruhs who also had this unfortunate experience. Conversations concerning wills, trusts, pensions, funeral arrangements and the decision to sell or maintain the house are the most subjects discussed.

## Tau Pi Mentoring Program Parents Orientation



*Brother David Charon addressing parents during mentoring orientation*

**Columbia, MD. September 24, 2016.** Tau Pi Mentoring Committee held its Parent Orientation at Guilford Elementary School in Columbia, Maryland. This annual event was the official kick off of Tau Pi Chapter Mentoring Program for the new 2016-2017 academic school year.

The event was attended by mentees, parents and mentors. Its purpose was to present the Mentoring program's academic, cultural, and social activities planned for the 2016-2017 academic year. Co-Chair Bro. Frank L. Miles provided the opening and purpose of the meeting.

Co-Chair Bro. Jerry Watkins provided a comprehensive overview of what our chapter has done and expects to do for our mentees in the upcoming year. Parents were amazed at our topics, time and monetary investments. Former Basileus James Henderson Kerr, Jr. was in attendance to show his support for the Mentoring Program.

As part of the Orientation festivities, a presentation was made by Immediate Past Basileus David Charon describing the benefits of parental participation in the Maryland State 529 College Savings Plan. It was stressed that financial contributions to the plan should start as early as to when a child is born. Parents were astounded by the overall expensive cost of a college education. Bro. Charon demonstrated and showed simulations on the benefits of using today's dollars for future inflated dollars. Bro. Charon, a stalwart State Farm agent provided each parent with a thumb drive to simulate their own scenarios for their son.

The final hour was devoted to a team building exercise for the parents. Education Coordinator Tanya Holland facilitated the activity. This gave the parents an opportunity to meet one another and form future bonds. Lunch was provided by Tau Pi Chapter.

## Tau Pi Camping Trip

**Columbia, MD** - In an effort to expand mentee's life experiences, appreciation of nature gifts, and improve team building skills, our mentoring program provided it's mentees with a three day camping experience at Greenbrier State Park in Boonsboro, Maryland.

Mentees experienced camp tent building, preparing meals on an open fire, building camp fires, swimming, participating in outdoor games, nature walks and journal writing relative to their camping experiences. Camping expenses including bus transportation, food, and tents were funded by Tau Pi Chapter to ensure all mentees had an opportunity to participate in the camping outing.

During the camping outing, Tau Pi Chapter received many praises from other camping guests for exposing the mentees to nature and providing the mentees an opportunity experience nature's offerings. One camping guests was so impressed with the efforts of our program, relative to exposing the mentees to camping, he donated funds in support of the camping outing. Most importantly, mentees stated in their camping journal essays that the camping outing was great and they wished it could be extended one additional day.



*Tau Pi Brothers and boys on camping trip*

## Gamma Pi Senior Banquet

**Capitol Heights, MD. June 11, 2016.** As temperatures soared into the 80's outside, everything inside was quite cool. For the nearly 100 senior citizens gathered inside the Fellowship Hall at Gethsemane United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 11, it could not be any cooler than this because after another year of waiting, the Ques were back. Those guys wearing that Pretty Royal Purple and Old Gold from Gamma Pi chapter were in the house once again and everybody knew that meant a fun and exciting afternoon.

This year's Annual Senior's Banquet -- the 43rd -- drew a capacity crowd to Gethsemane. Seniors were so enthused about the event, knowing their experience in previous years, that many were situated in their seats early, ready and waiting for the program to begin. At the end of the day, they were left with smiles and laughs and satisfaction in knowing that they are

About 100 senior citizens attended the banquet. Some 30 men from Gamma Pi were at their beck and call, cooking the exquisite food and serving it and putting on the program.

Gamma Pi has been working with Gethsemane on the banquet for more than 20 years.

Though the focus of the event is always the meal, it is also the formal program that Brothers put together to accompany meal that rounds out the afternoon. This year it included selections by the Gamma Pi Chorale and a keynote spiritual message from Gamma Pi chaplain Bro. Rev. Brian King, which sent the seniors into a Sunday worship orbit a whole day in advance. The after-dinner program also consisted of games and door prizes. It was a memorable event and the Super Chapter looks forward to next year's program.

## Mu Nu 2016 Shirtsleeve Conference



*Mu Nu Brothers exchange ideas during the Breakout Sessions at Mu Nu Shirtsleeve Conference*

**Washington, D.C., October 1, 2016.** Mu Nu Chapter, Montgomery County, MD. held its annual Shirtsleeve Conference to discuss strategic plans for the Omega Year 2016-2017 and out years. The conference was held at the Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism & Media Arts. More than 40 Brothers registered for the conference that included a welcome and strategic vision from Bro. Kelvin Ampofo (Omicron Epsilon, 1998, Bethune-Cookman University), Basileus, and a discussion of the history and purpose of the Second District Conference presented by Bros. Adam McKee, Jr. (Theta Sigma, 1951, Dillard University), former 1st Vice Grand Basileus and 16th Second District Representative, and Milton Harrison (Nu Psi, 1975, Virginia State University), 34th Second District Representative.

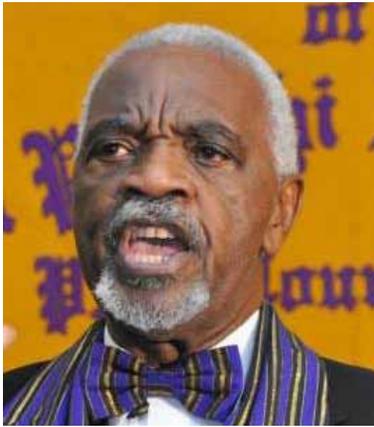
The conference included discussion on leadership and collaboration particular to six chapter committees with direct impact and outreach in Montgomery County, MD. Committee chairmen presented discussion and answered questions about such committees as Achievement Week, Fraternal Relations, Fundraising, Information Technology, Social Action, and Talent Hunt. Brothers were invited to engage in interactive discussions with the chairmen, as well as the chapter officers and others in attendance, both during the committee presentations and also during to two breakout sessions. The breakout sessions featured small group discussions lead by the chairmen and driven by the participating Brothers. The interactions included reviews of the committee efforts and their successes and Brothers offered their enthusiastic support for ideas and recommendations in

the Shirtsleeve Conference spirit of reviewing, revising, and replacing, where appropriate.

Also of note, the participants engaged in a brainstorming session involving the Chapter Bylaws. The session was led by Bro. Clarence Thomas (Gamma Zeta, 1977, Mercer University), Immediate Past Basileus. He led the session that engaged Brothers in actively discussion and movement in the session as thoughts and proposals were offered in the "parking lot" format for capture. The results will be used by the Bylaws Review Committee to review and revise the Chapter Bylaws to ensure appropriate alignment with appropriate International and Second District bylaws, policies and/or procedures, as well as Mu Nu chapter changes and trends. Registered Brothers were provided copies of the Chapter Bylaws and invited to participate in a voluntary Member Demographic Survey and a voluntary Event Participant Survey. Following the conference that included both a catered breakfast and lunch, the Brothers gathered to fellowship at a local restaurant in Washington, D.C.

Mu Nu Chapter held its first chapter Shirtsleeve Conference in 1974. The 2016 Shirtsleeve Conference Committee was led by Bros. Troy Manigault (Mu Nu, 1994, Montgomery County, MD), Vice Basileus & Chairman, and Dante Mayo (Mu Nu, 2005), Vice Chairman, and organized with the essential support of the enthusiastic and committed Brothers of Mu Nu Chapter. Mu Nu Chapter was chartered May 23, 1970, in the City of Rockville in Montgomery County, MD.

## Gamma Pi's Three Wise Men



*Brothers Luther Burse, George Edwards and Harold Suggs; Gamma Pi's 60+ year Omega Men*

**Prince Georges County, MD.** For each of the Brothers who crossed the 60-year threshold, their Omega journey began with a curiosity about the Fraternity through men who they respected. It was a respect for what they saw in the Ques at an early age. "My favorite high school teacher (Chemistry) was a Que. So I learned a little about Omega from him," said Brother Luther Burse, a career educator who once served as president of Fort Valley (Ga.) State University and Cheney University in Pennsylvania.

After observing and learning more about the Fraternity, he knew that once he got to Kentucky State it would not be long before he pledged. "The summer of 1954, I was surrounded by summer Men of Omega. When I enrolled at KSU, it was only a matter of time before I pledged." He has served as an adviser to several undergraduate chapters. After earning his undergraduate degree at Kentucky State, he earned a Masters at the University of Indiana and a Ph.D. at the University of Maryland.

In telling the full story of the summer of 1954, Brother Burse recalled how he would drive his friends to the first park in Kentucky for blacks, Cherokee State Park, at Kentucky Lake, near his hometown of Hopkinsville, where several Omegas worked, including the members of a singing group from Kentucky State University called the Four Ques and a Lamp. They were ordered hired by the then-Governor who booked them for engagements.

Brother Burse, listed in the Notable Kentucky African Americans database, vividly remembers December 2, 1955, the night he became an Omega man, when, as one of six pledges, "we had to climb trees in front of Kentucky Hall (a girls dorm) and yell "Glory be praised, I'm Omega bound!" Three of the 6 Line members are still living and they got together to observe "60" in Omega during last year's Homecoming.

It was also educators who were Omegas that attracted Bro. George Edwards to the Fraternity, from his days as a youth in Gastonia, N.C. "In high school, a lot of the teachers there were Ques. I never thought of anything but Omega Psi Phi when I got out of college. I was only in college a year and a half before I pledged. As soon as I got there and was eligible to pledge, I did."

Brother Edwards is also a Ph.D. and Music major, having earned his Masters at the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland after graduating N.C. A&T. For many years he taught music at the college level, retiring as a professor of Music at the University of the District of in 2000. Prior to that, he taught music in D.C. junior and high schools and even served a stint as ROTC leader. His longest stint was at Dunbar High School in D.C.

For Brother Edwards, his greatest Omega moment was his first: "When I went over and was read in, that was my greatest moment," he says. He remembers being #2 on line as tall as he is over 6 feet. But at the time, he recalls, Mu Psi order was tallest to smallest.

Brother Suggs, who works out every day at age 81, earned his Masters at the University of Maryland after graduating from NCCU. He has had two careers, first as an educator/administrator for Prince George's County Schools for more than 20 years and then for more than 30 years as the

successful entrepreneur of a major transportation service in the DMV that employed 250 people. Like Brother Edwards, he says: "My greatest Omega memory, I think was the night that I went over. It was part relief and part anxiety. It was a wonderful experience." All members of his line of 4 are still living, including one who he recently discovered lives in Mitchellville. His Line is celebrating "60" in November this year back in Durham.

For Brother Harold Suggs, a Kinston, N.C. native, he was also attracted to the Fraternity through educators in his hometown. "It's a funny thing. Believe it or not, I didn't know of any other Fraternity because the Ques were doing everything. If you were anything, you were an Omega."

Brother Suggs recalled how the Ques' local talent show was always sold out in his community. Between the excitement of the local Omega talent show, the numerous Ques in community leadership positions and his own elementary school principal being an Omega man, "there was a connection," Brother Suggs recalls.

Neither of these Brothers "tired out" or shifted away from Omega. Today, they remain active and are seen at meetings, events, activities and projects and at District meetings and Conclaves. Their love for the Fraternity shows largely through their actions and the way they approach Omega. Brother Burse is a very active member of the chapter's Mardi Gras Committee. He is a former chairman whose dance moves rival anyone else's on every Mardi Gras night. He previously led the chapter's housing effort and readily shares his expertise in higher education from a career working in the higher education arena including his leadership of two HBCU's. Brother Edwards, an accomplished musician, can always be counted on to lead the Brothers – no matter how small or large the group – in the singing of "Omega Dear," the Fraternity Hymn. Many Mardi Gras patrons see him lead a huge circle of Brothers (usually more than 200) in signing the hymn during the break every year. For many years, he led Gamma Pi's Talent Hunt program utilizing his musical background and connections. He is still called on periodically to advise the committee. And Brother Suggs serves as the "conscience" of the chapter, challenging the chapter to think in businesslike fashion when it has to make tough decisions. Brother Suggs is known for taking a firm stand on business operation principles, and he always is listening closely to make sure Brothers are not getting slighted in a deal or agreement. He can recognize business pitfalls a mile away. He was also part of organizing the annual summer family picnic working alongside Brother Claudius Walker (Omega chapter) "back in the day" when it was held at Watkins Park. He has served on numerous committees. Another thing all three men have in common is they are active in their churches. Brother Burse sings in the Men's Choir at Mount Ephraim Baptist Church, Brother Edwards sings in the choir at Largo Community Church and Bro. Suggs is an influential member and Men's Ministry leader at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va. To these distinguished Brothers, it is not a question of how long they can stay active. Rather, it is a question of always answering the call of Omega as long as they are able to do so.

## Gamma Pi Back to School Celebration

**Landover, MD. August 20, 2016** - More than 200 students and parents from Prince George's County got a head start on school with an assortment of book bags, pencils, notebooks and other "tools for learning" they received free for attending a Saturday morning Back-To-School Celebration co-sponsored by Gamma Pi Chapter. The chapter partnered with a local organization, Sisters4Sisters, to organize the program at the Kentland Community Center.

By the time the students and parents had lined up to collect the various items for school, they had been treated to a full morning of enrichment activities and presentations that put them in a positive mindset for the start of the 2016-17 academic year. While the event is designed to facilitate the free distribution of school supplies, Gamma Pi also likes to use the event to deliver important motivational messages to the youth. Many of the young people who come to the Back-To-School program are regular participants in Gamma Pi's QueKidz program that serves the Kentland Community. Through QueKidz, young children from the underserved neighborhood meet monthly to experience fun learning activities that educate and motivate them to overcome their circumstances and envision productive futures.

"As always, our goal is to continue to provide unwavering support and UPLIFT to our children in our community! There is no better way to show our undying commitment by supporting OUR children as they head back to school from their summer vacation," said Brother Kevin Greenwood, who led the planning for the program along with other members of the Social Action committee.

Along with the ladies from Sisters4Sisters, the Brothers of the Super Chapter were able to provide some valuable advice to the attentive youth. There were discussions about domestic violence, resolving conflict and how to select the right friends and deal with peer pressure. The youths were also treated to a lunch of grilled hot dogs and hamburgers and other goodies as part of the event.

The program portion of the event was highlighted by a series of presentations from Gamma Pi members. One member of the chapter who works as an elementary school principal, Damien Goins, gave a spirited, uplifting talk to parents and students about the importance of working together to achieve together. Another chapter member who is a minister, Reginald Pickett, challenged students to display good character at school and home



*Gamma Pi Brothers and volunteers at the Back to School Celebration*

Pickett, challenged students to display good character at school and home at all times. Two more chapter members serving in local law enforcement, James Chatmon and talked about their roles protecting the public and how to properly interact with police. Their message to the youth was to learn to view law enforcement officers as their friends. The youth were entertained by several new initiates of Gamma Pi who put on a crowd-pleasing hop show that had everyone on the edge of their seat. Overall, it was a great event that put the kids in a positive, energetic mindset for the start of school. You never know who you are providing uplift to. Today's young underprivileged kid could be tomorrow's next Black President.

## Gamma Pi takes Que Kidz to Morgan Howard Football Game

Baltimore, MD. September 24, 2016. It was one of the biggest games of the 2016 HBCU football season: the Morgan State University Bears hosting the Howard University Bison over in Baltimore. Almost like the NFL Ravens and Redskins, this super matchup turned out to be a super outing for 15 young children in one of the most impoverished areas of Prince George's County, thanks to the Brothers of Gamma Pi chapter.

About a dozen members of the chapter's Que Kidz enrichment program took the young men out to what turned out to be their first-ever college football game on September 24 at Morgan's Hughes Stadium. The youths live in the Kentland Community, which is home to many families battling economic and social challenges including high crime. Que Kidz youth meet at the Kentland Community center once a month for fun-oriented learning activities that expose them to such topics as healthy living, exercise, being inquisitive, goal-setting, table manners and even how to tie a necktie. The Que Kidz youth are also taken on periodic field trips in the area to learn and experience cultural activities they otherwise would not get to do. Recent trips have included the King Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and the African American Civil War Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

While at the game, the youths were treated to an evening of good football, excitement and pageantry only found at HBCU football games. The youth got to experience tailgating, cheering with the crowd, rocking to the half-time show and they even got to tour the campus prior to the game, stopping by notable buildings and other historic landmarks on the Baltimore



*Gamma Pi Brothers and Que Kidz at the Morgan Howard game*

campus. In addition, the youth were treated to Morgan State's Omega history through Pi chapter members who greeted them at the game. The entertaining field trip was coordinated by Brother Kevin Greenwood along with other members of the Social Action Committee.

## Nu Omicron QUES School the Kids



*Nu Omicron Brothers giving backpacks to preschoolers from Early Childhood Education Center*

**Queens, NY. September 8, 2016.** The Nu Omicron Chapter combined their School Supply Drive with a Meet & Greet for children and parents of the Nu Omicron Chapter Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) on their first day of school. The Brothers solicited, collected and donated book bags and various schools supplies for the deserving children. The center serves over 75 preschoolers’ from the Jamaica, Queens area of New York City.

The parents and children were surprised by cheers and high-fives from the

waiting men of Omega Psi Phi. The event chairman, Bro. Robert Stevens, Gamma Epsilon ’90, who started the initiative last year, was glad to see it grow in only this its second year.

The Brothers donated and collected enough supplies and bags to last well into the school year. Monetary donations are still being made to the ECEC as a result of the drive according to Stevens. He adds, “I plan to pass this project off to the younger brothers and undergrads of the graduate chapter and I hope it remains a viable project as long as the ECEC exists.”

## Omega Delta Delta Receives Gift of Life Donor Program Award



*Brother Bradley Atkins with volunteer organ donors*

**Philadelphia, PA. On April 19, 2016.** The Omega Delta Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Temple University, received an award from the Gift of Life Donor Program for signing up and registering 32 Temple University students to become organ and tissue donors.

Since 1974, Gift of Life has worked to coordinate life-saving and life-enhancing transplants for those waiting, while supporting the generous donors and their families who have chosen to give others a second chance through organ donation. Gift of Life is a nonprofit organization serving the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.

“Being a part of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is an extraordinary experience

when it comes to giving back to the community,” said Shamir Morgan, Basileus of Omega Delta Delta. “My chapter brothers and I are dedicated to giving back to the community. One of our goals is to be engage in more community service hours per academic year than any other organization on campus. We are committed to giving back to the community, and our partnership with the Gift for Life organization is just a part of our commitment as Omega Men,” said Morgan. “We had a lot of dedicated individuals on campus who wanted to help us make a difference. This allowed us to hit many different groups of students across the campus. We are honored to receive this award.”

## Theta Omicron Brother Larry Pough honored as Founders Stand In

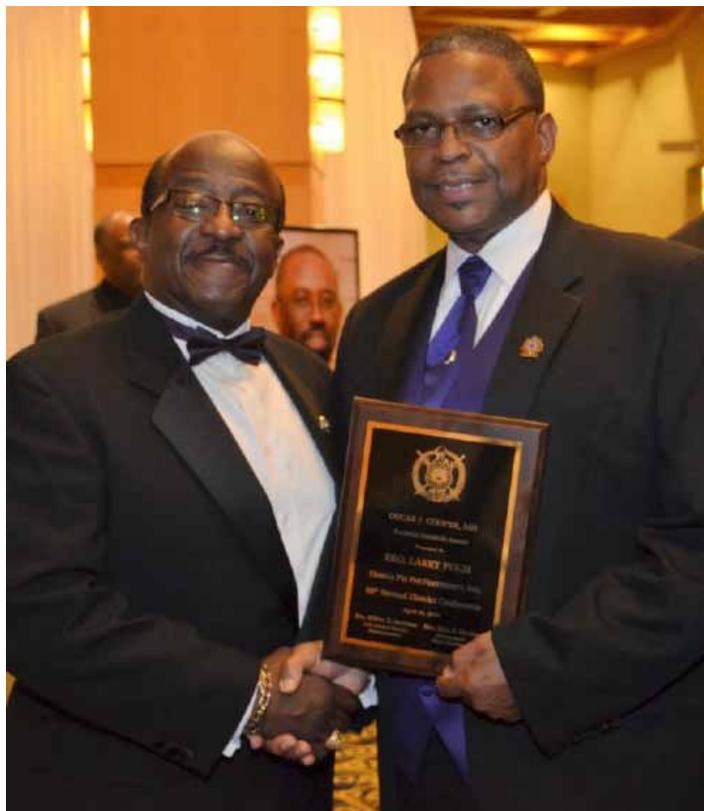
**Rochester, NY. April 30, 2016.** The Second District Family honored four worthy Omega Men as Founders Stand-Ins at their Founder’s Banquet in Bethesda, MD. Brother Larry C. Pough was one of the stellar four and stood in for Founder Oscar J. Cooper. Brother Pough was selected for his outstanding work for Omega, the Second District, Theta Omicron Chapter and the Rochester, NY community.

Larry is a native of Mobile (Prichard), Alabama where he combined academics and athletics in high school to graduate as a top student. Upon graduation, he matriculated at Dillard University where he majored in Chemistry. He was initiated into Omega via the Theta Sigma Chapter in 1970, where his commitment to Omega started and became a life long journey.

Upon graduation, Larry’s professional career guided him to the 3M Corporation in the Rochester and Buffalo region of upstate New York. While advancing in the corporate environment, he contributed significant time and resources to Theta Omicron Chapter. Larry served as Basileus, Vice Basileus, KRS and served on and chaired multiple committees and chapter special events. His focused work and growing professional stature drew the attention of the 20th DR Bro. Dr. Andrew A. Ray who appointed him District Chair of the Talent Hunt. Bro. Pough’s organizational and supervisory talents caused Grand Basileus Warren G. Lee to call him to the International level as Talent Hunt Chair. In that role, he has elevated the Talent Hunt to a Signature Event in Omega.

Bro. Pough’s honor is also rooted in his strong dedication to bringing positive growth in our youth and the broader community. He gives significant time and other resources to mentoring young men and serving as a volunteer in the Public Schools of Rochester. His living the Creed has brought him major recognitions in his profession and in Omega. He has been a four-time selectee as Chapter Omega Man of the Year, twice selected for Chapter Superior Servicer honoree, a two-time District Superior Service honoree and Grand Basileus Service Awards recipient. Bro. Pough has also served as Chapter Mentor to new officers.

Upon receiving the Founders Stand-In Honor, Bro. Pough stated that “Re-



*39th Grand Basileus Andrew Ray with Founders Stand In Brother Larry Pough*

ceiving this high honor energizes me to continue representing this Brotherhood as our Founders intended.”



## Epsilon Pi Adopts Highway 291 in Chester, PA.

**Chester, PA.** The Men of Epsilon Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. under the leadership of Basileus Darron Daniels, participate on a Adopt-a-Highway roadside cleanup community service project located on Highway 291 in Chester, Pa.

This Spring and Summer the Brothers of Epsilon Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. have participated in several community and service projects striving to give back to the community and uplift those that live in the neighborhood.

The original Adopt-a-Highway program began in 1985. Since then, it’s grown into a nationally and internationally recognized litter-prevention effort, saving taxpayers’ dollars and keeping our rights of way clean. Every quarter, brothers from the chapter will be volunteering to keep this tradition alive and work towards creating a safe clean community.

*Epsilon Pi Brothers at Highway 291 Marker*



## Nu Nu 5th Grade Male Mentoring Program



*Bro. Terrance Franklin speaking to the boys*

**Willingboro, NJ. September 2016.** The Brothers of NU NU chapter sponsor a 5th Grade Male Mentoring Program at Twin Hill Elementary School. Each month Bro. Terry Lucas (ME 71) has a different African-American man come to the school and talk to the 5 grade males. The speakers talk about their profession, encourage the young boys to work

hard, believe in themselves, and to do their best in school. We have had doctors, state troopers, teachers, firemen, barbers, engineers talk to the students. We plan to follow these boys, through middle school and in to high school to continue the mentoring process.

## Nu Nu ACS Relay for Life



*Nu Nu Brothers selling raffle tickets at the ACS Relay for Life event*

**Delran, NJ. June 4, 2016.** The Brothers of NU NU chapter, family, and friends supported the Relay for Life of River Towns at the Delran High School with TEAM CURRY. Each year the American Cancer Society has the River Towns event, at Delran High School where participants are urged to donate and walk the track to support the effort.

Nu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. has adopted the name TEAM CURRY in honor of our Brother James "Pete" Curry Omega chapter, who fought a good fight with cancer.

TEAM CURRY is dedicated to helping make a difference in the lives of those who struggle against cancer. TEAM CURRY sponsored a 50/50 raffle in which many teams participated. Nu Nu Chapter sold raffle tickets at the Relay and with the help of other teams raised a total of \$2592.00. There were \$1296.00 in raffles prizes given to 10 people and \$1296.00 given to the American Cancer Society.

## Nu Nu Voter Registration



*Nu Nu Brothers Hayes and Bey at Voter Registration Drive*

**Burlington Twp, NJ. Saturday, October 8, 2016.** The Brothers of NU NU chapter had a Voters Registration Drive at the Shoprite Supermarket between the hours of 10 AM and 3PM. We were able to register new voters and their forms were delivered to the Burlington County Electoral Commission. Also, as part of our Voter Registration Drive, we delivered forms to our community churches.

## Nu Nu Talent Hunt Competition



*Nu Nu Talent Hunt Winners*

**Willingboro, NJ December 19, 2015.** The Brothers of NU NU held their 2016 Talent Hunt Competition at the John F. Kennedy Center. High school students performed vocals, dramatic interpretation, and provided visual art. They were all very talented and their futures look very bright. Cash prizes were awarded to all the winners. The first place winner received \$100 and will represent NU NU at the 2nd District Conference Talent Hunt.

Elonzo Vereen was our first place winner, who performed a profound dramatic interpretation of his own composition. He is a junior at Woodrow

writing.

Taylor Hall was our second place winner with a dramatic interpretation of Kaitlyn McNabbs's Black Girl, Black Girl. She is a junior at Paul VI High School. Taylors's hobbies are writing poems and stories, reciting in front of people, throwing shot put, reading, and math.

Nirun Kumaresan was our third place winner with a dramatic interpretation. He is a sophomore at Timber Creek High School. Nirun's hobbies are movies, video games, music, and reading.

## Nu Nu Burlington City Cleanup



*Burlington residents assisting at the Clean Up*



*Nu Nu Founder Melvin Thomas and Brother Bentley Ritter at the Clean Up*

**Burlington City, NJ. Saturday April 23, 2016.** The Brothers of NU NU chapter and Omega Community Development, Inc. supported the Burlington City Clean Community Day, between the hours of 8:45a.m - 12:00 p.m. This project allows city residents, community groups, and civic organizations to Work together, Build relationships, and Take PRIDE in their [www.opp2d.org](http://www.opp2d.org)

respective neighborhoods.

The City of Burlington uses funding from a grant to provide a \$300.00 stipend. They cleaned the Clarkson & York Street Playground, Clarkson St, and the Clarkson St. Lot. They cut the grass, raked the leaves, and removed all debris.

# Nu Nu Thomas Mayfield Scholarship Breakfast



*Nu Nu Scholarship recipients with Brother Emmitt Smith*

**Cherry Hill, NJ June 11, 2016.** The Brothers of NU NU held their 2016 Bro. Thomas H. Mayfield Scholarship Breakfast at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The scholarship breakfast is named after Bro. Mayfield a Tuskegee Airmen, Zeta Sigma 1947, Omega Chapter. The breakfast is to honor the Nu Nu recipients of our scholarship. This year we had 6 winners. Each year there is a rigorous application process, we choose the outstanding students with the highest grades and the best essay. These students exemplify the high levels of achievement expected to win. Bro. Jeffery T. Smith, the past 29th Eight District Representative, gave a stirring speech to the scholarship recipients on “return on Investment, commitment to the task at hand, and courage of convictions”.He is also

elaborated on, “Good is the enemy of Great” and we want to see great things out of our scholarship recipients. The Scholarship recipients are:Zavian C. Bell a graduate of Willingboro High School, Willingboro, NJ. Rachel N. Brown a graduate of Moorestown Friends School, Moorestown, NJ. Kamryn A. Gaskin a graduate of Moorestown High School, Moorestown, NJ. Walter R. Howard a graduate of Burlington Township High School, Burlington, NJ. Austin T. Riddick a graduate of Rancocas Valley Regional High School, Mount Holly, NJ. and Gregory M. Vertilus a graduate of Willingboro High School, Willingboro, NJ

## Nu Nu Blood Drive



*Bro. LaVaughn Billings giving blood*

**Willingboro, NJ. Saturday April 9, 2016.** The Brothers of NU NU chapter, partnering with our sisters of Delta Sigma Theta hosted an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Delaware Valley Baptist Church. Each year in conjunction with DST, NU NU supports the American Red Cross and recruits donors to give blood. We had 44 donors who volunteered and 37 were accepted. This is an important activity, donating blood, supporting our community, and saving lives.

## Nu Nu Memorial Service



*NU NU Brother at the Memorial Service*

**Burlington, NJ. March 13, 2016.** The Brothers of NU NU Chapter held their Memorial Service at the Tabernacle Baptist Church. The theme was “Brothers United together Under God”. Brother Rev. Ronald Slaughter gave a moving sermon on this year’s theme. Nu Nu chapter served dinner to the members and guests at the end of the service.

# Nu Nu OCDI Mayfield Scholarship Golf Tournament



*Nu Nu Golf Tournament Participants*

**Mt. Laurel, NJ, Saturday, October 1, 2016.** The Brothers of NU NU Chapter in conjunction with the Omega Community Development Center held the 8th Annual Lt. Col Thomas H. Mayfield Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Ramblewood Country Club. Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Lt. Col Thomas H. Mayfield Scholarship fund. The goal of

this event is to encourage and support our area high school graduates by providing them with scholarships. This is a major initiative of O.C.D.I. to support young adults in their pursuit of knowledge, excellence and achievement. The contests included Longest Drive Contest, Pot of Gold Contest, and Closest to the Pin.

# Nu Nu Chapter Retreat



*Bros. Greg Ackles and Ed Harper leading sessions at the Nu Nu Chapter Retreat*

**Willingboro, NJ, Saturday, August 20, 2016.** The Brothers of NU NU chapter held our annual Chapter retreat from 9AM to 3PM. The goal of the Chapter retreat is to strengthen and fortify the actions and executions of NU NU Chapter. We discussed Brother to Brother responsibility, encouragement of Young Brothers, NU NU Signature Programs, Breaking

Down Barriers, Issues with Brothers, Community Participation, District Participation, Chapter meetings, Committees and Structure, and brainstorming on how we can better serve Omega Psi Phi. The committee members are Bro. Mamon Bey, Bro. Ed Harper, Bro. Greg Ackles, Bro. Jimmy Mock, and Bro. Sylvester Wilkins

## Nu Upsilon Talent Hunt



*Nu Upsilon Talent Hunt Participants*

**Wilmington, DE. March 5, 2016.** Nu Upsilon hosted their 2016 Talent Hunt Competition at William Penn High School in New Castle, DE, the stage became the canvas on which 7 high school students “painted” their artistic skills. There were two vocalists, two pianists, two dancers, and one dramatic interpretation. Even though the talent was few in number, the quality was of the highest that we have seen over the past five years. The two pianists played classical pieces by Debussy and Rachmaninoff; one of the vocalists sang a pop tune and the other sang a Negro Spiritual; both dancers performed contemporary modern dances to popular tunes; and the drama piece was a monologue by D. M. Larson. Tantamount to the outstanding displays of student artistry was the extraordinary performances by the 17th Delaware Poets Laureate – the Twin Poets, who were bestowed this honor in December 2015, and have been

declared the first duo to hold this esteemed position by any state or United States poets laureate. The Twin Poets are social workers and education advocates in their daily lives. As the emcees for the Talent Hunt, they took every opportunity to espouse the importance of supporting our young people.

When the last performance was complete and the panel of judges (including the musical director for Kem, bassist Al Turner), made its final evaluations of the young people’s presentations, the winner was Ms. Celine Coverdale, a lyric soprano and senior at the Cab Calloway School of the Arts in Wilmington, DE. She belted a riveting rendition of the Negro spiritual – Lord, How Come Me Here?

Again, our young people rose to the occasion and performed as true professional! Kudos to them all!

## Nu Upsilon Uplift the Hungry

**Wilmington, DE. October 9, 2016.** Over the years, Social Actions has been a key focus of the programmatic agenda of the Nu Upsilon Chapter. Our programs have included Toys for Tots/Breakfast with Santa during the Christmas season, scholarship, clothes drives, Read-a-Thon for elementary students, and our family-centered project, Feeding the Homeless. Unfortunately, homelessness continues to be a major social ill in our country, to include practically every community that exists. On Sunday, October 9, 2016, the brothers of Nu Upsilon again answered the call to provide a nutritious meal for the residents and community of the Sunday Breakfast Mission, a non-profit organization which has been in existence for 123 years, and its services include offering shelter for men, women and children; providing nutritious meals for the indigent of the surrounding communities; spiritual uplift; basic medical services; career and life skills training; and preparation for success in the workplace and re-entry into the greater community. There were 19 brothers, family members and friends in attendance to serve the food and drinks, as well as to assist with setting up, taking down, washing dishes/pans, and general clean up. The menu consisted of purchased roast beef, corn, green beans, carrots, and chicken, all purchased by the chapter and prepared by the Mission staff! The final tally includes 25 male residents, 23 women, 9 children, and 142 men from the community for a total of 199! The efforts by the brothers of Nu Upsilon clearly demonstrate their understanding of what is meant by our 4th Cardinal Principle – UPLIFT!!!!



*Nu Upsilon at the Sunday Breakfast Mission*

## Nu Upsilon 65th Anniversary Celebration



*Nu Upsilon Brother at the 65th Anniversary Celebration*

**Wilmington, DE . May 21, 2016.** Nu Upsilon Chapter celebrated its 65th Anniversary! The chapter was chartered on May 19, 1951, in Wilmington, DE under the leadership of our 20th Grand Basileus Milo C. Murray and our 2nd Second District Representative George Meares. The brains behind this new charter were 12 men of Omega who had become brothers during their undergraduate years and wanted to continue to demonstrate the principles – Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, & Uplift - of the fraternity through service to the community and brotherhood. Fortunately, we still have one of our chapter founders, Bro. Lorin P. Hunt (Beta, 1937). Under the leadership of Bro. Hasan Abdul Azziz (Epsilon Pi, 1982), our 65th Anniversary Gala was a great event, focused on celebrating the chapter's history and brothers who had exemplified the best in leadership from our chapter. The meal was an exquisite combination of baked salmon and chicken, green beans and mashed potatoes, accompanied with all of the

finest of amenities.

During the program portion of the celebration, our surviving founder Bro. Lorin P. Hunt, Esq. was honored for his foresight in the development of the chapter. Bro. Theodore Greer, 14th Second District Representative, was honored for his leadership, along with Bros. Carlton Lampkins, Derrick Lowery, and Gregory School, all of whom served in leadership positions in the Second District. Additionally, Bro. Gregory Ackles, Sr., 29th Second District Representative, delivered the keynote message around brotherhood, friendship, and the importance of community service.

The Brothers of Nu Upsilon are proud of their accomplishments in the areas of civil rights, education, scholarship, and community service and look forward to continuing to provide uplift and leadership in their communities.

## Nu Upsilon Scholarships

**Wilmington, DE –September 2016** In a time when young Black men are being subjected to police brutality and shootings/killings, there are some who are fortunate enough to escape the madness to move their lives in a forward direction. Nu Upsilon is grateful to have the opportunity to provide financial assistance through its scholarship program to deserving young people who submit an application, along with a host of supporting documents that include an essay, letters of recommendations, and a listing of community service activities. For the Class of 2016, there were 8 applicants who submitted all required documents in a timely manner, and all

granted an interview as a part of the process. After awarding point for each component of the process and scoring essays against a rubric, each of the 8 applicants received a scholarship ranging from \$500 - \$2500, depending on their standing in the point summary. The total awarded was \$9000, an all-time high for the chapter. The scholars will be attending some of the most reputable colleges/universities in the U.S. such as Morehouse College and Howard University. I wonder why this “news” will not be featured on the TV!?! Good Luck to our young scholars!

# Pi Omega Represents Well at the 68th Second District Conference



*Pi Omega Brothers with Awards at the 68th 2nd District Conference*

**Baltimore, MD. May 2016.** At the 68th Second District Conference Pi Omega Chapter, Graduate Chapter of Baltimore City, and its members' were the recipients of several awards during the Founders Banquet. Pi Omega Chapter received large Social Action Chapter of the Year for the third consecutive year. Pi Omega Basileus, C. Donald Bowser, Jr. received

the 2nd District Large Chapter Basileus of the Year Award and Corridor 1 Deputy District Representative Eric "Moby" Brown received the Second District Superior Service Award. Zanes Cypress, Jr, District Director of Public Relations was the Life Membership Luncheon Keynote Speaker and received a gift, Life Membership Bomber Jacket.



## Pi Omega Then, Pi Omega Now Pi Omega Forever ! Charm City Ques

### Pi Omega's Eric "Moby" Brown Second District Superior Service Award Recipient

**Baltimore, MD. July 2016.** Pi Omega Chapter's Eric "Moby" Brown was awarded the Second District Superior Service Award at the 68th Second District Conference. He is a Life member of Omega Psi Phi and has been financial with Pi Omega Chapter for over 15 years. He has served as Pi Omega Vice Basileus 2010-11 and Chair of the MSU Homecoming Tent Committee from 2010-2013. He currently serves as Deputy Corridor Representative for Corridor 1, Senior Copy Editor for The Omegan "Voice of the Second District" and Que Train Committee Member. As Deputy Corridor Representative for Corridor 1, he serves at the pleasure of the Corridor 1 representative and organizes Corridor 1 meetings, MSP informational activities, informs and communicates information on the ground directly at the request of the District Representative. As Senior Copy Editor to The Omegan "Voice of the Second District", he reviews articles, photos submissions and proof reads editions of "The Omegan" publication prior to distribution and printing. He also proof reads the submissions to be sent to the Oracle from the 2nd District Director of Publication (Oracle Staff) National Level participation. As Que train committee member, he was highly active in the planning and implementation of this inaugural event that was enjoyed by all in attendance. He is also a Board member of the Omega Baltimore Foundation, which manages and operates the Easterwood Recreation Center, where he volunteers at the center at least twice per week, mentoring to area youth.



*Brother Eric "Moby" Brown*

## Pi Omega International Social Action Chapter of the Year Third Consecutive Year



*Pi Omega Basileus, Ron Williams, receiving International Social Action Chapter of the Year Award at the 80th Grand Conclave Founders Banquet*

**Las Vegas, NV. July 21-28, 2016** .At the 80th Grand Conclave of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. held July 21-28, 2016 in Las Vegas, NV, what could not stay in Vegas is the fact that Pi Omega Chapter, Graduate Chapter of Baltimore, MD was once again recognized for its service. On Wednesday July 27th Pi Omega Chapter was recognized as the Fraternity’s 2014-2015 International Social Action Chapter of the Year (Large Chapter, 50+ Members). The Social Action Chapter of the Year is presented to the chapter that best implements the Fraternity’s mandated programs and provides significant community based programs to the local area and beyond. Pi Omega was selected from entries from the twelve districts of the Fraternity, after being selected in the same category for the Second District Social Action Chapter of the Year in April of this year. The Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity covers the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. Pi Omega has won this award at the district level 5 times. This is the chapter’s third consecutive International Social Action chapter award.

Pi Omega continued to have a busy and active year to achieve this award.

In addition to completing seven mandated programs of the fraternity, including college scholarships, high school Talent Hunt competition, and supporting historical Black colleges and universities, and conducting all eight special emphasis programs such as health initiatives, mentoring, blood donation, and domestic violence, Pi Omega completed over 200 community based programs and projects from November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2015. Pi Omega also conducted projects under the “Omega Healing Baltimore” initiative. This initiative was in response to the Freddy Gray riots that occurred in April of 2015. The initiative had fraternity support at the District and International levels by way of a \$20,000.00 grant to fund projects at Center for Urban Families, the Coppin Heights Community, and others. Working under the theme of

“We are our brothers keepers”, the programs encompassed projects that: clothed the naked, fed the hungry, assisted in putting a roof over someone’s head, and attended to the sick and afflicted. The projects impacted the youth, elderly, disabled, and a cross-section of race and cultures. The projects also had a geographic sphere that encompassed international, national, state and local communities. An international award for international activities.

Under the direction of C. Donald Bowser, Jr., Basileus of Pi Omega Chapter, Dwayne White and John Berkley, Social Action Chairman and Co-chairman respectively, continued to engage the members in a variety of activities that fit in with the strengths of the chapter. All members of the chapter were involved in the activities at some point during the year, truly making this a chapter award. The Pi Omega Que-ettes were also a great help to the chapter during this time. The true winners from this award are the hundreds of people locally, nationally, and internationally, who benefited from the services and programs offered by the chapter and Omega men throughout the world. Well done is truly better than well said



*Pi Omega Brothers at the 80th Grand Conclave*

## Pi Omega Labor Day & 4th of July Feeding the Homeless



*Pi Omega Brothers Feeding the Homeless at Saint Vincent de Paul Church*

**Baltimore, MD. September 5, 2016.** On September 5, 2016, Brothers from Pi Omega participated in the 3rd annual Labor Day Feeding and Clothing Giveaway. The brothers bought 30 chicken sandwiches and 30 cheeseburgers from Burger King. They also purchased 60 tacos from Taco Bell. The brothers provided bottle water, fruit drinks, chips, blankets, tennis shoes, two 42 gallon trash bags filled with clean clothes, and 2 large boxes full of toiletries. 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.

Saint Vincent de Paul Parish is administrated by the Congregation of the Mission – Western Province, also known as the Vincentian priests and brothers. The Vincentians were founded by Saint Vincent de Paul in 1625 and have served in the Lincoln Park neighborhood since 1875.

**Baltimore, MD. July 4, 2016.** On Monday, July 4, 2016, the Brothers of Pi Omega participated in the 4th of July Homeless Feeding and clothing giveaway. The Brothers fed 50 homeless individuals hotdogs. Bags of chip, crackers, and 2 cases of water were given away. One 42 gallon bag of clothing pertaining women, men, and children clothing was donated.

## Pi Omega Self Defense Class at Zeta’s Archonette End of Year Retreat



*Brother Lamonte Tyler teaching Self defense to Archonettes*

**Baltimore, MD. June 26, 2016.** On June 25, 2016, Brother Lamonte Tyler of Pi Omega was asked to teach a Women’s Self-Defense Clinic to the Archonettes of Tau Eta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. The Tau Eta Zeta Archonette Club participates in numerous cultural, educational, service and social activities.

The Archonette Club provides activities which offer opportunities to:  
 Encourage the individual to accept responsibility., Develop new interests,  
 .Work toward creating happiness for others, Develop an awareness of the need to share responsibilities and to understand one another in order to

achieve a common goal., Broaden the life of the participant by providing chances to make responsible decisions, develop social confidence and relate to peers, parents, and adults in general.

The first clubs were formed in the 1940’s under the names of Zetalites, Lullelia Phis, and IZ’s. These clubs were composed of young ladies between the ages 14-18 who are matriculating in senior high schools. In 1963, Houston’s Lambda Zeta Chapter organized a teenage group called the Archonettes.

# Pi Omega's 40 Year Service Award Recipients at 80th Grand Conclave



*l-r Pi Omega Brothers J. Michael Breedon, Gary Rodwell, Ronald Thompson, District Representative Sherman Charles, Charles Elliott and Zanes Cypress, Jr. receiving 40 year Service Awards at the 80th Grand Conclave*

## Pi Omega Partner for PARK(ing) Day

**Baltimore, MD. September 16, 2016.** On September 16, 2016, Brothers from Pi Omega Chapter partnered with other community organizations (Mahan Rykiel, MICA, Gensler, Ziger/Snead, Parks & People, Morgan State University, MTA, and the Baltimore Office of Sustainability) and participated in PARK(ing) Day. The brothers assisted with the setup and the cleanup. This event took place in the parking lot of Mondawmin Mall, 2401 Liberty Heights Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. The cost to the chapter was zero.

PARK(ing) Day is an annual worldwide event where artists, designers, and citizens transform metered parking spots into temporary public parks. The project began in 2005 when Rebar, a San Francisco art, and design studio, converted a single metered parking space into a temporary public park in downtown San Francisco. Since 2005, PARK(ing) Day has evolved into a global movement, with organizations and individuals (operating independently of Rebar but following an established set of guidelines) creating new forms of temporary public space in urban contexts around the world

## Pi Omega Participate at Katina's Pink Affair

**Baltimore, MD. August 22, 2016.** On Sunday, August 7, 2016, the Brothers of Pi Omega participated and hosted Katina's Pink Affair. The event was a fundraiser to bring awareness to breast cancer. A portion of the proceeds was donated to Katina to help offset the cost of medical bills and another portion was donated to research. Brothers of Pi Omega provided the entertainment and photography as well as assisted with the setup. The cost to the chapter was zero.

Breast cancer is cancer that develops from breast tissue. Signs of breast cancer may include a lump in the breast, a change in breast shape, dimpling of the skin, fluid coming from the nipple, or a red scaly patch of skin. In those with distant spread of the disease, there may be bone pain, swollen lymph nodes, shortness of breath, or yellow skin.

Risk factors for developing breast cancer include female sex, obesity, lack of physical exercise, drinking alcohol, hormone replacement therapy during menopause, ionizing radiation, early age at first menstruation, having children late or not at all, older age, and family history. About 5–10% of cases are due to genes inherited from a person's parents, including BRCA1 and BRCA2 among others. Breast cancer most commonly develops in cells from the lining of milk ducts and the lobules that supply the ducts with milk.



*Participants at the Katina's Pink Affair*

## Second District Donates Books to Bridge of Books Foundation and Somerset County Library System- Bridgewater Branch



*Brother Dwayne White deliver books to the Book of Bridges Foundation*

**Somerset, NJ September, 2016.** Continuing the directive of making an impact where we have District related meetings, the Assault on Illiteracy Committee and the Social Action Committee combined efforts to do just that. On September 9, 2016, prior to the start of the 2016 Shirtsleeve Conference in Somerset, New Jersey, the committees delivered 2,300 books to organizations in New York and New Jersey. The recipients of the books were:

The Bridge of Books Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, all- volunteer organization, whose mission is to provide an ongoing source of books to underserved children throughout New Jersey in order to support the development of literacy skills and to encourage a love of reading. The Second District donated 600 children’s books to Bridge of Books Foundation. The Bridgewater Library is a part of the Somerset County Library System (SCLS). SCLS has a rich history over 90+ years of serving its member communities. The SCLS mission is to collaborate with its customers to

connect, to explore to, share and discover. SCLS believes the library is a place in the heart of the community where the exchange of information and ideas can flourish, a cornerstone of a livable community. The Second District donated 500 children’s books to the Somerset County Library System – Bridgewater Branch.

Reading Reflections believes books are priceless in their ability to help foster knowledge and education. For some, however, the ability to acquire these precious resources is limited due to less fortunate economic circumstances. Reading Reflections does their part to remedy the deficiency by helping to ensure that thousands of books are place in the hands of eager youngsters. The Second District donated 1,200 children’s books to Reading Reflections.

The Assault on Illiteracy Committee and the Social Action Committee thanks the brothers of Pi Omega Chapter for providing the books that made these donations possible.

## Scenes from Pi Omega 2016 Health and Wellness Festival



## Pi Omega 2016 Health and Wellness Festival



*Pi Omega Chapter at the Health and Wellness Festival*

**Baltimore, MD. June 18, 2016.** The Brothers of Pi Omega Chapter held its 7th Annual Staying Alive Health Festival. This event is Pi Omega Chapter's effort to conduct Omega's mandated Fatherhood Initiative program leading up to the Fathers' Day Weekend, and draw attention to other health initiatives of concern to the fraternity. By providing free health screenings, seminars, neighborhood education and safety awareness to African American Men, the chapter is showing men the importance of maintaining good health in order to care for their families. West Baltimore, where Pi Omega's Fraternity Center is located, is one of the most impoverished neighborhoods of Baltimore City, where most men do not have access to adequate health care or insurance to cover the expense of early detection health screenings.

This event helps this population of men stay alive by providing Free Prostate Cancer, Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Diabetes, and Osteoporosis Screenings. Free HIV/Aids and STD information and testing were also provided. Dentist and Pharmacist were on site to answer any questions

and provide valued information to the participants. Information on Substance Abuse and Treatment, Tobacco Prevention and Use was also available.

Free Prostate Cancer Screenings were provided by the title sponsor, Chesapeake Urology's Zero Prostate Cancer Challenge. The first 100 men screened for prostate cancer received a free box of groceries from Pi Omega Chapter. Other services were provided for the women and children who escorted the men to the festival. For women, Maternal and Child Care, Susan B. Komen Breast Health Care Basics, and Healthy Teens / Young Adults Pregnancy information was available. For the children several games were provided that required them to be actively involved to participate. This was done to show them how much fun can be had by playing outside rather than play inside. Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. provided books for the children for summer reading and conducted voter registration



*University of Maryland Prostate Cancer Mobile Lab at Pi Omega Health and Wellness Festival*

# Omega Baltimore Host “A Day of Hope”



*A Day of Hope at Easterwood Park hosted by Omega Baltimore*

**Baltimore, MD. August 20, 2016.** Omega Baltimore Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization affiliated with Pi Omega Chapter, hosted A Day of Hope on August 20, 2016 at the Easterwood Recreation Center. Over 1500 community residents, our Guest of Honor, were provided job opportunities, food and groceries, health care and information, and spiritual uplift. Filled backpacks were distributed to school aged kids. A Day of Hope is sponsored by Somebody Cares Baltimore, Mercy Kitchens, Baltimore City Police Department, Local Churches and Community Organizations, such as Omega Baltimore Foundation and Power 52. Omega Baltimore Foundation manages and operates Easterwood Recreation Center in the heart of West Baltimore, the same area as the Freddie Grey unrest. A Day of Hope is a one-day special community event designed to meet both human and spiritual needs of residents. The heartbeat of the Day of Hope comes from our generous volunteers as they serve and connect with residents, making a lasting impression on all who participate. We are a conglomeration of people who were either born, live/lived, love, or work in Baltimore and remain committed with a vested interest in its successful revitalization. Together, we are vested in shoring up the sustainability of the community. Our concept can be adopted by other communities where

residents want a healthy, physically, and spiritually rich environment for themselves and their families. Power 52, a company founded by Rob D. Wallace and Brother Ray Lewis, was a prime sponsor. Power52 finds locations in the city and trains its community members to construct solar farms that feed power directly back to the community at deeply discounted rates. This creates affordable power, job training and employment opportunities. Its mission is to provide affordable Clean Renewable Energy Savings through creating programs for national power companies and utilities to specifically benefit low-income families. The Power52 program provides job training in the renewable /energy sector, college scholarships and other resources to low income communities to help better their socio-economic status in those areas. Omega Baltimore Foundation, Inc. (Omega Baltimore) has a public private partnership with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks to manage and operate the Easterwood Recreation Center. This was in conjunction with Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake’s plan to enlist community organizations to be responsible for programming city previously closed recreation centers. Omega Baltimore is Everyday Philanthropy and Daily Social Action, Omega Baltimore is Omega at its Best!



*Police Chief Melvin Russell with Brother Ray Lewis address, Community Residents, our “Guest of Honor”*

# Omega Baltimore Host “A Day of Hope”



# Omega Baltimore Host “A Day of Hope”



# Omega Baltimore Host “A Day of Hope”



## Pi Omega Self Defense Class GI 4 GI



*Brother Lamonte Tyler teaching at GI 4 GI*

**Raleigh, NC. May 12, 2016.** On May 7, 2016, Brother Lamonte Tyler of Pi Omega was asked to teach a 2 hour session in Gi's 4 GI's. Gi's 4 GI's charity was founded in 2015 by Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Brown Belt, Brian Crandell, in North Carolina, USA. As the name suggests, this one of a kind charity is dedicated to providing Active Duty Military, Veterans and First Responders, worldwide, with Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) uniforms so that they can continue to train while far from home. With each Gi given away, Gi's 4 GI's hopes not only to help the recipients continue to train to protect our way of life, but to grow the BJJ community by providing those serving, and whom have served, with the resources to find a great place to train upon their safe return home.

## Pi Omega Habitat for Humanity

**Baltimore, MD. September 12, 2016.** On September 11, 2016, Brothers from Pi Omega participated in Habitat for Humanity Home Build which is a twenty-five housing restoration project anticipated to be completed in five years. Brothers participated in the rock removal, carrying of 2x12 boards which were used to restore the roof of one out of two homes that were worked on. The location for this event was in the Woodbourne-McCabe neighborhood, Baltimore, MD 21212.

Brothers from Pi Omega chapter partnered with Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Beta Theta Pi, The National Society for Collegiate Scholars, Pershing Rifles, and The Collegiate 100.

At Habitat for Humanity, they build. They build because they believe that everyone, everywhere, should have a healthy, affordable place to call home. More than building homes, they build communities, they build hope, and they build the opportunity for families to help themselves.

*Brother Lamonte Tyler at Habitat for Humanity*

## Pi Omega Greater St John Full Gospel Book Donation



*Brother Lamonte Tyler delivering Book Donation to Church*

**Baltimore, MD. October 13, 2016.** On October 12, 2016, Greater St. John's Full Gospel Church, located at 1806 N Patterson Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213, asked for book donations. The Brothers of Pi Omega donated 200 pre-school and middle school books. Their goal is to supply books for local orphanages throughout Baltimore City. The cost to the chapter was zero.



# When We Wear the Gloves Manhood.....laid low



## Brother Jean-Marie Sylla - Omega Chapter



**College Park, MD. September 30, 2016.** After several months of illness, Bro. Jean-Marie Sylla, Jr., Esquire, answered God’s call and transitioned to his heavenly home in OMEGA Chapter on September 30, 2016. A native New Yorker, Bro. Sylla was born on October 10, 1968, to the late Jean-Marie Sylla, Sr. and Mary Delia Sylla. Bro. Sylla was a proud alumnus of the University of Maryland at College Park where he earned a

Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Business Administration. He obtained a Juris Doctorate from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, and then a Master of Laws in Insurance from the University of Connecticut School of Law. An accomplished litigation attorney and a “Super Lawyer,” Bro. Sylla was a founding member of the successful D.C.-based civil litigation firm of Taylor, Sylla & Agin LLP. Bro. Sylla represented business entities in a wide range of insurance, commercial, business and real estate litigation disputes in D.C., Maryland and Virginia. Deeply involved in his community and a leader in his profession, Bro.

Sylla was a long-time, dedicated member of the National Bar Association (NBA), including most recently serving as General Counsel from 2015-2016, a former member of the NBA Board of Directors, an Executive Member of its Commercial Law Section, and former Chair of the Small Business Division. Bro. Sylla was also an active member and 2015 Diversity Fellow of the American Bar Association’s Solo, Small Firm, and General Practice Division. Bro. Sylla was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Chi Delta Chapter, at the University of Maryland at College Park on May 14, 1991. He was on the Spring 1991 line entitled “8 All Guts No Glory.” Bro. Sylla held several positions and worked on various committees for the Chi Delta Chapter, including serving as Keeper of Peace; member of the Achievement Week, Talent Hunt, Social Action, Fundraising, and Scholarship Committees; contributor to the Chi Delta Chronicles Newspaper; and, co-chairman (Assistant Dean of Pledges) of the Membership Selection Committee. Bro. Sylla was also a financial member of the Kappa Psi Chapter in Washington D.C., where he participated in and supported many of their activities. In 2015, Bro. Sylla was hired by the International Headquarters of the Fraternity to assist with tort litigation and understanding risk. He provided indispensable advice to the Office of the Grand Counselor and International Headquarters staff in processing legal claims; including helping develop a first-of-its-kind claims database. He was credited with providing sound advice and counsel and often going above and beyond. Bro. Sylla was preceded in death by his infant daughter Brielle Sylla. He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving and devoted mother, Mary Delia Sylla; the “love of his life,” Lisa M. Hathaway; daughter Joelle-Rena Anite Sylla and son Jean-Marie Sylla, III; aunts Alison Mayas and Marie Anite Mayas; uncles Jean-Marie Mayas and George Lesperance; and, numerous cousins and a host of relatives and friends, including his beloved Brothers of the Chi Delta Chapter.

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

# Omega Brand Statement

### 25-Word (Elevator) Positioning Statement:

OPPF is a historically Black fraternal organization that provides and promotes programs of social-, cultural- and economic uplift to the communities we serve. For over a century, we have recruited, trained and deployed men of color for leadership roles in service to humanity.

### 50-Word Positioning Statement:

Our social action programs touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of families and individuals each year. Whether our efforts result in entertaining an audience, educating a group of young people; or simply helping those in need, we have developed a reputation for delivering programs and projects that make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

### 100+ Word Positioning Statement:

A partial list of social action initiatives includes: scholarships for deserving students, mentoring programs for disadvantaged youth, leadership development and training in partnership with GE, health and wellness prevention through partnerships with State Farm and American Cancer Society.

If your company is looking to move from “success” to “significance” as a corporate neighbor, let’s have a conversation! Our aim is to make you feel welcome, respected and well served!

# When We Wear the Gloves

## Manhood.....laid low



### Brother Ermon Jones - Omega Chapter 6th Second District Representative

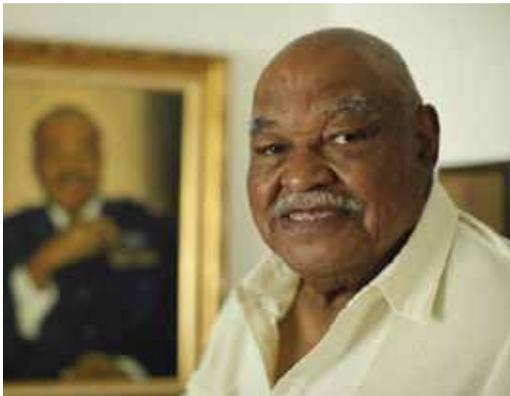
**Neptune, NJ. May 2016.** Neptune native and civil rights activist Brother Ermon K. Jones, 92, transitioned to Omega Chapter on May 7, 2016. He was the 6th Second District Representative of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Initiated at Pi Chapter, while attending Morgan State College, he was a member for 68 years. Graduating from Neptune High, NJ. in 1943, where he was the first black basketball player to start for the school, Brother Jones served in the Armed Forces, attended Monmouth University, and received a BS degree from Morgan State University, and a Master's degree from Columbia University. In 1951 he started his career at Fort Monmouth as an engineer, and retired in 1985 after fifteen years as head of the Fort's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity for over 5000 civilian and military personnel. Having had a distinguished record of community activism in education, housing and employment, most notably, he successfully won a New Jersey Supreme Court landmark housing bias decision (Jones v. Haridor Realty) that



6th Second District Representative

provided homeownership opportunities for blacks throughout New Jersey. Brother Ermon Jones was a life member of the NAACP and former president of the local branch; former member of the Neptune Township Planning Board, the Housing Authority, and the Jersey Shore Hospital Community Advisory Board. He served as Chairman of Trustee Board of Second Baptist Church for 30 years. Inducted into the Neptune High School Hall of Fame in 2010, he recently received the Trailblazer Award from the Mayor of Neptune, NJ. for paving the way for others. Neptune Township proclaimed October 20, 2012 as Ermon K. Jones Day in recognition of his lifetime of outstanding community service. Brother Jones was predeceased by his wife of 66 years, Blanche H. Jones, and son-in-law, Otha E. Williams. Ermon leaves to cherish his memories his loving daughters, Dr. Geneva J. Williams of Detroit, and Janel J. Jones, of Neptune.

### Brother Cravane Givens - Omega Chapter



**Buffalo, New York.** Brother Cravane Givens entered Omega Chapter on July 22, 2016. He was initiated at Mu Psi chapter at North Carolina A&T on February 27, 1952. He graduated Cum Laude in 1954 after completing an All American football career which he led his team to the National Black College football championship in 1951. Upon his graduation he was commissioned to the rank of Second Lieutenant in the USAF Reserves. Perhaps more important than his scholastic, athletic, military, and community accomplishments, Givens was a devoted family man. Married to Rhudine Giles Givens for more than 60 years. Cravane had a decorated military career as a US pilot earning honors in Korea, and Vietnam including more than 500 combat hours. After more than 20 years of service he retired in 1974 from the Air Force. Cravane retired from the military but started an active community service career which included being the assistant director of residence life for Buffalo State College.

### Brother William A. Bulow Omega Chapter



**Buffalo, New York** Brother William Bulow entered Omega Chapter on August 27, 2016. He was initiated at Tau Psi chapter at North Carolina Central University in 1952. He graduated in 1954 and then enlisted in the United States Army in which he met Rose Wells, and later married from that union Brian Bulow was born. Brother Bulow was honorably discharged in 1962. In 1962 Brother Bulow moved to Buffalo, New York where he met and married Mazell Alexander Dennis in 1968 September 12, 1968 Brother Bulow was appointed as Director of Affirmative Action for the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority and later became its Manager of Operations where he served until his retirement in 1991. In 1992 Brother Bulow started a sign Business Bulow & Associates with two other Partners

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

# When We Wear the Gloves

Manhood.....laid low



## Brother Joseph Leo Woods, Sr. - Omega Chapter

**Pittsburgh, PA** On September 20, 2015, Bro. Joseph “Leo” Woods transitioned into Omega Chapter. He was 98 years of age and served Omega Psi Phi for 77 years since his induction in 1938. His life and character were an inspiration of fulfilling our Cardinal principles. This is his story. For this reason, he remains with us. Bro. Woods was born on April 19, 1917 in Pittsburgh, Pa. As the eldest of five children born to Jess and Beatrice Sanders Woods, he resided with his family on Treesdale Farms in Mars, Pa. This was where he developed a passion for gardening and lawn care as well as the arts of cooking and lifelong gift of hospitality which flowed in his daily demeanor. Leo, as he was affectionately called, graduated from Mars High school in 1936 where he played football and ran track. He enrolled in Virginia State University. Having made his journey into the fraternity twice due to financial strains, Brother Woods was inducted into the fraternity at Nu Psi in 1938. He was also in Virginia State’s Speech Choir where he perfected his iconic speaking skill. His speech since commanded attention and respect from others present. In 1940, he earned a BA in Physical Education from Virginia State. Bro. Woods served in the Army during World War II where he was the PT trainer for the Tuskegee Airmen. While in the service, he met Viola Ramona Strachan in Miami, Florida. They were married in 1944 and had four children during 63 years of marriage. In 1946, he began his professional career teaching at Herron Hill Junior High School until 1964. He was one of the first black teachers in the Pittsburgh Board of Education. This experience made him keenly aware of the “perils of urban life and the plight of its poverty stricken residents”. He demonstrated Manhood and Scholarship through a moral sense of fairness with his students who have held him in high esteem throughout the years. During those years, he was a Boy Scout Leader taking his students to campsites. He also joined “The Friends of the Mentally Retarded” in the 1950s where for 4 years he taught adults who were severely affected by Downs Syndrome to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, to tie their shoes, and to even speak for the first time. This effort represented his commitment to live our four Cardinal Principles. From 1964-1968, Bro. Woods taught at Schenley High School in Pittsburgh where he coached the track team and served as a football coach. He was Director of the Opportunities School in 1969-1970 on the city’s North Side. Brother Woods received his Masters of Administration in Education from the University of Pittsburgh in 1976. From 1970-1979, Bro. Woods completed his career in Pittsburgh working as Vice Principal at Westinghouse High School –



ironically the City’s sports icon and pinnacle of pride at the time. Throughout these years, Perseverance and Uplift were a constant: He worked nights for 6 years at the Post Office. During the summers, he carried rubbish for the City; supervised playground activities at 5 schools for 17 years; cofounded Strawohar Metals with two fellow teachers; and directed the Young Adults Counselors Program at the Centre Avenue YMCA for 2 years. He was a strong family man who only missed family dinner when he directed Camp James Welden Johnson. His surviving family has fond memories of annual picnics in South and Westview Parks, car trips to Florida or Harlem in NYC, and their extended family from the couple’s participation in the Supper Club, the Frogs, and activities of Iota Phi. Being raised in the Catholic religion, he faithfully followed its teachings throughout his life. We men of Omega have fond memories too. Bro. Woods served as Basileus of the Iota Phi Chapter in 1971-1972 and became a Lifetime Member of Omega Psi Phi in 1972. He found our current fraternity house with its four majestic pillars in the front and negotiated its sales price in 1991. and was a charter member of the Iota Phi Foundation. Since purchase of the house, Leo served as caretaker of its grounds and building into the mid 2000s. He helped get most furniture for the house through volunteer work at the Community Storehouse. Brothers paid tribute with reverence to his leadership. On April 20, 2008, members of Iota Phi celebrated his 70 years of service in the fraternity and guidance throughout the years: Bro. Haymon stated that Bro. Woods had been like a father to him; Bro. Edison recalled how Bro. Woods found and negotiated the sales price of our current fraternity house; Bro. Ali marveled at his energy at age 89 in cutting the house’s grass and landscaping; Bro. Hines pointed out a commendable trait in faulting one’s self – “Now B-r-o-t-h-e-r-s .... Oh I’m out-of-order aren’t I?”. Bro. Woods noted that he coached one of the Brothers attending in high school football. That was Bro. Leon Williams who then mentioned that Leo instilled the virtues of respect and discipline in them. Family members attested that Leo was more than a great father and uncle but a great inspiration and person. We remember how he commanded respect each time he rose to speak calming any tempest at the moment. We remember how he lead our annual Mardi Gras parade with majestic posture. We remember how he would help another when he could and his guidance to young brothers through his years of experience in the fraternity. Yes we remember Leo. Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. He was all that. For these reasons . . . he remains with us.

## Leo Woods - An Iota Phi Legend

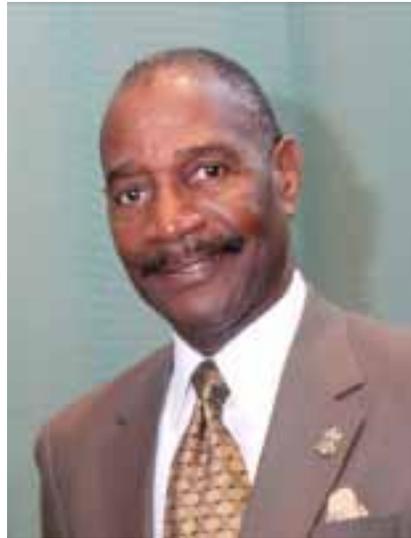
**When we say our last goodbye...He walks on Streets of Pearls**

# When We Wear the Gloves Manhood.....laid low



## Brother Terry F. Crockett - Omega Chapter

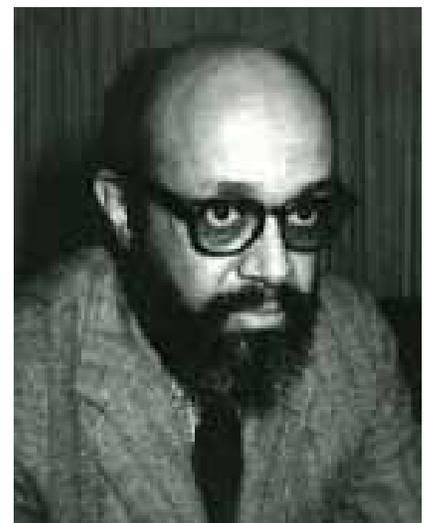
**Philadelphia, PA.** Brother Terry F. Crockett, born October 7, 1944 transitioned to Omega Chapter on March 8, 2015. He attended Philadelphia Public Schools where his thirst for designing and building things emerged. After high school, service in the U.S. Army where he traveled the world, including stationing in Vietnam. Following an honorable discharge, he enrolled at Temple University in the architecture program, fulfilling his dream to design and build. Upon earning a degree in Architecture (AIA) from Temple University and a license to practice in Pennsylvania, Brother Crockett held positions as Philadelphia International Airport's Architectural Planner and Project Manager on key Philadelphia Housing Authority developments. Soon after, he formed his own firm, Terry F. Crockett Architects, co-founded and became the first President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA). He lobbied with the head of Temple's Architecture Program to create a student chapter of NOMA, and was a leading force in establishing the Charter School for Architecture and Design (CHAD) in Philadelphia, the first Charter High School for architecture and design in the nation. Brother Crockett's professional credits are significant, his Philadelphia County projects totaling \$78,000,000, include City of Philadelphia Department of Public Property/Capital Program Office, Philadelphia International Airport Project Manager and Philadelphia Housing Authority. His private sector projects totaled over \$38,000,000, including a retail



mall, design of a Thailand Monk's Temple in Bensalem, PA and Laborer's Local 413 Union Headquarters. Brother Crockett was solicited by State Representative William Lacy Clay, 1st District, Missouri, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, to serve as a Panelist on "Economic Development Opportunities For Minority Businesses in Our Nation's Airports" Forum, September 3, 2002. Initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Mu Omega Chapter in 1987, Brother Crockett was true to the Fraternity's Cardinal Principals of Scholarship and Uplift, as he mentored dozens of high school and college students, serving his community by providing "pro bono" consultation and services to non-profits and churches, among them...Mother Bethel AME and Victory Christian Church. Terry and Wanda, his wife of 36 years, re-located to South Florida in 2004, where he joined Kappa Upsilon Chapter in West Palm Beach County, FL. In Florida, he continued fraternal service as Kappa Upsilon chapter's Keeper of Records and Seal; Chairman, Fundraising Committee; Chairman, Masquerade Ball; and Member of OROB, Organization of Retired Omega Brothers. Brother Crockett was honored by the Kappa Upsilon Charitable Foundation, Inc., naming its coveted annual scholarship, The Terry F. Crockett Scholarship Fund and by Kappa Upsilon Chapter as its Omega Man of the Year.

## Brother Jesse Edward Nash Jr. - Omega Chapter

**Buffalo, NY.** Brother Nash transitioned to Omega Chapter on May 11, 2016. He was the last living Charter member initiated at Phi Epsilon chapter at University of New York at Buffalo in 1946. Bro. Nash was a Korean war veteran and a retired Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Canisius College where he taught for 33 years. In 1967 Brother Nash became the director of the Model cities program which was acclaimed nationally for putting forth ideas to improve the quality of urban neighborhoods. Musically inclined through out his life Brother Nash played several instruments which included the clarinet, and piano and always advocated for the arts in the Buffalo, York area. Brother Nash also played a key role in the establishment of a Health Center on the East side of Buffalo which was named in his honor, and is still open today. Brother Nash was married for more than 65 years to Hortense Butts which they had two sons and one daughter. The legacy of Brother Nash as one of the most outstanding members of our fraternity in all of Western New York Is remembered and held in a high veneration of respect!



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

# When We Wear the Gloves Manhood.....laid low



## Brother Sherman J. Polley - Omega Chapter



**Columbia, MD.** Bro. Sherman Polley, born August 25, 1918 in Huntington, WV. transitioned to Omega Chapter on August 18, 2016. He was a retired affordable-housing official who was also active in the National Negro Golf Association. He participated in the battle of Morotai, Netherlands East Indies, and was awarded a Bronze Star. After the war, he earned a bachelor's degree from

West Virginia State University, where he was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Theta Psi Chapter on May 29, 1946. He also obtained a master's degree in marketing from Butler University in Indianapolis. While at Butler, he served as an assistant basketball coach. In 1952, while living in Indianapolis, he married Rubie Thomp-

son. They met as workers at a Western Electric Co. plant. Mr. Polley then taught accounting at Tyler College in Texas, where he also coached basketball. In 1954 he moved to Philadelphia and joined the old Food Fair grocery store chain as a research analyst. He became an administrative assistant to the branch manager and later supervised operations of 102 stores throughout the Philadelphia metro area. Brother Polley lived for a time in a home in Blackwood, N.J. He enjoyed golf but was not permitted to play at a nearby segregated course. He brought a lawsuit that ultimately opened the course to African-Americans. In 1968, he moved to Baltimore to work as vice president in charge of operations of the old Super Jet Food Markets, at the Mondawmin shopping center. Changing careers in 1970, he became executive vice president of a private Baltimore nonprofit housing agency, Home Ownership Plan Endeavor, known as Project Hope, then joined the Model Cities Housing Development Corporation as its executive director. He later became president of the D.C. Development Corp., a nonprofit that provided housing assistance. He retired nearly 30 years ago. Briefly living in Baltimore, then found a new home in Columbia. He was among the first 100 owners in the Bryant Woods section of the Village of Wilde Lake, where he helped establish the Tau Pi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Brother Polley enjoyed playing golf at the Hobbits Glen course, and he joined the National Negro Golf Association. He competed in events sponsored by the association and helped raise funds for charities. He remained a golfer for many years.

## Bro. Dr. Walter Edward Morgan- Omega Chapter



**Columbia, MD** Brother Dr. Walter Edward Morgan entered into Omega Chapter on April 13, 2016. Initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. on December 18, 1959 through Pi Chapter. He was a founding and charter member of Tau Pi Chapter in Columbia, MD. Born November 19, 1940 in East Hempstead, Long Island, New York, Bro. Morgan received a football scholarship to Morgan State College, in 1958. Majoring in Political Science and a member of Kappa Mu Honor Society, he graduated third in his class and was listed in "Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges. He joined ROTC and accepted an Army Commission in lieu of attending Law School. He served in the army from 1962 to 1966 stationed in Korea and eventually Vietnam. Upon his discharge, Bro. Morgan received employment at the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, MD. His management consulting career eventually led him to owning his own firm, launching Morgan Management Systems, Inc. He worked for 25 years until his retirement. Industrious and always having a desire for education, while working, he received two Master's Degrees from University of Maryland and Georgetown University, respectively. In the early 1990, he obtained his Doctoral Degree from LaSalle University. He transitioned to Omega Chapter leaving his wife of almost 54 years, Lorraine; his two sons, Walter Jr. and Gary; daughter Cheryl Elise, granddaughter Marissa, grandson Christian, brother Edward Morgan, sister Marsha Flateau, aunts Berr Johnson and Bea Stewart and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

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



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



## A Rif On The Essentiality of Friendship

Friendship... is not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything. -Muhammad Ali

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. - Henri Nouwen

...For without words, in friendship, all thoughts, all desires, all expectations are born and shared, with joy that is un-acclaimed. When you part from your friend, you grieve not; For that which you love most in him may be clearer in his absence, as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain. And let there be no purpose in friendship save the deepening of the spirit... - From "The Prophet", On Friendship, Khalil Gibran

"Friendship is essential to the soul"-Motto, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Are we really friends in our Fraternity? What about in our Chapters? And what to us is a friend? I know that somewhere we have heard time and again the verse from Proverbs 18:24, "...A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly..." That still doesn't answer the question of what is a friend and are we really friends. Let's set aside the question as it pertains to the Fraternity as a whole for the moment. Are we friends in this chapter or do we make a show of friendliness?

Muhammad Ali says that friendship isn't learned in school, but still maintains that if you haven't learned what it is you haven't learned anything. Henri Nouwen tells us that friendship rest in sharing pain and the warmth and tenderness of the healing touch. I propose to you that the learning which Muhammad Ali speaks of comes from observation and proximity. And for Nouwen the sharing of pain, the warmth and tenderness of touch, actually and metaphorically also comes from observation and proximity. The observations of friends come from being close enough in geographic space but also in emotional space to fully empathize with the pain of your companion. The empathy we feel then becomes a sharing and in this sharing one companion wishes to alleviate the suffering of the other. In the wish to alleviate suffering of the companion space is negated and the metaphorical and in many instances the actual healing hand of friendship is extended.

It is here that real friendship finds its foundation. Where is that? Friendship finds its roots In the negation of space, real and metaphorical. That negation of space, letting someone into your personal space comes from trust. We must trust that there is empathy to begin with, not sympathy, and not sorrow. We have to really feel that there is a hand there that will be extended, and when extended that there is no tentativeness only a certainty between us that the reaching out is sincere. And so trust then is built on the bedrock of sincerity.

These links don't happen overnight. They must be nurtured and encourage by our real proximity to one another and by familiarity. We can't allow ourselves to think that the one's disagreement is anything more than that. We have to sublimate our pride in our accomplishment and our self-worth and not burden our companions with our self-doubt.

Our starting point should be, "...To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts

and pleasures, living in malice and envy..." Titus 3:2-3. We must understand that that we should "...turn not your face away from men with pride, nor walk in insolence through the earth. Verily, Allah likes not each arrogant boaster. And be moderate (or show no insolence) in your walking, and lower your voice. Verily, the harshest of all voices is the voice (braying) of the ass. Qur'an 31:17-19.

In the final analysis it really is by our own pride and excessive self-appreciation that we devalue the worth of our companions and by that devaluation we can't have mutuality with our companions. Without mutual and unqualified consideration friendship cannot begin to grow, only a façade of friendliness. It's from our built in human radar that we come to recognize this in each other, then we doubt our mutual sincerity and then reject the trustworthiness of our common endeavor. And so we can only accomplish the most superficial of endeavors and those things that take real courage, commitment and mutuality can never be realized.

Brothers let us begin our learning about friendship by seeking and promoting proximity and familiarity. Understand that everybody can't set it "owt" the same as the other guy. It is in our mutual and shared spaces and times that the feelings of sincerity and then trust will grow.

LA, Q'82

## Remembering Brother James S. Avery

Attending the Second District James Avery shirtsleeve conference brought back a flood of memories. Brother Avery was my Grand Basileus. We first meet a few months after I was initiated into Omega in 1970. My initial impression of Brother Avery was we would be able to relate to each other instantly. We were able to sit and talk for an hour or so like we were old friends. Not as the 28th Grand Basileus and a neophyte. Maybe because we were both initiated into the fraternity as solo brothers. Him as the first initiate of Omicron Chi and myself as a second semester freshman at Syracuse University.

Talking with Brother Avery was like opening a history book. Two of the Founders were still alive and he was my link to them, and other brothers who assisted in building Omega from her infancy. He was a pioneer in

the business world the first black director of what his now Exxon Mobil. To all of us who received an opportunity to gain a huge salary and attain a position of high responsibility in corporate America a debt is owed to Brother Avery as a pioneer in that world.

Around 15 years ago Brother Avery and I started exchanging correspondence. We exchanged letters every few months and Brother Avery would always impart some pearls of wisdom. Around 10 years ago Brother Avery extended me the honor of visiting his home, and breaking bread with him and his lovely wife Joan. They made me feel like family. Since Joan is a Westchester Girl we developed an independent and thriving relation-

Continued on Page

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



## Remembering Brother James S. Avery

*Continued from Page*

ship. We became close enough that she shared with me how she became Mrs. James Avery. The brotherhood owes her a debt of gratitude due to her care and love that gave us a little more time with him.

Two of my favorite experiences in Brother Avery's last year's took place at District Meetings. We made it a point along with Dr. Ray to always share a meal together. These discussions always centered around the state of the Fraternity. Secondly we traveled together on a few road trips. The

last excursion was to visit another lion of the Fraternity Brother Eddy Taylor. Listening to these two giants exchanging ideas was an experience that I wish every brother could have experienced.

These are just a few of the memories that made Brother Avery so intimate and special. Joan deemed worthy enough to be the custodian of Brother Avery's Centennial Grand Basileus Ring. I truly miss him for his leadership, vision and compassion, as a brother and a friend.

*Brother Steven Schmidt*

## Black Lives Matter - An Undergraduate Perspective

Over the past 5 years, shootings/killings and police brutality involving young African American males have been at the forefront of the media. Statistics clearly indicate that there is a disproportionate number of African American who are subjected to police brutality. Unfortunately, many of the victims of these encounters did not have weapons and appeared to be "helpless", and most of the police responsible for the shootings/killings have not been indicted nor held accountable for their inappropriate actions. The major response to this social justice issue has been the creation of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement which campaigns against violence and systemic racism towards Black people. There are those who think the movement is not a good thing and prefer that the movement be called All Lives Matter. In spite of what you may think, the movement continues to flourish.

In an effort to capture the thoughts of some of our young brothers of Omega, the writer posed the following two questions to two undergraduates. 1) Is Black Lives Matter a necessary movement? and 2) Do you feel the fraternity should be involved in the Black Lives Matter Movement?

Below are their responses:

1A). It is a movement necessary for OUR people because there are so many black lives being taken by police brutality. It doesn't mean that other lives are unimportant. It is just that we – Blacks – are the ones being killed/shot. This movement brings awareness to younger people; this movement lets them know that their lives are valuable!

1B). I do feel Black lives matter is a necessary movement because it brings light to the black plight and makes African Americans feel they can contribute to the movement against sociocultural issues. To me, Black Lives Matter is the 21st century version of the "black power slogan!" I just fear it will give governmental institutions a reason to dilute the purpose BLM strives to build. Black Lives Matter may make Blacks feel empowered, but it instills fear in other races which is why the media tries to constantly throw dirt on its brand. In order for it to succeed, it must remain peaceful and stand for justice and not be associated with negative connotations!

2A). There is no doubt in my mind that our fraternity should most definitely be involved in this cultural movement! Black Lives Matter brings awareness to the world and those who cannot relate to our struggle. It alerts the black community to the problems we are facing on a national level, and as leaders in our community, we have the biggest influence in relaying that message. If a Que leads a march for the people on a college

campus, the people will follow. If a man of Omega sends out a message, the people will join together and listen. We must remember the power we have and continue to build positive relations so movements like this aren't misconstrued. I couldn't think of a better Brotherhood than Omega to lead this fight against police brutality, social injustice, and racial espionage.

2B). YES! I think all Black Greek organizations should be a part of this movement. Victims could have been one of us or a family member, a friend, etc. It allows us to experience the social justice side of the fraternity. Our organizations have always been in the forefront of civil rights – Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph Abernathy, Jesse Jackson, Sr, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King, just to name a few! The fraternity should organize town hall meetings in districts, and the focus of those meetings should be solutions, activities, and actions that the fraternity can spearhead. Chapters should be involved with their local NAACP, conduct protests, initiate conversations with Chiefs of Police and other law enforcement personnel to develop strategies and programs to address the social injustices imposed on our people.

*This article is the beginning of a series of opinion editorial articles focused on social injustice in our communities. Undergraduates were selected to provide their opinions because they are quite vulnerable when it comes to being a potential victim of systemic racism and social injustice.*

*This article was compiled by Carlton Lampkins, Ed.D.*

*Undergraduate contributors are Bro. Nicholas Irion of Phi Omega 2016, a senior Music Education major at Buffalo State University and Bro. Emeka Madubuogo of Tau Mu 2014, a senior Political Science and History major at Rutgers University – New Brunswick and 2nd District Undergraduate Representative.*

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## The True Gentleman

**The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe.**

**John Walter Wayland**

## Suspension List

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

2	10	Kappa	Cash	Byran
2	10	Kappa	Jackson	David L.
2	12	Kappa	Bethea	Canaan
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	592	Psi Iota	McLeish	Joseph
2	626	Lambda Upsilon	Showell	Donald W.
2	697	Mu Rho	Williams	Oscar
2	707	Chi Rho	Brown	Bilal
2	707	Chi Rho	Wright	Leonard W. III
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

## Expulsion List

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!!!**

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.
2	916	Nu Lambda Lambda	Dobson	Alfred
2	916	Nu Lambda Lambda	Howard	Lance



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————— **OMEGA NEEDS YOU** —————