

# *The Oracle*

*Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Magazine*

## PRESIDENT OBAMA:

*What his presidency means  
for African-Americans.*

*Spring 2009*



# *The Oracle*

*Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Magazine*

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### *The Oracle*

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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity**

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38th Grand Basileus

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# Message from the 38th Grand Basileus

## BROTHERS,



As I read this issue of the Oracle, I am reminded that sometimes in Omega; our challenges point us in the direction of our accomplishments. With that understanding, I am pleased to offer this edition for your consumption. These pages represent a sampling of our present accomplishments. They highlight our progress toward a future envisioned by our Founders; one in which Omega serves as a beacon of hope for the less fortunate in our society.

The articles featured here provide glimpses of both our challenges and successes. On the one hand, we face external challenges such as a turbulent economy. On the other hand, we see proof of our ability to overcome and succeed through the collective efforts of our Membership. For almost a century, we continue to make a difference where we live, work and play. Lifting as we climb...to bring about a change for the better.

That is our tradition. That is also a roadmap to a brighter future. I sincerely believe that if we are to continue making progress, we must embrace change. Change is the essence of progress. The Founders understood this simple truth and left us the Cardinal Principles as our compass. On the 'Omega Compass', true north should always point in the direction of Uplift. Many of the submissions here are a testimony to that ideal.

Honoring Omega's traditions also requires that we embrace change. By emphasizing the importance of developing character, competence and making a lasting contribution to humanity, we enhance the meaning of "Membership". Through our programs of social, cultural and economic uplift, we improve the quality of life in our communities. By promoting a culture of 'service to others', we build our brand as a source of progressive leadership in today's world. Meeting these challenges will enable us to honor our Founders and ensure that Omega will be here for future generations.

FRATERNALLY,  
WARREN G. LEE, JR.

38th Grand Basileus

# Message from the Interim Editor to the Oracle

## GREETINGS BROTHERS,



The following pages contain many articles that showcase our international organization and the programs that characterize our collective efforts. I am amazed and proud to be associated with a brotherhood that remains committed to the ideals of our Founders. This edition attempts to revisit a traditional Oracle format, combined with some new features highlighting social issues that impact our community at large.

There are a number of brothers who are journalists, writers, editors and subject matter experts that devoted their time and talents to make this edition possible. I am confident you will find the next few pages informative. I wish to thank those brothers for their editorial contributions.

The art of managing and producing a publication that addresses the vision of our elected leadership, while keeping the brotherhood connected and informed requires deliberate efforts and cooperation of brothers at the local, district and international level. The quality of our Oracle largely depends on brothers submitting quality articles and photographs that adhere to the submission guidelines.

The office of the District Director of Public Relations (DDPR) is an extremely important component in this process of producing an informative and inclusive Oracle. Due to the volume of articles submitted for publication in the Oracle, it is therefore necessary for all chapter articles to be submitted directly to the District Director of Public Relations. This will allow your DDPR to screen and edit the articles as needed. Unfortunately, articles that do not meet the submission guidelines must be rejected.

I hope this edition meets your approval. I look forward to serving as your Interim Editor and if you have ideas, suggestions or comments regarding ways to improve the content of the Oracle, please send your comments to [editor-totheoracle@opphf.org](mailto:editor-totheoracle@opphf.org).

**FRATERNALLY,  
MICHAEL A. BOYKIN**

Interim Editor to the Oracle  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



# Message From The First Vice Grand Basileus

## BROTHERS,



Let me express my sincerest gratitude to all of you for your stalwart support of the 2009 Leadership Conference. Because of your support and commitment, we are enjoying an unprecedented projected number of registrants for the 2009 Leadership Conference.

The Las Vegas Leadership Task Force has developed a solid foundation, with Beta Mu Mu and Kappa Xi Chapters working cooperatively to address the needs of the brothers and their families. Brothers Mikal Littlejohn and Tim McElroy are co-chairing the Task Force.

George Smith and Ms. Chere Turner have conducted weekly Leadership calls and have maintained effective communication between IHQ and all parties, while Phil Merchant and Jamin Powell have crafted exciting evening activities for the undergraduate delegation. In addition, this year's speakers and presenters are prepared to provide not only exciting, but useful and effective information.

I cannot name all of the people who are contributing to the early success of this event, without inadvertently omitting someone. I don't want anyone to feel slighted if I fail to mention them, but I would be remiss if I did not recognize Noah Holt for his tremendous effort in negotiating tremendous discounted room rates and Ms. Kyra Rutherford for managing the travel account at a huge savings.

Finally to the District Representatives, your cooperation has been extremely valuable. You agreed to support the Leadership Conference effort by guaranteeing a minimum number of registrants from your Districts. Even though we have experienced unexpected budget increases, which have caused the District numbers to be adjusted, all District Representatives have been champions for the conference.

To all, please continue to encourage Leadership Conference registration and let's see which DR can take the crown away from Willie Hinchey and the 9th District for highest percentage of District Leadership Conference participation. Thank You all for your continued support.

**YOURS IN FRIENDSHIP AND FRATERNITY,  
BROTHER CARL A. BLUNT**

First Vice Grand Basileus

# “LOOK TO THE WEST, O OMEGA!”

## GREETINGS MY NOBLE BROTHERS,



The Brothers of the Massive and Progressive 12th District welcome you, your Quettes, families and friends to exciting Las Vegas to participate in our 2009 Leadership Conference. We have heard the Brotherhood regarding your preferred desires for a LC agenda – to revisit the procedural “basics” of fraternity leadership.

Focused workshops will be held for both district AND chapter officers, including DRs, chapter basilei, 1st and 2nd VDRs, district and chapter KRS and KFs, district chaplains, Achievement Week and Talent Hunt chairs. We will also provide Financial Literacy and Power Politics presentations, along with a Service Awards luncheon. And that’s just Friday!

Saturday will be dedicated to Lampados Club training, Omega history and rituals, an Undergraduate themed luncheon, and presentations on the 2010 Raleigh Conclave and 2011 Centennial.

Our mission is to give you something you can not get anyplace else, especially in these difficult economic times. You can not afford to miss this conference! These will be the most exciting, brotherly, educational 72 hours of your life!

**FRATERNALLY YOURS,  
CHARLES C. PEEVY**

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# LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2009

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

*Las Vegas*

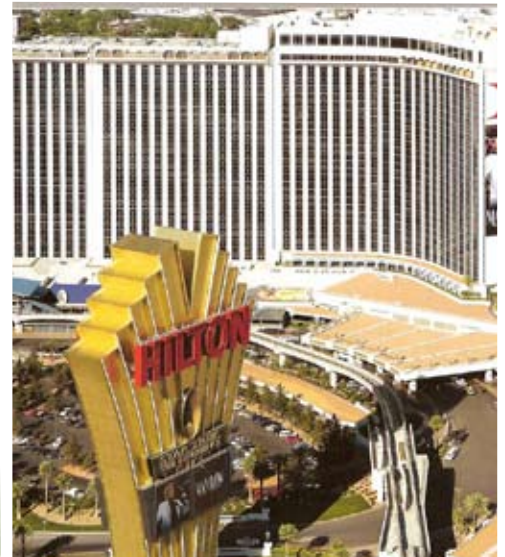
JULY 23-25, 2009



Badlands Golf Club



It's Vegas Baby!



Las Vegas Hilton Hotel

## SAMPLE EVENTS FOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2009

Awards Luncheon  
Financial Literacy  
General Session Opening  
Golf Tournament  
Health Initiative  
Lampados Training  
Local Hospitality  
Officer Training  
Q-Night w/ George Wallace  
Que-Ette Activities  
Stop the Violence Presentation  
Undergraduate Reception Sponsored by  
the UG Council  
VIP Reception @ Queensridge

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2009

JULY 23-25, 2009

**REGISTER NOW! - <http://www.oppf.org>**

- Early Bird - \$200.00 - until 4/30/09
- Pre-Registration - \$275.00 - 5/1/09 to 7/5/09
- On-Site Registration - \$325.00 - 7/6/09 to 7/25/09
- Undergrad Registration \$100.00
- Golf Tournament - \$100.00 - On-Site \$125.00
- Que-Ette Registration - \$100.00 - On-Site \$125.00

**HOTEL REGISTRATION - Reserve your room now @**  
**<http://resweb.passkey.com/go/omegapsiphi2009>**

- **Special Offer: \$69.00 for the 1st 400 rooms**
- (Hotel Room rate is \$127.00 per night)

## HOST HOTEL

**Las Vegas Hilton Hotel & Casino**  
3000 Paradise Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89109



## PRE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

DATE	TIME	EVENT
<b>TUESDAY, July 21, 2009</b>	TBA	13 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting
<b>WEDNESDAY, July 22, 2009</b>	TBA	13 <sup>th</sup> District Meeting
<b>THURSDAY, July 23, 2009</b>	6:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Golf Tournament
	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM	VIP Reception @ Queensridge
	5:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Supreme Council Meeting
	6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Local Hospitality Room Open

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2009 ACTIVITIES

DATE	TIME	EVENT
<b>FRIDAY, July 24, 2009</b>	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	General Opening Session
	9:15 AM – 12:30 PM	Officer Training for: * District Representatives (DRs) * District Officers, Achievement & Talent Hunt Chairs * Directors of Publicity * 1st/2nd Vice DRs / Baseli * District Keeper of Finance * District Keeper of Records & Seal * District Counselors * District Chaplains
	9:15 AM – 12:30 PM	Non-Officer, Directors / Chairmen - Concurrent session. - Financial Literacy
	1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Awards Luncheon Omega Science Journal Presentation, GE Intern recognition
	2:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Closing Session The Power of Politics
	6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Local Hospitality
<b>SATURDAY, July 25, 2009</b>	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Health Initiative Panel
	9:15 AM – 12:30 PM	Lampados General Session Non-Lampados Concurrent Session
	9:15 AM – 12:30 PM	Omega History & Rituals
	1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Undergrad Luncheon w/ Speaker TBD
	2:45 PM – 4:00 PM	Lampados continued w/ "Stop the Violence Presentation"
	4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Raleigh Conclave & Centennial presentations Local recognitions Closing Session
	6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Local Hospitality
	11:30 PM – 2:00 AM	Undergraduate Reception Sponsored by the Undergraduate Council @ the Moulin Rouge
	10:00 PM – 12:00 AM	George Wallace "Q" Night Comedy Show
<b>SUNDAY, July 26, 2009</b>	7:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Depart for home (Safe Travels)

## RESOLUTION FOR

# Brother Lorenza “Ren” Conner, an Omega Warrior

SUBMITTED BY Brother Warren G. Lee Jr., 38th Grand Basileus  
Brother (Reverend) Farrell Duncombe, Grand Chaplain

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV)

Whereas, Almighty God, the Supreme Basileus of the Universe has called Brother Lorenza “Ren” Connor from a time temporal to life eternal; And whereas, Brother Connor was initiated into Lambda Epsilon Chapter, the Mother Pearl of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated on April 28, 1964; Tuskegee University.

And whereas, while heaven rejoices his arrival, the brotherhood of Omega collectively sheds a bittersweet tear in having Brother Connor leave our beloved fold; we shall always cherish his memory and steadfast service to his country and Fraternity. The brilliance of a star has diminished and manhood laid low;

And whereas, Brother Connor proudly and boldly embodied and upheld the Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. Brother Connor grew up in Cartersville, Georgia where he was a star quarterback. He was an unusual sight in the early years of the Vietnam War: a black pilot. It was in 1967 while piloting an F-4D Phantom II fighter jet during a combat mission over the hills of Tuyen Quang Province, when he and his co-pilot were shot down. Brother Connor, who was 24 when he was killed, had been officially listed as missing and presumed dead for most of the years since his crash. On October 2, 2008, the United States Defense Department announced that human remains found last year during the excavation of a crash site deep in the Vietnamese jungle were those of our beloved Brother Connor.

And whereas, after more than 40 years of toil, anguish and worry, the family of Brother Connor can finally rest easy and be at peace because his remains will be returned home. Brother Connor will be laid to rest with full military honors, next to his mother who herself died never ceasing her prayers for him, never knowing his fate;

Be it therefore resolved that on behalf of the 38th Grand Basileus Warren G. Lee Jr., the Supreme Council and the Brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, we hereby commend the soul of our deceased Brother, Lorenza “Ren” Connor, to Almighty God for eternal keeping and we will pray for the safekeeping comfort of his bereaved family.

## Brother Kevin L. Boyce

First African American to Serve as Ohio Treasurer of State

SUBMITTED BY Bro. Bryan K. Dirke



**COLUMBUS, OH-** Ohio Treasurer Kevin L. Boyce was raised by a single mother and his grandmother, who taught him the values of hard work and responsibility to create opportunities to succeed in life.

Brother Boyce has put those values to use in his own life and his public career. It is through those values that Boyce developed understanding of the importance of public service and even more importantly, the belief that everyone has a duty and a role to play to make tomorrow better than today.

It's a belief that led Brother Boyce to pursue a career in public service, including his nearly eight years as a member of Columbus City Council. Boyce served as Council's President Pro tem and Chairman of the Finance Committee, a position in which he led efforts to make city government run more effective and efficient to improve services and save tax dollars. During his tenure on Council, Columbus the 15th largest city in the nation –established a record of balanced budgets and is the largest city in the country with an AAA Bond Rating from all three major bond rating agencies.

Brother Boyce also served as Executive Director of Knowledge Works Ohio, a non-profit organization created for the sole purpose of improving Ohio's public school systems through policy development and advocacy. Prior to Columbus City Council, Boyce served as Chief of Staff in the Ohio House of Representatives for the Democratic Caucus, and served in the City of Toledo administration during the 90's.

A graduate of Columbus East High, Brother Boyce, 37, was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1993 at the University of Toledo where he graduated after receiving academic and athletic scholarships to help put him through school. Brother Boyce, who also has a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University, lives with wife Crystal, and his two sons Kevin Jr., and Kristopher. Brother Boyce is currently an active member of Mu Iota Chapter in Columbus, Ohio.

# Omega4Life

Leadership Development Program with General Electric



**ATLANTA, GA** - The General Electric (GE) Company and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. recently launched and identified the first participants in the Omega4Life Leadership Development Program. The program is designed to provide undergraduate Fraternity members of proven academic excellence with mentoring and leadership training to assist in career development. Omega4Life is a structured, one-year program featuring GE-supported career fairs, leadership symposiums and potential internships. The program is open to students majoring in the concentration areas of Mathematics, Science, Engineering & Technology, Computer Science, and Business (Finance, Management, & Marketing). The inaugural class includes the following Brothers:

- Shaka Mitchell, Sophomore at Southern Illinois University
- Eual Phillips, Senior at Grambling State University
- Chaztin Stigers, Senior at Jarvis Christian College
- Kevin Purcell, Junior at State University of New York

This unique opportunity promises to be a stimulating and rewarding experience for successful applicants and for GE. We encourage undergraduate Brothers who are active members and have Sophomore, Junior, or Senior class standing to apply. The next phase of applications will be accepted as of May 2009 until July 2009. Do not miss this opportunity which clearly provides Uplift to those men who persevere and act scholarly.

PICTURE 1: SHAKA MITCHELL, EUAL PHILLIPS, TONY MATHIS, CHAZTIN STIGERS, DARRYL ROBINSON, BYRON MUMFORD, DON RESPRESS

PICTURE 2: KEVIN PURCELL, CHAZTIN STIGERS, SHAKA MITCHELL & EUAL PHILLIPS

PICTURE 3: BROTHER MICHAEL A. WRIGHT, JR.



# Rear Admiral Brother Manson K. Brown

Honored for His Commitment



*Brother Manson K. Brown*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Rear Admiral Brother Manson K. Brown was honored at a "Salute to Diversity" Reception with a Thurgood Marshall Flag Officers Award. The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) joined with 47 public historically black colleges and universities to honor African-American flag officers of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The 14th Coast Guard District Commander, Brother Manson K. Brown, was honored for his commitment to service and leadership that embodies the qualities of the late Justice Thurgood Marshall, former Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The "Salute to Diversity" Reception was held at Gallup world headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Brother Brown is a Washington, D.C. native, growing up in northwest D.C., and graduating from Saint John's College High School. Active in the community, Brown is a

member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and immediate past president of the National Naval Officers Association, Inc. "I am pleased and privileged to be linked with a statesman such as Thurgood Marshall," said Brother Brown, a civil engineer who has risen through the ranks of the U.S. Coast Guard to command the service's largest geographic district. "This is truly a humbling experience and I am honored to build upon Justice Marshall's legacy by furthering his commitment to leadership."

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my years in the United States Coast Guard and I recommend a career in our service to any young person looking for adventure and opportunities for professional growth," says Brother Brown, a 1978 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. "Officer or enlisted, the Coast Guard offers opportunities to grow and learn in a dynamic environment."



# A Rising Star in Physics at Morehouse College

**FROM ITS INCEPTION**, Omega Psi Phi has been graced with undergraduate high achievers in both scholastic and extracurricular pursuits. There is a strong tradition of Omega men who have distinguished themselves in the physical sciences, from Founder Frank Coleman, who served as chair of the Department of Physics at Howard University for decades to Brother Ronald McNair, Ph.D., a well-regarded Laser physicist and astronaut who was killed in the Challenger space shuttle accident. Another young Omega man portends to make his mark in the world of physics and applied engineering.



Brother Christopher Copeland (Psi Chapter, 2008) has a record of stellar accomplishments as a scholar and student. A double major in Physics and Mathematics at Morehouse College, he has achieved the apex of collegiate scholarly honor by being elected a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, the oldest and most prestigious scholarship honor society in America. For his superior scholarship during his freshman and sophomore years at Morehouse, he was selected a member of the National Society

**BY BROTHER SCOTT WATSON**

of Collegiate Scholars, the most prestigious scholarship honor society for underclassmen in America.

Brother Copeland has been rewarded for his scholarly achievement by being given opportunities for research at top research facilities, and with prominent researchers during his collegiate sojourn. He has interned or either done research at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in Livermore, CA, the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Long Island, NY and with Dr. R. Barillon of Universite' Louis Pasteur, Institut de Recherches Subatomique, Strasbourg (Institute of Subatomic Research, University of Strasbourg, France).

In this early stage of his training, Brother Copeland has become a seasoned investigator and produced some impressive research. A scholarship from the Department of Homeland Security allowed him to produce a study on CdZnTe (CZT), a crystal alloy of cadmium telluride and zinc telluride, "one of the top materials to be used in gamma and neutron detectors" so that radiation detector devices can be improved along with "devices that help prevent the spread of nuclear materials," in addition to applications to nuclear medicine. Concerning this experience he comments, "It has allowed me the chance to partake in a field of research that I was initially unfamiliar with and has increased my expertise in another portion of health, medical and nuclear physics."

Originally, he wanted to study political science as a precursor to a life of public service, but his math and science aptitude steered him in his present direction, where he has found his niche to uplift humankind through the application of science and technology to pressing human needs. But he is not simply a science "grind"; he is active in student government as the current SGA Corresponding Secretary at Morehouse College. And he is serious weight lifter. A graduate of the International Baccalaureate program at Hillsborough High School in Tampa, FL, Brother Copeland has a bright future ahead of him, for he has exemplified excellence in whatever he has put his hands to fulfill. May God richly bless him on his journey as he embodies our Cardinal Principles and seeks to serve humankind through his God-given gifts and talents which he has been a faithful steward.

# From the Omega Archives

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE FOUNDERS

November 1962

DR. OSCAR J. COOPER  
1621 WEST JEFFERSON STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

November 4 1962.

Dear Brother Jason:

In answer to your inquiry with reference to the Four Cardinal Principles of Omega, let me say that the words were not drawn out of a hat or selected by some haphazard method. To finally decide on the Four Principles, required much thought and time to find the words to characterize and encompass just what we had in mind. This done we continually sought to find any other words to supplant the four words- but not just the four words, for they decided upon the four words- but not just the four words, for they were selected in chronological order and in order of their importance and the sequence followed in that order.

We felt that Manhood was primarily the quality to be first sought as a basis for all other qualifications without which the other principles would have no foundation for their existence.

We felt that with manhood, the next important requisits is scholarship, which is the key to the kind of men we should have to build a strong and verile organization, especially since it is a college organization.

With these two qualifications well developed, it is necessary to develop a certain amount of forthrightness, ambition and sticktuitiveness, for the perfection of any accomplishment requires Perseverance and this should follow as an outgrowth of the first two Cardinal Principles when they are truly found to exist.

With these three Cardinal Principles found to be present, we naturally develop a high spirit of altruism and Uplift, devoid of any selfishness and with a natural spirit and tendency to be of service to others in porportion as we have developed the three previous principles and should make ourselves felt as an entity in any community in which we exist: for strong characters and ambitions are developed not just, engraciate the narrow confines of the person or should naturally spread beyond the person.

We felt therefore, that these Four Cardinal Principles following in their order and once found to exist, we have established a wonderful trend which could not be superceeded or supplanted and we have encompassed the essence of life.

Fraternally yours,

Oscar J. Cooper, M.D.





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ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY  
PHONE: NORTH 9-7161

BALTIMORE AREA  
THE METHODIST CHURCH  
828 N. CARROLLTON AVENUE  
BALTIMORE 17, MD.

CONFERENCES  
DELAWARE  
NORTH CAROLINA  
WASHINGTON

November 7, 1962

Mr. William C. Jason, Jr.  
614 North 56th Street  
Philadelphia 31, Pennsylvania

Dear Bill,

I think the four cardinal principles do have significance in the order of their arrangement. In considering members in Omega, the first consideration is for MANHOOD. This, of course, in itself is character. First and foremost, a Que must be a man of sterling worth, with unsullied character. Secondly, is SCHOLARSHIP, which follows closely the first. There is, of course, a place for all men in the economy of our colleges and country, but we want men whose intellectual ability is above average. Thirdly, of course, is PERSEVERANCE, which is that attribute of character which holds one steadfast to a purpose or to a cause. With these three characteristics, the individual is then ready to lend himself to the coexistence of his fellowmen. Here we have the principle of UPLIFT.

Look to see you in Indianapolis, where I hope to be for at least one day, Saturday, December 29th.

Fraternally yours,

*Edgar*  
Edgar A. Love

EAL:tw



# PRESIDENT OBAMA:

*What his presidency means for African-Americans.*

by Brother Randy McILwain  
Emmy Award Winning Reporter  
NBC 5 KXAS TV Dallas

AS I WATCHED PRESIDENT OBAMA'S most recent nationally televised news conference, it was ABC Reporter Ann Compton who asked, "How has race impacted your presidency? Do you feel the impact of race as you deal with other world leaders?" The President acknowledged the obvious history of the moment of his taking the Oath of Office. He remarked briefly of our nation's collective pride associated with his election that lasted in his words, "for all of a day," as the United States voters took a major step away from a past seared with violent discrimination. President Obama believes he will be judged on his handling of the economy and an aggressive agenda including Healthcare, Education, and Jobs.

I humbly disagree with our President. Just as in football, where African-Americans were for decades, denied opportunities to play quarterback because it was thought we lacked leadership skills for the position, President Obama's leadership too will be viewed through the prism of race, of whether an African-American can rise to the challenges that confront our nation and our world and emerge a winner.



The irony of this, is that the most critical sets of eyes on the President as he navigates the world's highest office belong to African-American voters who know that President Obama's margin for error is slim, that any mistakes, missteps or misspoken words will be magnified beyond all reasonable logic. Let's face it, political adversaries of President Obama on both sides have referred to him mockingly as, "Jesus." Can anyone ever remember any elected official being compared to the Savior of all Christians in any circumstance? Clearly these political times in America's history are uncharted waters and it is African-American boys across this nation, who ultimately will not only learn to tread water, but to swim with strength in a nation that has drowned their voices, their dreams, their leaders for generations.

President Obama has what nearly every African-American boy identifies with as success, he has celebrity-status. Television appearances, magazine covers, public speeches, the only people who rival the President in popularity are celebrities of stage, screen, music and athletics, the people who for decades have served as untouchable surrogates of manhood and what it means to be a man to African-American boys who were absent fathers and rarely see a male teacher in the most formative years of development.

The President is their favorite "baller." He's got the fly wife and cute kids, He's got money, He's got a great house, He's got power, He's got a jump shot, and he can rap, boy can he rap! Ever been to an Obama Rally and heard the cadence call, "YES WE CAN," chanted repeatedly by thousands? It is every bit a concert and African-American boys especially have joined the chorus, understanding that the power of spoken word can inspire without a musical beat. That being reared in a single parent

household, without a Father or by Grandparents in an impoverished circumstance is not insurmountable to success. That education and the ability to speak with people and to listen to other's ideas is not weakness, President Obama has made it cool for African-American boys who's neighborhoods value physicality over intellect to have pride in simply being smart and respectful. He's done it in a way that oozes confidence, with an electric smile and without an ounce of hate.

In that sense, perhaps the President is Jesus, a savior who by example has captured the imaginations of future generations of boys just like him, searching for someone to nurture their passions and wash away the sins of record levels of incarceration, unemployment and educational failure.

President Obama, may actually believe that the excitement of



"The President is their favorite baller.

He's got the fly wife and cute kids,

He's got money, He's got a great house, He's got

power, He's got a jump shot,

and he can rap, boy can he rap! "

his election as America's 44th and first African-American President lasted, "for all of a day," that he will be judged on his performance regarding the economy, healthcare and education, true enough but many of us, especially African-American men and boys, we've waited patiently for this moment of validation, for this instance of equality for all our lives!

That feeling didn't end January 21, 2009, its intensity is as strong as ever and as sure as I was before President Obama's election that I would never live to see an African-American Man elected President of the United States in my lifetime, I am equally certain today, there will be another, inspired by the skinny kid, with the funny name who believed that America had a place for him too.



# Omega Doctor Leads Los Angeles Disaster Center

By Brother Scott Watson

THE IMAGES of Hurricane Katrina are indelibly etched into the consciousness of America and the world, akin to the horrific images of war which have haunted our psyches over the last half century. From the dead, bloated bodies floating in the fetid waters of New Orleans' predominately African American wards to the masses of desperate people seeking food and medical help for their children, one question hovers in our hearts: How can this have happened in America? Beyond the initial halting and tepid response of the Bush administration, the political in-fighting and turf wars waged between local, state and federal politicians and agencies which exacerbated the human suffering, the reality is that when all the pundits have spoken and the politicians and agencies have exonerated themselves, the truth is that New Orleans and the Gulf Coast were simply not prepared for a natural disaster of this magnitude.

A Son of Omega, imbued with the Four Cardinal Principles, is stepping into the gap to address this issue of disaster preparedness and management. Brother Jeffrey S. Upperman, M.D., FACS, FAAP, associate professor of pediatric surgery at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California and the director of the Trauma program at the world-renowned Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles, recently received a \$5 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a center which is developing cutting-edge pediatric disaster preparedness plans and strategies. As director of the Los Angeles Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Project, Brother Upperman is attempting to make sure that the regions' children and youth receive the medical care they need in the case of a disaster, whether it is an earthquake,

terrorist attack or the result of civil unrest.

Brother Upperman views the Hurricane Katrina experience as an instructive paradigm of what happens when there is no coordinated planning. "It's not an exact corollary to health care in Los Angeles, but Katrina is a case-in-point of what happens when you don't have resources in place and people who don't know how to work on kids." The work he and his team have embarked upon is meant to be a model for integrated, multi-modal, interdisciplinary disaster preparedness efforts nationwide. "We've been working together to develop not just a way of dealing with children but something that could actually be promoted for all ages," comments Dr. Upperman. "And it has to do with not only having appropriate care standards but being able to share these care standards in a way that all practitioners, even in remote corners of our country, could take advantage of."

Along with his principal collaborator, computer scientist Dr. Robert Neches, division director of the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute, they have developed what they term an "adaptive planning paradigm" as the process blueprint for this program. In this scheme, this paradigm will encompass "developing pediatric disaster preparedness strategies including evacuation and reunification plans, telecommunication education strategies and planning, including telemedicine robots,



pediatric disaster training drill training and assessment in Los Angeles County, as well as hospital disaster plan preparation and multi-center disaster response training exercise training tools,” states Brother Upperman.

Brother Upperman’s love for children and the satisfaction he experienced helping families—which motivated him to pursue pediatric surgery as his specialty—along with his background in the military helps explain the focus of the program he is developing. Formerly a Major in the U.S. Army Reserves, in 2004 he was deployed as a trauma surgeon in Operation Iraqi Freedom II as a member of the 848th Forward Surgical Team, stationed at the now infamous Abu Ghraib prison. He describes the experience as “truly a baptism by fire.” His deployment had a profound, visceral effect on him, helping him reflect on the issue of disaster planning and preparedness. Dr. Upperman comments, “You find yourself questioning whether where you work and where you live would really be prepared for a catastrophic incident.” Thus, it is easy to understand why he solicited the assistance of Dr. Neches, who has worked with the Marine Corps in using information technology solutions to address logistics management problems in military flight operations. Dr. Upperman drew upon this expertise in the development of “advanced software systems for pediatric emergency response strategy, training and execution.”

Behind his role as the Director of the Pediatric Disaster Resources & Training Center of Los Angeles is an accomplished and well-respected academic pediatric surgeon and clinician with a big heart, exemplifying the Cardinal Principles of Omega Psi Phi: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. A 1987 graduate of Stanford University with a bachelor’s degree in Human Biology and a Master’s degree in Sociology, Brother Upperman was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Alpha Mu Chapter at Stanford during the spring of 1983, as a member of the “Days and Nights of Toil” line. He subsequently matriculated at the New Jersey Medical School where he received his medical degree and completed his residency in surgery. This was followed by a fellowship in pediatric surgery at the University of Pittsburgh, where he later served on the faculty of the school of medicine. He is active in a number of academic medical associations, including the prestigious American College of Surgeons

As a medical clinician and parent, his concerns not only deal with the proper logistical systems and protocols being in place. He also emphasizes the central role parents, guardians and adults play in disaster preparedness programs. Dr. Upperman puts forth the following tips which will help prevent some of the problems

encountered in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing chaos, as it impacted disaster relief efforts for the most vulnerable among us, children:

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**1. Create a “business card”** for your child just like yours. Include their name, address, phone number on the front, and a list of emergency contacts on the back, including out-of-state relatives and your pediatrician. Make them promise to keep the cards in their pocket or backpack.

**2. Coordinate with other parents** to arrange for each of your children to have a “buddy”—another child in their class or playground that they should stay close to in an emergency. Get parents and buddies together every six months to review family disaster plans.

**3. Make sure your children know who to call** if they cannot reach you—designate an out-of-town friend or relative to be a point of contact. Once a month, schedule a time for your child to call that relative just to say hello. The more regularly they communicate, the more comfortable they will be calling in an emergency.

**4. Every household has features that can be dangerous** in the event of a disaster—things like overhead lights, unsecured water heaters or bookcases, toxic or flammable household cleaners or chemicals. Get your children to help you search the house and make a list of potential hazards. Use the search as an opportunity to teach them about the importance of household safety.

**5. Volunteer** to work with your children, their classmates and their teacher to create a checklist the class can use in the event of an earthquake or other emergency. Create the checklist as a group, and produce pocket-size copies of the checklist for your children to keep in their desks at school.

**6. Create a list** with your children of all the “helpers” they can count on if there is an emergency and you are not together. The list would include teachers, doctors, nurses, firemen, policemen. With young children, create a collage with pictures of the helpers. The goal is to ensure kids will feel comfortable and safe with caretakers and emergency workers.

**7. Have your child create a shopping list** for the family’s disaster preparedness kit and shop for items together. Have them help you pick the storage place, and put them in charge of one of the items in the kit.”

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We salute the pioneering leadership of Brother Upperman as he works to bring solutions to the human suffering resulting from potential circumstances which we don’t want to face, but which are inevitable in this present climate of terrorist threats and increasingly severe natural disasters.





# OMEGA MEN MUST LEAD The National Effort To Stop Intimate Partner Violence

By Peter C. Harvey

*Pi Chapter 1976 - Mu Gamma Gamma Chapter*

*Former Attorney General of New Jersey*

**Real men do not beat or threaten violence against women. Abusive conduct, whether physical or psychological, is not funny. It is not cute. It is not cool or hip. It is a crime. More importantly, it destroys the fabric of our families and communities.**

We must put an end to intimate partner violence – and only men can do it. Omegas should be leaders in the national movement against domestic violence. We cannot stand by silently on such an important issue.

Here's what we can do. First, each Omega Chapter should host an annual forum with experts on intimate partner violence issues to educate the public and develop practical community-based strategies to reduce violence. For undergraduate Chapters, these programs should be held on campus, preferably during domestic violence month (formerly October, now May). For graduate Chapters, these programs should be held in the community. In many instances, Chapters should combine their efforts and host joint programs.

Second, each Chapter should develop a working relationship with a domestic violence advocacy group in the Chapter's community to assist that group in its work. The Chapter can assist with fundraising, clothing drives, book donations or other helpful activities. According to a February 2009 press release by National Resource Center on Domestic Violence at the University of Connecticut, most survivors staying at domestic violence shelters are 18-34 years old and have children under age 18. About 24% of shelter residents face transportation challenges. We can help shelters solve transportation and other issues.

Now, the why of it. Violence is learned behavior. At some point in our development as young men, some of us decided that we should solve disagreements through violence or the threat of violence. Perhaps we emulated our fathers, uncles or other men in our homes. Perhaps we emulated an older brother or friends. Maybe it was some image we saw on screen that persuaded us that walking away from an argument or agreeing to disagree, especially with a girlfriend, simply was not manly or cool enough. Whatever the reason, here we are now. President Barack Obama is in the White



House with a beautiful wife and family enjoying a healthy family relationship. At the same time, our neighborhoods are replete with examples of men and women in physical and psychological combat that will lead to imprisonment, death and broken lives. In many homes, our wives and girlfriends are terrified of us, and we hurt them while proclaiming our purported love.

Whether we are aware of it or not, we all know a Brother or man who is abusing his wife or girlfriend. We also know a woman who is being abused. We have seen the signs of abuse, even if we did not recognize them at the time. A 2004 Allstate Foundation national poll on domestic violence revealed that 3 out of 4 (74%) respondents personally know some-

one who is or has been a victim of domestic violence. Moreover, approximately 33 million (15%) of all U.S. adults admit that they have been a victim of domestic violence. What lessons are our children learning when they witness physical and mental abuse? Some, undoubtedly, will grow up believing that love in a relationship includes periodic physical and verbal abuse. Thus, a woman who witnesses violence as a young girl is more likely to accept and live with it in her own life because that is what she has observed. A young man will grow up honestly believing that he must control his relationship with a woman through aggressive force because that is what he has learned from watching men in his home. In fact, boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

Give this idea some thought: would we be comfortable knowing that our daughters are in a violent relationship with a man? More importantly, would we be proud to learn that our sons use violent language and/or physical abuse in their relationships with women? It would be a badge of shame for us, and rightly so because we would ask ourselves where did our children learn this behavior and at what point did they find this conduct acceptable? The more searching question would be what role did our language or conduct play in the development of our children's attitudes and behavior?

The most recent domestic violence data collected by various law enforcement organizations describes the enormity of the intimate partner violence problem:

Approximately 1.5 million women and 834,700 men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner each year. One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.

**GEORGIA:** In 2006, there were 54,010 reported cases of domestic violence. There were 55 domestic violence-related homicides committed by 45 men and 10 women.

**CALIFORNIA:** In 2007, 110 women were killed by their husbands, ex-husbands or boyfriends, and 18 men were killed by their wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends. Law enforcement agencies received 174,649 domestic violence calls, of which 69,422 involved weapons (firearms and knives). In 2006, 43,911 people, mostly men, were arrested for domestic violence.

**Approximately 1.5 million women and 834,700 men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner each year.**



**PENNSYLVANIA:** In 2007, 121 people were killed in domestic violence incidents, 95 victims (63 females and 32 males) and 26 perpetrators who committed suicide (23) or were killed by police (3). Of the victims who died, 7 (4 girls, 3 boys) were between the ages of 1-12 years old, and 3 (2 girls, 1 boy) were between the ages of 13-18 years old. At a total of 14 murder-suicides arising from domestic violence, Pennsylvania was fourth in the nation in 2007 in murder-suicides behind Florida (24), Texas (24) and California (17).

**TEXAS:** In 2006, there were 186,868 family violence incidents reported. 120 women were killed by their partner. 12,356 adults and 16,968 children received shelter from abusive relationships.

The majority (73%) of family violence victims are female.

So where does it end? Some results are predictable. Some violence will lead to unproductive families with violence issues that continue for several generations. Sometimes, family members will die. Their killers will be prosecuted and will spend a considerable amount of time in prison, with guaranteed unemployment when he or she is released. This violence and incarceration produces trauma in families of both the victim and perpetrator, from which some families and neighborhoods never recover.

Even for those who do not suffer imprisonment, there are very severe collateral consequences. For example, in the employment context, the man will likely be fired, and not easily re-hired. In fact, most decision makers in business, women and men, do not want abusers in their work place. The theory is

a simple one: if he will beat his wife or girlfriend, he will be violent in the work place and, thereafter, the company will be sued for assault resulting in a settlement or verdict for big dollars. So, why take the risk?

The time has come to Stop the Violence. We must do so before yet another generation accepts the false notion that we own our partner and can control her through beatings and intimidation. I urge each Omega Brother and Chapter to implement the Stop the Violence effort undertaken by our Fraternity. Details about the Stop the Violence program can be found at our Fraternity's website (Go to [www.oppf.org](http://www.oppf.org); click the "General Public" tab, then the "News/Media" tab).

More importantly, it requires that each of us engage in a consistent conversation about intimate partner violence and undertake strategies that stop this behavior. For example, when we learn that another Brother or man is abusing a woman, we should not ignore it. We must encourage that Brother or friend to stop and seek counseling immediately to learn how to stop being an abuser. Standing by in silence helps facilitate the abuse. In this case, silence may equal death.

Brothers, we cannot delay our action any longer. We must demonstrate leadership in our communities on the issue of violence. We must live it personally. We also must live it organizationally by collaborating annually with groups that have been consistently working on domestic violence issues. **We must act decisively, and right now.**



# >>FIRSTdistrict

SIGMA NU CHAPTER:

## >> Annual Achievement Week Celebration



**Keith Mathews**

**PROVIDENCE, RI** Sigma Nu Chapter held its Annual Achievement Week Awards Banquet on November 17, 2008 at the Airport Radisson Hotel, in Warwick, RI. Listed below are the award recipients: Manny Barrows, senior vice-president of the Bank of Rhode Island is the Citizen of the Year. Jason M. Fowler, vice president/general manager of Enterprise Rent-a-Car of Rhode Island received an award

for Outstanding Community Service along with Ms. Patricia Mathews. Ms. Mathews, the deceased mother, of Former Basileus and 1st District Public Relations Director Brother Keith S. Mathews, was recognized posthumously. Music One and Terrell Osborne (brother of musical artist Jeffrey Osborne) received the Organization of the Year award. Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Ramon Martinez is the Military Service Person of the Year recipient. Mr. Martinez is not a member of Omega Psi Phi.

Brother Dr. L. Michael Burke, Jr., the current Basileus of Sigma Nu, is this year's Omega Man of the Year recipient. Brother Dr. George S. Lima, Sr. received the Founder's Lifetime Achievement award for 60 years to our beloved Frater-

nity. Brother Lima is a Brown University Alum and C.E.O of the Black Air Foundation. First District Representative – Brother Dr. Carleton Pickron was on hand to pin Brother Lima and recognize him for his consistent, longstanding service to Omega and the First District.

Dr. DeNorris D. Crosby, District Scholarship recipient was recognized along with winners of the local High School Essay Contest from throughout the state for submitting the best essays.

"Most people are aware of our most visible Fraternity Brothers like Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal, Jesse Jackson, Vernon Jordan, and Earl Graves; but many folks don't realize we have members right here in Rhode Island who are leaders throughout our local communities" says Jerry Morgan, Golf Pro and Teaching Instructor at Buttonhole Golf Course. Morgan, the Luncheon Chair, was the local coordinator of the event. "Our local Chapter, Sigma Nu is extremely active in Community Service projects which have major impact at the local level" says Morgan. "We continue to demonstrate effective leadership by recognizing these worthy recipients who so greatly impact our local communities."

## CHI OMICRON CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; Celebrates 60th Anniversary



**NEW HAVEN, CT** – Chi Omicron Chapter held a 60th anniversary celebration September 18, 2008 in East Haven, CT. The celebration was a reunion of brothers who crossed at Chi Omicron over the last 60 years.

Omega men traveled from as far away as Washington D.C. to be in attendance. First District Representative Carlton Pickron, First Vice District Representative Edward Arrington and District K.R.S. Kedrick Robinson were in attendance. In addition to reminiscing about years in the Fraternity, brothers viewed the original charters for Chi Omicron and Chi Chapters.

*-Brother Leo Hodges*

## ETA PHI CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; Celebrates Achievement Week



**BOSTON, MA** - Since 1988, the brothers of Boston's Eta Phi Chapter have enjoyed a wonderful working relationship with the Mather Elementary School, the oldest public elementary school in the United States, and for the last three years at the Nathan Hale School. It started when Brother Phil Kane took on the challenge of implementing a mentoring program with Mather students with Learning Adaptive Behavior issues.

On November 17, 2008 Eta Phi, Gamma, and Iota Chi Chapters jointly sponsored their annual Achievement Week program. Almost 100 people were in attendance including eight students from the Nathan Hale School, their teacher Craig Martin and the principal, Sandra Mitchell-Woods. The event was held at the Suffolk University Law School.

Reverend Dr. John M. Borders, III was the keynote speaker as well as the recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award. Brother Anthony Mathis was selected as Omega Man of the Year, Brother Frederick Powell received the Superior Service Award and Ms. Takiya Smith received \$500.00 as the High School Essay Contest winner.

Brother Lennitt Bligen serves as Basileus of Eta Phi Chapter and is ably assisted by Brother Fred Powell as Vice Basileus. Together, they are leading the way as Eta Phi Chapter strives to reach new heights for the glory of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



# >> SECOND district

## PI CHAPTER

### >> Celebrates 85th Anniversary

**BALTIMORE, MD** - The Alumni Brothers of Pi Chapter celebrated their 85th Anniversary at Morgan State University on November 9, 2008. Pi Chapter was founded on October 28, 1923 at what was then Morgan College (now Morgan State University) in Baltimore, MD. The founding effort was led by Brother Linwood G. Koger, the Fraternity's first National Achievement Week Director, and the first Basileus of Pi Omega Chapter, the Baltimore City graduate chapter. Pi Chapter is the oldest undergraduate chapter of the Fraternity in Maryland.

The anniversary celebration included: a golf outing, a casino night, several workshops, a black tie gala ball, and a church worship service. Over 150 Pi Chapter Brothers participated in the events, and more than 500 guests were in attendance. Among the Pi Chapter Brothers honored posthumously included: Joe Black (Pi 1947), and J. Haywood Harrison (Pi 1950).

Other honorees included: Leroy Battle (Pi 1948), George K. McKinney (Pi 1954), Earl Graves (Pi 1954), Lonnie Liston Smith (Pi 1958), Hughlyn F. Fierce (Pi 1959), Water Amprey (Pi 1963), Samuel Art Williams (Pi 1967), Theodore "TC" Newman (Pi 1970), William R. Roberts (Pi 1974), and Peter C. Harvey (Pi 1976).



The celebration generated over \$10,000 for the Judge Linwood G. Koger, Sr. Founder's Memorial Scholarship, which was established within the Morgan State University Foundation in 2003. Pi Chapter Alumni also established the Pi Chapter Alumni Group under the governance of the Morgan State University National Alumni Association. More information is available at: [www.pichapters85th.com](http://www.pichapters85th.com).



## >> Annual Youth Leadership Conference

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter held its third annual Youth Leadership Conference on Saturday, October 27, 2008 at the Blackburn Center at Howard University. LGG was honored to have as a speaker the Honorable Representative Brother James Clyburn Jr. of South Carolina. Over 110 youth attended the conference this year. The focus was the enhancement of the academic and interpersonal skills of our youth. The theme for this year's conference was "Success is a Choice."

During the three break-out sessions there was a focus on "Gender Related Issues," "Interviewing Skills," "The Habits of Highly Effective Teens," "Goal Setting and Discipline," "Preparing For The Next Step" and "Interviewing Skills and Appropriate Dress." Brother Clyburn led the discussion about gender issues related to young men.

The participants received a lively ear full of inspiration and direction from Brother Vroman Wright. He stressed that our aspirations must be set high. "Don't be limited by the expectations of others," stated Brother Wright. Moreover, having the discipline, perseverance and courage in the face of many distractions will prove extremely valuable in life.

### NU NU CHAPTER

## >> Social Action Project

**WILLINGBORO, NJ** - The Nu Nu Chapter hosted the young men of the Omega Teens Mentoring Program for uplift at the John F. Kennedy Center in Willingboro, NJ on Saturday November 23, 2008. A workshop on "Time Management" was conducted by Brother Vincent Brown and Brother Kevin Waters. Brothers Brown and Waters were very informational, inspirational, and thought provoking.

The youth were given time management tools, such as knowing themselves, knowing their plans, knowing what to do, when and how to do it, and that knowing must lead to doing (remembering the goal, measuring progress, and developing and maintaining

Brother Lawrence Shaw led the discussion on interviewing skills and appropriate dress. "First impressions are lasting impressions," stated Brother Shaw. Students were reminded of the importance of projecting a professional, neat and clean image when seeking employment. The participants were reminded to arrive early for interviews and to ask questions during interviews.

As a reward for attending the workshop, sponsors provided a Wii, an X-Box 360 gaming console, and two medial players for raffle. The participants enjoyed having the opportunity to ask questions about the personal issues impacting their lives and the Omega men of LGG enjoyed having the opportunity to provide the uplift that our youth so desperately need.

Brother Sherman Charles, LGG Basileus, closed the conference by thanking the presenters and the students for their participation in the Youth Leadership Conference. He further reminded everyone that the youth are our future and that LGG is committed to programs that positively impact their lives.

*By Brother Michael H. Smith*

### PI OMEGA

## >> Sponsors "It Takes a Village" with Baltimore Mayor

**BALTIMORE, MD** - Mayor Sheila Dixon hosted "It Takes a Village," her second annual community Black History Month celebration, on February 7, 2009 at the War Memorial Building in Baltimore, MD. The event was emceed by Maria Broom, known for her roles as an actress, reporter and teacher, and Marc Clarke, formerly the host of 92Q's "Big Fat Morning Show." The event was closed with a keynote speech given by famous actor, comedian, and activist, Brother Bill Cosby and a discussion on the theme, "It Takes a Village."

Pi Omega Chapter was a sponsor for a \$200 savings bond that was provided to the first place winner of the "It Takes a Village" Poetry Contest. Ms. Quaje Reed a 6th grader from the Harlem Park Elementary/Middle School was the recipient of the savings bond. She also received a laptop computer courtesy of Wal-Mart.

Students from the Patterson Park Charter School made presentations on several famous African Americans from Baltimore.

Three of the people mentioned were Omega Men and members of Pi Chapter at Morgan State University: Brother Walter A. Gill, first black student to graduate from Baltimore City College High School, Brother Joe Black, pitcher with the Brooklyn Dodgers and the first black to pitch in the World Series, and Brother Samm-Art Williams, television producer for "Martin," "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" and "Hanging With Mr. Cooper."

Brother Cosby spoke on the importance of sharing family history with your children, thus giving them a sense of self worth and who they are. He also shared some stories that provided simple examples of how one can show love to a child. Brother Cosby received a standing ovation regarding his ability address those issues that directly connected with the attendees.

*By Brother John Berkley*

## ALPHA UPSILON CHAPTER

## &gt;&gt; Celebrates Achievement Week 2008

**BROOKLYN, NY** – On Saturday, November 1, 2008, Alpha Upsilon Chapter held its Annual Achievement Week Program at the Grace A. Harewood Senior Citizen Center in the Fort Greene Section of Brooklyn.

Alpha Upsilon Chapter held true to the Achievement Week mandate by recognizing and honoring individuals with the following: Brother Edward H. Taylor Lifetime Achievement Award to Brother William C. McMickens. Brother McMickens was initiated into the Fraternity via Eta Epsilon Chapter (Miles College – Birmingham, AL) on October 15, 1955. He received the award for his impeccable record of loyal and dedicated service to the Fraternity. The Citizen of the Year Award went to Mr. Gil Noble, producer and host of New York City television station WABC-TV's weekly program "Like It Is." The Superior Service Award was presented to Brother Kyle D. Plant for service above and beyond the call of duty. The highly coveted Omega Man of the Year honor was bestowed upon Brother Glenn E. Chapman for his embodiment of our Cardinal Principals and diligence in "Seeing it Through" on any given task!

The program was well attended by friends, family members and Omega Men from the New York City Metropolitan Area.

Those in attendance were treated to a reflective talk from Mr. Gil Noble on the African American experience, an enthusiastic and informative keynote address from the 31st Second District Representative Brother James W. Jordan on the theme Economic Empowerment and Financial Literacy. There was also a live musical performance by trumpet player, Mr. Antonio Dangerfield, and friends.

The Men of Alpha Upsilon Chapter would like to recognize and thank the Zeta Psi Chapter for co-hosting this Achievement Week Program. Congratulations to all the Alpha Upsilon Chapter and Zeta Psi Chapter awardees! Special thanks to the Achievement Week Committee: Brothers Anthony A. Smalls, Harold E. Valle, Garnold M. King II, Michael B. Tucker, Lamar D. Coombs and Committee Chairman Kyle D. Plant for putting together a thoroughly enjoyable program.

*By Lamar D. Coombs*

## THETA MU MU:

## &gt;&gt; Baltimore County's First Graduate Chapter

**BALTIMORE, MD** – On September 26, 2008 Omega gave birth to its 935th graduate chapter. Theta Mu Mu holds the distinction as Baltimore County Maryland's first graduate chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Though officially established in 2008, the efforts to charter the chapter began more than a year earlier.

Eight thoroughly immersed Brothers who resided in the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan area began meeting monthly at the homes of Brother Evan Murray, a 1990 initiate of Eta Gamma Chapter, who is an educator in the Washington, D.C. Public Schools, and Brother James Pierce a 1985 initiate of Pi Chapter, who is an educator in the Baltimore City Public Schools. Other organizers included Brothers: S. Rhawli D. F. Coakley (1989 Pi), Jeff Givens (1987 Omega Lambda), Derrick Green (1990 Gamma), Edwin T. Johnson (1991 Pi), Robert Smith (1987 Eta Lambda), and Eric M. West (2001 Pi Omega). The organizers agreed that there was a significant population in Baltimore County, Maryland that would benefit from the presence of a graduate Omega chapter. Baltimore County is the home of Iota Epsilon Chapter at Towson University, and Upsilon Lambda Chapter at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. Theta Mu Mu is seeking to provide leadership and establish a mentoring relationship with both Iota Epsilon and Upsilon Lambda Chapters.

Since its establishment, Theta Mu Mu wasted no time in calling Omega men to task. The first official meeting was held at Milford Mill Academy on October 9, 2008. Brothers Lawrence Williams (1997 Pi Omega), and Leonard Hart (1999

Pi Omega) are Principal and Vice Principal of the academy respectively, and hosted the meeting. More than 50 Brothers were in attendance. Leadership of the chapter includes Brothers: David Patterson (1990 Delta Beta) Basileus; Evan Murray (1990 Eta Gamma) Vice-Basileus; Dwayne Johnson (2002 Pi Omega) Keeper of Finance; Eric M. West (2001 Pi Omega) Keeper of Records and Seal; Ermon Hervey (2005 Rho Alpha Alpha) Chaplain and Keith Winslow (2004 Pi Omega) Keeper of Peace.

On the historic November 4, 2008 election, members of the chapter assisted Baltimore County voters with transportation to and from the polls. Theta Mu Mu partnered with Pi Omega, the Baltimore City graduate chapter and fed the area homeless and financially challenged during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

On January 19, 2009 Theta Mu Mu Brothers represented the Fraternity participating in Baltimore City's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade. The following day, Theta Mu Mu Brothers were also among the volunteers in the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama. On President's Day the chapter participated in the Youth Leadership Teen Summit sponsored by Congressman Elijah Cummings.

## >> Celebrates 95 Years of Excellence

**LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, PA-** On February 6, 1914, Brothers Oscar James Cooper (Founder), William Griffin Brannon, and John Henry McMorries were dispatched to Lincoln University with the goal of expanding the Fraternity. With their arrival at Lincoln, they were met with the same faculty resistance as that of Howard University. But these visionaries would not let this stand in the way and went on to establish Beta Chapter in the home of Charlotte "Lottie B." Wilson. That night, 20 members were initiated and a banquet was held to mark the Fraternity's first mark of expansion.

Ninety-five years later, the brothers of Beta Chapter commemorate this milestone with their annual "Back to Beta" Anniversary Celebration. The celebration began the morning of February 7, 2009 with a wreath laying ceremony at the gravesite of Sister Charlotte "Lottie B." Wilson.

Brothers Damaas Stephens (4-B-80), Anthony Zanfordino (15-B-90), 31st Second District Representative Brother James Jordan, and 1st Vice Grand Basileus Brother Carl A. Blunt provided a detailed account of the life and service Sister Wilson provided to the brothers of Beta Chapter and the Lincoln University community. Each brother in attendance then provided a personal testimony of how Sister Wilson's life and legacy influenced them in life and the Fraternity.

The brothers of Beta Chapter continued to honor their legacy with a tree dedication ceremony in memory of Dr. Frank "Tick" Coleman. Dr. Coleman was initiated into Beta Chapter in 1932 and dedicated 76 years of his life to the Fraternity, Lincoln University, and the Philadelphia region. Brothers Anthony Sierra (Basileus of Beta Chapter) and Zachary Rollins (Basileus of Zeta Iota Iota Chapter) led the dedication as one representative from each decade of Beta Chapter used gold shovels to break ground for the planting of the tree. Brothers Sierra and Rollins then placed a marker in the ground dedicating that area on the Beta Chapter plot to Dr. Coleman. Beta Chapter's 95th Anniversary Celebration continued in grand fashion with the chapter hosting its annual banquet. Brother Anjuan Collins (2-B-97) served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Brother James Jordan introduced

the 1st Vice Grand Basileus Brother Carl A. Blunt, who served as the night's keynote speaker. At the conclusion of Brother Blunt's address, Brother Lewis Anderson, the Grand Keeper of Records & Seal presented Beta Chapter with a copy of the chapter's charter and emphasized the importance of Omega's first mark of expansion.

The program continued to the awards ceremony where Beta Chapter honored several brothers, professors, and students for their achievement. This year's recipients were Brother Carl A. Blunt (Theodore "Beta 16" Award), Brother Christopher Stoudemire (Basileus Award), Brother Calvin Morris (Oscar James Cooper Award), Soror Brittany Stephens (Charlotte "Lottie B." Wilson Service Award), Dr. S. Carl Walton (Langston Hughes Service Award), and Brother Kevin Jackson (2008-09 Omega Man of the Year Award).





# >>THIRDdistrict

ALPHA CHAPTER:

## >> Charter Day Anniversary

**WASHINGTON, DC** - On Monday December 15, 2008, Alpha Chapter celebrated its 97th Charter Day Anniversary. Tunes of the holiday season welcomed brothers, family and friends into the Armour J. Blackburn Student Activity Center's Gallery Lounge in celebration of The Mother Pearl's 97th Year.

Brothers reacquainted and reminisced over a display table of Alpha Chapter's achievements throughout the year, as attendees waited for the ceremony to begin. After the invocation, guests conversed over a hearty dinner and Brother James Garris, Jr. presented the night's award recipients.

Brother Dr. Steven G. Johnson was the recipient of the Edgar Newton Jackson Jr. Award which is given to the Undergraduate Faculty/Advisor for exemplary service and commitment to the brothers of Alpha Chapter; Brother Wilson Terrile Bland and Brother Lenford Clarence Lloyd were the recipients of the Frank Byron Patterson Award, given to the Alpha Chapter brother in grateful recognition for his dedication and devoted service to the principles and ideals of our Fraternity; and Brother Jason Lloyd was the recipient of the Horace Dwight Boston Award, given in memory of our beloved Brother Horace Dwight Boston, to the Alpha Chapter neophyte who demonstrates the most positive enthusiasm in Fraternity activities and best exemplifies the four cardinal principles.

Brothers and Howard University Administrators Dr. Franklin Chambers, Charles Gibbs, and Marc D. Lee, were honored with certificates for their outstanding commitment, dedication, and support to the brothers of Alpha Chapter.

The keynote speaker of the event was Brother Generique T. Stewart, Ph.D. It was Brother Stewart who implemented the



Chapter's Charter Day celebration in 1996. Brother Stewart gave an account of the Mother Pearl's illustrious legacy and tradition. Brother Stewart also emphasized Alpha Chapter's role in bearing the responsibility of "knowing everything" about the Fraternity's rich history since it is the birthplace of the Fraternity. In reference to Alpha Chapter's duty in greeting all the brothers who make the pilgrimage to the Fraternity's founding location for the historic Presidential Inauguration and the Fraternity's 100th Anniversary in 2011, Brother Stewart ended his uplifting speech by challenging the brothers in attendance with the words, "When you see the brothers, where will you be ... Will you be around or not found?"

-Brother Brett Roman Williams

## OMICRON GAMMA CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; Fannie Mae Walk-A-Thon

**WASHINGTON, DC** – On November 22, 2008 the brothers of Omicron Gamma participated in Fannie Mae's 21st Annual Homeless Walk-A-Thon. The mission of Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless Program is to raise public awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness and to support and increase resources for organizations working to prevent and end homelessness in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan

area. Fannie Mae's Help the Homeless Program fosters volunteerism in service to homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless. Omicron Gamma's commitment to uplifting its community works in unison with the mission of Fannie Mae. The brothers walked five miles to help those in need.

*-Brother Nick Charles*

## ZETA MU MU CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; New Member Initiation

**WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA** - On December 13, 2008, Zeta Mu Mu chapter initiated four new brothers. All are undergraduates at the College of William and Mary, the second oldest college in America. These new brothers not only represent the first undergrad members initiated into Zeta Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; but, also represent the first charter members of a new chapter planned to be established on the William and Mary campus in the future.

*-Bro. Glenn Johnson*



## ZETA OMICRON CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; Brother Barry Davis

**HAMPTON, VA** - Working for the nation and Omega as well – Brother (LTC) Barry Davis of Zeta Omicron Chapter, Hampton, VA was detailed as a Special Events Coordinator for the 56th Presidential Inauguration. He was responsible for coordinating and supervising Department of Defense ceremonial support of the bands and color guards, for bipartisan dinners and inaugural balls. In addition, he assisted the Presidential Inaugural Committee in the selection of venues. Brother Davis indicated that this was a moment he will always cherish and hopes to one day share with his grandchildren.

*-Brother James Jackson*



## PSI NU CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; Honoring Black History

**ALEXANDRIA, VA** - As all good Omegas recognize, black men of merit are to be honored whenever the occasion arises. The Brothers of Psi Nu Chapter in Alexandria, VA were afforded the opportunity to witness one of our own being celebrated by the Hoops Academy, International in honor of Black History month. Hoops Academy selected two luminaries to honor who taught in the Alexandria school system.

Thirty years after his passing, Bro. Edward Lloyd Patterson (Nu Psi, 1932) was honored as a teacher, mentor, husband, friend and forerunner against segregation. His efforts to teach young black students in the rudiments of music while grappling with the mental stigma of second hand instruments from the white schools was exemplary. Learning to repair what was broken, he taught his students to not only make do, but to make better from the heart with your best effort in all things. Using his own funds, he traveled with his students throughout Virginia to play for audiences big and small, giving them a first hand example of how music is appreciated everywhere. His efforts so impressed one student, that this student

followed in Brother Patterson's footsteps and attended Virginia State College (VSC). The young man, Arthur Dawkins, taught in the Alexandria City public schools after graduation; eventually taking his mentor's place as band director at Parker Gray High School. Arthur went on to teach at Howard University and received a master's and doctorate degrees from Catholic University. Dr. Arthur Dawkins went on to become a world-renowned woodwind instrumentalist, teacher, mentor, and an associate of jazz great - Dizzy Gillespie.

The event held on Sunday, February 8, 2009 at T. C. Williams High School was attended by over 700 guests. Highlights not only included several testimonies and inspirational Black History videos, but we were treated to tunes from Howard's University's acappella group, Afro Blue, and the Howard University Jazz Ensemble which was directed by Dr. Dawkins until he retired in 2007.

## ZETA MU MU CHAPTER:



## &gt;&gt; Achievement Week Banquet

**WILLIAMSBURG, VA** - The Brothers of Zeta Mu Mu Chapter would like to thank everyone who supported the Charter Ceremony and Achievement Week Banquet held on November 2, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel of Fort Magruder, Williamsburg, VA. Brother Mark Jackson, 3rd District Representative, presided as the Chartering Officer and Achievement Week Banquet Speaker. As part of the Achievement Week program, Brother Edward Palmer was presented with his 60 year pin. Brothers congratulated Brother Palmer on 60 years of service to our beloved Fraternity.

-Bro. Glenn Johnson

## OMEGA PSI PHI:

## &gt;&gt; Inauguration Celebration



**WASHINGTON, DC** - January 17, 2009 was truly an exciting and historical day with numerous Inauguration Balls being held in Washington DC to celebrate the election of the first African-American to the presidency of the United States of America. Many supporters were thrilled to learn that members of Omega Psi Phi were hosting two Inauguration Balls in Crystal City (the Doubletree Hotel and the Hyatt Regency Hotel).

-Brother Manny McCrae





## &gt;&gt;FOURTHdistrict

IOTA PSI CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; 2008 Jim Thorpe Award



**COLUMBUS, OH-** Brother Malcolm Jenkins was born on December 20, 1987 in Piscataway Township, New Jersey and is the son of W. Lee and Gwendolyn Jenkins. Brother Jenkins led Piscataway Township High School to three consecutive state championships in football where he played wide receiver and defensive back. In the New Jersey state track and field championships as a junior, he was the 400 meter champion and placed third in the 200 meters. As a senior, Jenkins placed third in the hurdles.

After being highly recruited out of high school by Ohio State, Rutgers, Syracuse, Virginia Tech and Indiana, Jenkins made The Ohio State University his school of choice and accepted an athletic scholarship to play football for the "Buckeyes."

During his freshman season as a defensive back, Brother Jenkins had 37 tackles in 10 games and earned a varsity letter. During his sophomore season, Jenkins played in 13 games and had 55 tackles with four interceptions earning him Consensus First-team All-Big Ten.

As a junior, Brother Jenkins had 47 tackles along with four interceptions and earned Second-team All-American, Consensus First-team All-Big Ten and was a Thorpe Award

semi-finalist. During Brother Jenkins' senior campaign as one of the team captains, he had 57 tackles with four interceptions earning him Consensus First-team All-Big Ten; First-team All-American and the Thorpe Award winner (nation's best defensive back). Brother Jenkins is projected to be the first corner back selected in the 2009 National Football League Draft.

Brother Malcolm Jenkins was initiated into Iota Psi Chapter at The Ohio State University Spring 2007 and currently serves as chaplain. When asked about his thoughts on the Fraternity, Brother Jenkins stated, "I love the fact that Omega forces us to have enthusiasm towards all of our aspirations whether it's scholarship, our community or in competition. I joined because I wanted to be associated with a group of men who were focused on their responsibilities as leaders on campus and in the community. In my opinion, these elite men could only be found in Omega."

-By Brother Mark C. Shaw

## XI IOTA IOTA CHAPTER:



### >>Chapter of the Year 2008 -09

Pictured with 38th Grand Basileus and Leadership Team  
Basileus - Jarrett A. Thomas, Vice Basileus - Gary W. Wilson,  
Keeper of Record, and Seal - Willie A. Terrell Jr.,  
Keeper of Finance - Jessie L. Pope, Chaplain - Wendell L.  
Boyce, Keeper of the Peace

- Dr. Randall E. Dalton

## DELTA ALPHA CHAPTER:

### >> New Initiations

**DAYTON, OH-** On November 29, 2008, three young men entered into the great land of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Standing left to right are Brother Marvin Horton, Chapter Basileus and new members Brother William Waters, Brother Cory Norvell and Brother Romel Murray.

- Brother Chris Welch



## ZETA OMEGA CHAPTER:

### >> Promoting Census

**CLEVELAND, OH** - April 1, 2010 will be a significant day in the United States--and this is not an April Fools' joke. April 1, 2010 is the official day that every person in the country will be counted by the Census Bureau. Brother Ben Holbert, Immediate-Past Basileus of Zeta Omega Chapter in Cleveland (2005-2008), is working to lead the U.S Census effort in Ohio.

Brother Holbert took the position of Partnership Specialist in January 2009. "You may wonder why is the census count so important?" said Holbert. The answer is, "the federal government uses the census to allocate over \$300 billion that will be used for public service projects like highway construction, hospital services, employment, schools, and educational programs." He adds, "Census results are also used to draw political districts and apportion seats in Congress."

Brother Holbert's primary role will be to connect with local government officials, civic leaders, faith-based communities, fraternities and sororities and other outreach agencies to promote citizen participation for Census 2010. It is estimated that each individual who remains uncounted by the Census results in a loss of approximately \$1,268 of federal funding per year.

Brother Holbert encourages each chapter in the Fourth District to implement a service project aimed at promoting census participation.

"Omega Psi Phi can take the lead on this community issue," he said. "We have ample material, literature and give-a-ways that can be made available to chapters for distribution to ensure our constituents understand the importance of being counted in 2010."



- The census questionnaires will arrive in the mail between March 15, 2010 and Census Day, April 1.
- The information you place on the census form is confidential.
- The Census Bureau, by law, cannot share your answers with other governmental agencies, including the Internal Revenue Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service or welfare agencies.

In addition to taking a portrait of the country's population, Census 2010 provides temporary job opportunities that are ideal for students. For more information, visit [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov) or call the toll-free number: 1-866-861-2010.



## MU IOTA CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; Founder's Celebration

**COLUMBUS, OH-** On Saturday evening November 15 2008, the Mu Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity celebrated the 97th Anniversary. "A very nice and classy event for the Omegas" was how one guest captured the evening's events. Each year Mu Iota hosts its Annual Founder's Day Celebration to recognize the perseverance of the organizations and the remarkable accomplishments of individuals within the community.

This year's celebration was chaired by Brother Anthony Trotman. With the support of his talented committee, he was able to ensure that all guests enjoyed themselves. The keynote speaker was none other than the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Brother Lewis Anderson. His message was filled with passion, knowledge, and enthusiasm. He captured the audience remembering the rich history and tradition that Mu Iota possesses, serving as the central hub for brothers in the Columbus, Ohio area as well as the entire 4th District.

This year Mu Iota was able to present high school essay awards to some of the best and brightest students in the Columbus, Ohio area. This year the essay awards recipients were

Jordan Lyles, Senior at Columbus Alternative High School. Karmell Brown, Senior at Columbus School for Girls. Jaslyn Leech, Senior at Groveport Madison High School, and Austin Fehrenbach, Senior at Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School. Each of these students demonstrated their academic prowess and their ability to analyze and create solutions for local problems among the African American community. Mu Iota presented the students with a \$500 award and acknowledged them as the future leaders of Columbus, Ohio.

With continued efforts to recognize the leaders and community activists, Mu Iota was able to identify a remarkable woman who demonstrates the highest level of community involvement and excellence. This year's Citizen of the Year award was presented to Mrs. Joyce McKinley-Robinson, a music educator for over 20 years. Mrs. McKinley-Robinson educated thousands of students about music, expanding their horizons and offering them a positive alternative to the street atmosphere. Mrs. McKinley-Robinson will always be remembered for her outgoing personality and unyielding passion for the multifaceted world of music. Omega has and will continue to make a positive impact on the Columbus, Ohio community. Mu Iota has committed to develop, uplift and recognize those in our community who excel not only in academics, but those who serve tirelessly to increase the life expectancy of individuals around them.

*-Bro. Jshade Barnes*



## >> 17th Annual Achievement Week Banquet



**PIQUA, OH** - On November 22, 2008, Xi Iota Iota Chapter held its 17th Annual Achievement Week Banquet, Brother Charles Allen Bruce, Vice President, Process Improvement, Emerson Industrial Automation Business Group, was the keynote speaker for the evening. His inspiring message, "Everything is gonna be all right," was appreciated by all in attendance.

Xi Iota Iota honored students from Lima, Piqua, Sidney, and Troy, Ohio, members of the Fraternity and local citizens for outstanding achievements. The recipient

of the Citizen of the Year Award was Jessie Lowe, Community Activist. Husky Energy Inc. is the recipient of the 2008 Business of the Year Award. The Chapter also recognized and awarded scholarships to the following students for their academic and extracurricular activities: Jeremy McGee (Lima) 3.57 GPA, Eudora "Dora" Vines (Sidney) 3.88 GPA, Yana Atim (Troy) 3.395 GPA, and Diamond Clemons (Piqua) 3.205 GPA.

The mayors from the four cities attended the banquet and presented proclamations naming November 16-22, 2008 as Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Achievement Week. This year, Xi Iota Iota was honored to have several former mayors from the cities of Sidney, Piqua, Troy, and Lima in attendance. The 1st Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl Blunt, the 4th District Representative, Brother Dewey A. Ortiz, former Chapter Basileus and other officers from across the state of Ohio, Corporate representatives, and representatives from the educational arena were also present.

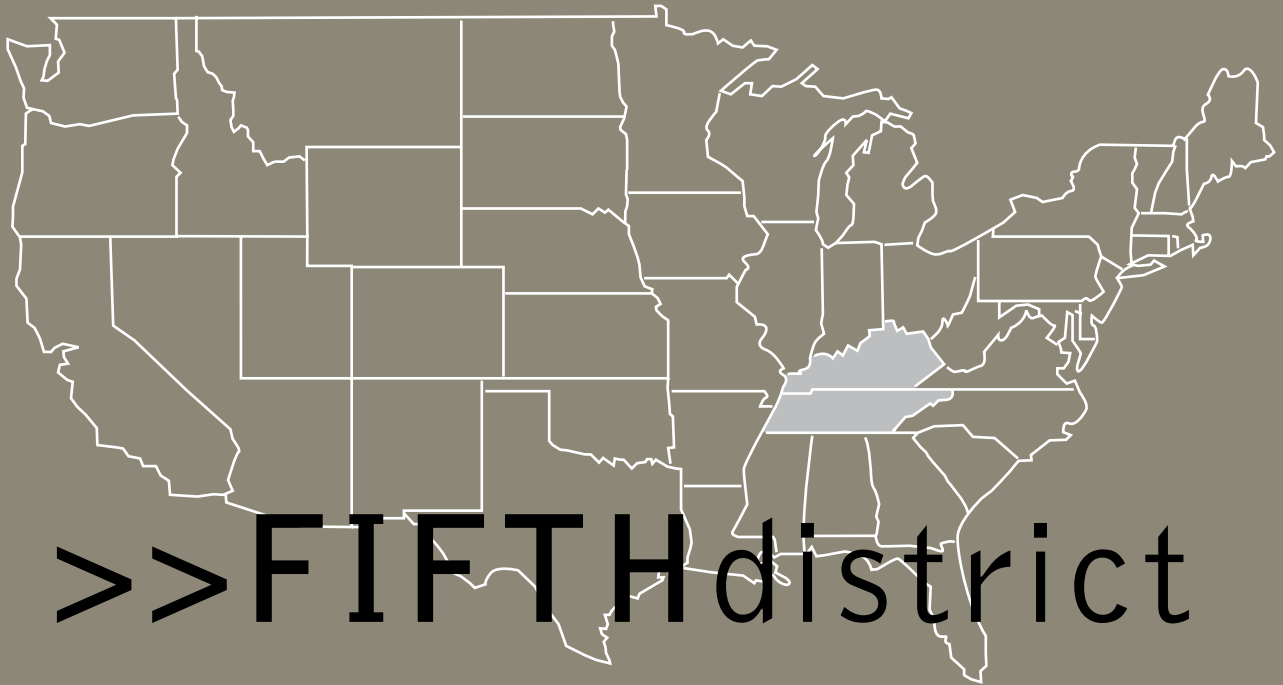
-Jarrett Thomas

## BETA IOTA CHAPTER:

### >> Brother Williams Promoted



**CINCINNATI, OH** – Messer Construction Co. announces the promotion of Brother Stanford T. Williams, Jr., to Economic Inclusion Vice President. Brother Williams joined Messer in 2005 and leads the Economic Inclusion program across the entire company. In his new and expanded role, he will develop partnerships with certified minority and woman-owned businesses that can lead to economic opportunities such as project work and joint venture opportunities with Messer. He will also oversee the recruiting initiatives for minority men and women for the company's workforce. Under Brother Williams' leadership, Messer received the 2006 Ohio Governor's Minority Business Development Award - the only construction firm, as well as the only majority owned firm, to earn that distinction. Since 2005, Messer has increased its purchases of certified minority-owned business enterprises (MBEs) and women-owned business enterprises (WBEs) from \$31 million to \$89 million in 2008. Brother William is an active member of Beta Iota Chapter in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was initiated in 1997 at Beta Iota Chapter.



# >> FIFTH district

## EPSILON PHI CHAPTER:

### >> Pastor Steps Down

**MEMPHIS, TN** - After 52-years in the pulpit, veteran Civil Rights leader Benjamin L. Hooks will retire. On a cold January 2009 Sunday, many of the brothers of Epsilon Phi Chapter were present as the Brother Reverend Benjamin L. Hooks delivered his last sermon as pastor of the Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis. It will not be his final address to the church however; he will remain as minister-in-residence.

Brother Benjamin Lawson Hooks was born January 31, 1925 in Memphis, TN. His father, Robert B. Hooks was a photographer and owned a photography studio located on Beale Street, and the family was fairly comfortable by the standards of Black people for the day. Many of his church members argue that Brother Hooks has given the best sermons delivered anywhere, by anyone. He had a leading role in the civil rights movement. His resume includes being named the first African-American judge of record in the South since Reconstruction, becoming the first African-American appointed to the board of the Federal Communications Commission, serving as the executive director of the NAACP from 1977.

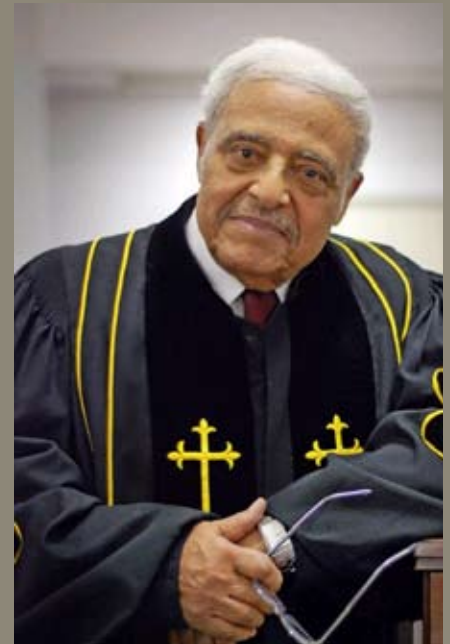
However, during all his more public standing it was the pulpit that was always his first love and he cherished his opportunity to serve as pastor and deliver the word. It was the pulpit where many felt he formulated the moral arguments that would serve as the foundations for his formidable legal strategies. Today although his sermons are shorter, they still contain the patent Brother Hooks storytelling which he expertly intertwines with the Scripture. "He is a person who is passionate about the Gospel, energized about the Word of God and wants everyone to feel the energy and presence of God in

their lives," U.S. District Judge Bernice Donald, a member at Greater Middle Baptist told reporters. In his youth, he felt the call to the Christian ministry. His father, however, did not approve and discouraged him from such a calling.

As Brother Hooks tells the story, he also had a terrible fear of speaking to crowds.

"I could preach to the chickens and cats and dogs and line them up and make them hear my sermons," Brother Hooks said in a recent interview. "When it comes to other folks, I just could not do it."

In 1954, only days before the U.S. Supreme Court handed down *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, Brother Hooks appeared on an RCNL-sponsored roundtable, along with NAACP lead attorney, Thurgood Marshall, and other Black Southern attorneys to formulate possible litigation strategies. Meanwhile Rev. Alexander Gladney asked him to deliver a lay sermon at St. John's Baptist Church in Douglass. Brother Hooks says he remembers writing it out, anticipating the fear that would hit him in front of the congregation. "On that particular Sunday morning, I got up, delivered that speech and I have never been timid, not one day since then," Brother Hooks said. Brother Hooks has spent 50+ years in the ministry.





## &gt;&gt; Science and Engineering Workshop



**NASHVILLE, TN** - Members of Gamma Phi Chapter recently presented a science and engineering workshop for 4th grade boys at Bordeaux Enhanced Option Elementary School in Nashville, TN. The workshop included a presentation on the merits of a career in engineering and demonstrations in electrical engineering and lab chemistry. The presentation, conducted by Brother Clint Boyd, Jr., covered the following topics: what is an engineer, what do they do, prerequisites for college study, types of engineers, salary ranges, and engineer career fields. Brother Charles McCurry conducted a wrestling simulation using two robots as well as a motion demonstration using a voice-controlled robot. Brother Robert Bostick conducted a science experiment.

"We are so very fortunate to have the men of Gamma Phi Chapter working as mentors at Bordeaux Enhanced Option School," said Jacqueline Kinzer, Principal at Bordeaux. "We appreciate each of them for sharing their time, talents, skills, and expertise to give our students experiences that promote positive social skills."

Gamma Phi Chapter has conducted similar programs with area schools in the past. The chapter's involvement with Bordeaux Enhanced Option Elementary began in 2007 with bi-monthly visits to the school. Each visit usually involves three-to-five chapter members with backgrounds related to the topic of discussion. To date, those topics have included

money management, law enforcement, fire safety, science & engineering, career aspirations, and etiquette. Each discussion reinforces the benefits of a good education, and stresses good study habits. In the coming months, members of the chapter will make presentations on physical health and will participate in the school's Dr. Seuss Read-a-thon Week.

"Our objective for this program is to provide positive interaction, with an emphasis on enlightening and encouraging young boys," said Bostick, the chapter's coordinator for this program. "In today's era, where there are very few male teachers at the elementary school level, Gamma Phi and the Bordeaux School administrators created an avenue for the students to interact with male professionals of various backgrounds who could explain and demonstrate their crafts, and offer recommendations for students interested in pursuing a similar career path," he said. Ken Jones, the school's Director of Family Resources and the facilitator of the visits, agrees. "The students have been very attentive and show genuine interest in the subject matter, asking hundreds of questions," he said. "The boys really look forward to the bi-monthly visits by the Chapter, as do the fraternity brothers," Bostick noted.

Gamma Phi Chapter was established in Nashville in 1925 and has implemented many community outreach programs over the years including community clean-ups, mentoring and tutoring, awarding scholarships, health fairs, voters' registration drives and annual Thanksgiving and Christmas charity programs for senior citizens.

*-Brother Clint Boyd, Jr.*



## PSI TAU CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; Chapter Welcomes New Brothers

**LEXINGTON, KY** - On January 11, 2009, Psi Tau Chapter welcomed four new brothers to the ranks of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Membership Selection Chairman, Brother John Douglas presided over the induction ceremony.

Brother Joel Taylor is currently employed in the business field, Brother Francis Ajie is in pursuit of additional education, Brother Tavon McGee and Brother Bryan Stallings are both in quest of gridiron championships in the Arena Football League, while also being gainfully employed in business and education. The Psi Tau Chapter looks forward to this new addition of thoroughly immersed young men.

- Brother L. Rodney Bennett



## KAPPA IOTA CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; Achievement Week Banquet

**CHATTANOOGA, TN** - In observance of the 2008 Achievement Week Banquet, Kappa Iota Chapter had as its guest speaker, Georgia Department of Corrections Commissioner Brother James E. Donald.

Brother Donald is the first African American to head the 14,400-employee Department of Corrections. He was appointed to the position by Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue on December 1, 2003. He is a retired United States Army Major General with a distinguished 33-year career in the Army.

Brother Donald's last assignment before retirement in September 2003 was as Deputy Chief of Staff for the United States Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Atlanta, GA. Prior to serving at Army Forces Command, he served as Deputy Commanding General of

United States Army Pacific, Assistant Division Commander to the 25th Infantry Division, and Director of Operations, U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii. During his career, Donald served in numerous key command and staff assignments.

Brother Donald spoke to Omega's theme for this year's Achievement Week: "Three Looks, One Focus – Family–Fraternity–Friends." He captivated the audience with his life story of growing up in rural Mississippi and the role his family played in his success. He shared with the audience valuable lessons learned along the way of his achievements as he attended the University of Mississippi and his later exploits as an officer in the United States Army. Brother Donald informed the attendees that for one to be successful in life, a person must have purpose, passion, and performance. His speech was rewarded with rousing applause.

-Brother Curtis Collier

## >> Achievement Week Banquet

**MURFREESBORO, TN.** The brothers of Pi Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter and Mu Zeta Undergraduate Chapter hosted their 2008 Founders Day Banquet and 22nd anniversary at the Lane - Agri Park Bldg, Murfreesboro, TN on November 14, 2008. The 2008 theme was: "Is Race a Relevant Consideration in Leading the United States of America." A.M.E. Presiding Elder and Former Fifth District Representative, Brother Ralph Johnson served as the keynote speaker.

While the guests and brothers enjoyed a wonderful meal – they were also entertained by a slide show presentation that chronicled the 22-year history of Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter. The formal portion of the program began with special recognition to Brother Charles Griffith, Jr. He was previously selected as 5th District and International Graduate Omega Man of the Year, respectively, for the 2007 calendar year. Brother Griffith was cited for his leadership, management skills, and commitment as Chairman of the Achievement Week and Founders' Banquet for the last three years.

The following brothers received annual Achievement Week Awards: Founders Awards – were presented to Brother Dr. Frank Wade and Brother Dion Allen. The Superior Service Award was presented to Brother Dr. Derek Johnson. The prestigious title of Omega Man of the Year

was bestowed upon Brother Rickey Boone for his service as Chairman of the Annual Golf Tournament and Keeper of Records and Seal for the last two years.

In addition, Ms. Florence Smith, dedicated community leader was selected as Citizen of the Year. Our annual Essay Contest was very competitive this year as well. The winners for 2008 were: Ms. Akia Dubose of Smyrna High School – 4th Place & \$75; Mr. Joe Horvath of Blackman High School – 3rd Place & \$100; Mr. Josh Horvath (Joe's twin brother) also of Blackman High School – 2nd Place & \$200; and Ms. Taelor Olive of La Vergne High School earned 1st Place and \$300 for her achievements.

Chapter leaders for 2008-2009 are Brothers: Derek Johnson – Basileus; Rickey Boone – Vice Basileus, Namon Anderson – Keeper of Records and Seal, Earl Berry, Jr. – Keeper of Finance, Dion Allen – Chaplain and Charles Griffith, Jr. Chapter Editor to the Oracle

*by Brother Charles J. Griffith, Jr..*





# >>SIXTH district

## KAPPA LAMBDA CHAPTER:

### >> Annual Blood Drive

**RALEIGH, NC**—On Wednesday, October 15, 2008, North Carolina State University's Kappa Lambda Chapter hosted its annual Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive.

The blood drive was held in conjunction with the American Red Cross and was held on campus. In addition to blood collection, a bone-marrow typing station was set up to collect samples for a bone-marrow database that will serve those in need of bone-marrow transplants because of the debilitating effects of leukemia. Particular emphasis was placed on the bone marrow typing of minority groups, for people of color are in need of bone marrow, and there are relatively few compatible donors.

The event was a success, and exceeded all expectations. A total of 68 pints of blood were collected, far exceeding the goal of 50 pints. A total of 35 people were typed for bone marrow, the majority of which were minorities. In total, over 90 people participated, which is one of the most successful student-run blood drives at NC State in recent times.

This effort proved to be a worthwhile endeavor and has built a bridge for future drives of this sort. The Kappa Lambda Chapter continues to uphold the principles of Omega, and live in the spirit of Brother Dr. Charles R. Drew.



## UPSILON ZETA CHAPTER:

### >> Recognizing Mrs. Elliott

**GREENVILLE, NC**- Members of the Upsilon Zeta Chapter at East Carolina University are pictured with Mrs. Laura Marie Leary Elliott, Class of 1966, after the ALANNA Honors Award ceremony on October 17, 2008.

The chapter members recently established and awarded the first Perseverance Award, designed to recognize the contributions of an alumni member of ECU or community person who has achieved significant goals while having to persevere through challenges that could have prevented their success.

Mrs. Elliott is acknowledged as the first undergraduate African-American student to graduate from ECU. She arrived on campus during the early 1960's and experienced many nega-

tive attempts to alter her path to a college degree; however, she overcame those challenges and honored the wishes of her parents to graduate from ECU.

The Upsilon Zeta chapter salutes Mrs. Elliott, who is now retired and living in Maryland. Mrs. Elliott is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and she is married to Brother Elliott.



## ALPHA OMICRON CHAPTER:

### >> Scholars Program



**ROCKY MOUNT, NC**—The Alpha Omicron Chapter introduced the creation of the Omega Founders' Scholars Program. Conceived and birthed in Rocky Mount, NC in July 2007 under the leadership of Basileus Melvin Mitchell, the Founders' Scholars Program presented 16 male scholars on April 6, 2008 on the campus of North Carolina Wesleyan College. Approximately 500 people attended the inaugural event.

The young men participating in the program raised over \$59,000.00 with the Omega Founders' Scholar of the Year receiving 85 percent of the funds raised for his college tuition and the other participants receiving 80 percent of the funds raised for their tuition as well. The balance was used to operate the program and offset expenses. The first Omega Founders' Scholar is Felix Morton IV, 1st runner-up is Stuart McCleary and 2nd runner-up is Antonio Sharpe.

*-Brother Charles Penny*

## ZETA ALPHA CHAPTER:

### >> Annual Dental Health Day

**HENDERSON, NC**— The Zeta Alpha Chapter sponsored a Dental Health Day on February 14, 2009 in Henderson, NC.

Dr. Kenneth Evins and Dr. Kirby Ransom, both members of Zeta Alpha, conducted free dental screenings, provided dental health information, and proper oral hygiene instruction. Each participant received a new toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, and sugar free treats and fruit.

Brothers Evins and Ransom evaluated numerous children and scheduled follow-up appointments. Zeta Alpha conducted the screenings in observance of North Carolina Children's Dental Access Day as part of the Fraternity's na-

tionally mandated Social Action Program.

Dr. Evins and Dr. Ransom stressed the importance of brushing and flossing daily. They also emphasized how eating healthy foods and snacks are an integral part of maintaining overall health.

The children seen were from Franklin, Granville, Vance, and Warren counties. This was the fourth consecutive year Zeta Alpha has sponsored this event.

*-Brother Michael Putney, Sr.*



## KAPPA ALPHA &amp; PSI KAPPA CHAPTERS:

## &gt;&gt; Community Service

**ROCK HILL, SC**—On December 6, 2008 members of the Kappa Alpha Chapter and Psi Kappa Chapter got up early in the morning to perform some community service Adopt-A-Highway.

This is the 10th year the Omegas have been cleaning up the 2-mile stretch of Heckle Blvd and Ogden Road. Also helping with this community service project were a group of 30 young 3rd – 12th graders who are apart of a program called the M.A.L.E. Factor (Manhood and Leadership Empowerment).

The group partnered with Shining Light, LLC and The Leadership Group, LLC, and these programs offer young men different avenues of success as they engage in life empowering workshops, recreational activities, and builds positive

relationships with male role models.

Young men from Rock Hill are matched with one adult mentor from the surrounding universities, businesses and service organizations. Each mentor spends a minimum of four to six hours a month with his mentee. Structured and supervised meetings are held monthly and mentees participate in service learning projects.

The Adopt-a-Highway cleanup was one of those learning projects. The York County Clean Community Coordinator Barbara Clinton said, "I saw all your hard work in those wonderful orange bags yesterday!!! I just love seeing orange bags around town and that clean highway." Every participant had a great time and the young men learned how to give back to the community. *-Brother Isaiah Venning*



## PSI PHI CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; Experience of a Lifetime



**WINSTON-SALEM, NC**- Nine-year-old Sylvester was invited to attend the Sixth District Boys Camp at Camp Hanes on behalf of the Psi Phi Chapter of Winston-Salem, NC.

His mother, Mia, is a single mom who wanted her only child to have positive male role models, but Sylvester had never been away from home for an extended period of time. Mia discovered

that the men from Omega Psi Phi would be volunteering their time to spend with the boys, using vacation time from work to go up to Camp Hanes with them. Impressed with the Fraternity and Camp Hanes, Mia decided to send Sylvester to camp.

The men from Psi Phi Chapter and everyone at Camp Hanes were good role models so I felt comfortable with sending him," Mia explained. "And when I saw the

range of activities that Sylvester would be doing, I knew he would enjoy the experience and get a lot out of it."

After Sylvester returned from Camp Hanes, Mia saw a change in his behavior. "He came back stronger, I don't know how else to put it," she says. "I could see a difference in the way he acted. He was more confident. He was more willing to try new things and think, 'I can do this.' He has stronger will power.

He has so much respect for others and is more responsible. He does his homework without me telling him to do so. He stands up straight, he shakes hands, he makes eye contact and he calls people 'sir' and 'ma'am.' It's been a wonderful experience for both of us."



## IOTA BETA BETA CHAPTER:

### >> Helps High School Band

**MANNING, SC**— During his campaign, President Barack Obama visited South Carolina numerous times before the November 2008 election and while in the state he became enamored with the Golden Pride Monarchs Band from Manning High School.

For each subsequent visit to South Carolina, President Obama requested that the band play whenever he arrived. So for his inauguration, President Obama invited the 80-member band to play for him on his big day.

While this was an enormous honor, there was one problem before the band could embark on such a historical trip, that problem was money. The band needed \$40,000 to make the trip, buy new uniforms and equipment.

Once the call went out, donations and pledges started pouring in from all over the state. So the brothers of Iota Beta Beta decided they needed to do their part in getting the band to the inauguration. The brothers were able to secure donations from Day Dawn and St. Stephen Baptist churches as well as personal donations from the chapter brothers.



On January 7, 2009, Brothers Walter Hill, Elijah McCants, Burnett Vanish and Truman Washington presented Band Director Ray Francis, along with Principal Michael Shorter and Assistant Principal Susan Anderson, a check for \$1200.00. We are happy to report that the band reached their goal of \$40,000 and left for Washington, DC on January 18, 2009.

## IOTA IOTA CHAPTER:

### >> Brother Larry Keith Recognized



**CHAPEL HILL, NC**— Brother Larry Keith was recognized on March 23, 2009 as an outstanding leader in medical education with the establishment of the Larry Keith Loyalty Scholarship by the University of NC Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

This scholarship will be given to a medical student annually to assist with their tuition and fees. In addition, the department of Allied Health established the Larry Keith Teaching

Award to recognize a faculty member annually for outstanding teaching of Allied Health students.

Brother Keith, a dedicated administrator and student advocate, currently serves in many capacities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's (UNC-CH) School of Medicine. A life-long educator, he is the Assistant Dean for Admissions and Associate Director of the Office of Educational Development. He also serves as the Director of Special Programs, where he has made continuous contributions to the health profession by helping countless numbers of under-represented minority students attend medical and dental school.

In 2007, Brother Keith was recognized by the Chancellor of UNC by receiving the C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award from the University. This award is one of the highest awards given to faculty or staff members.

Brother Keith received his bachelor's degree in biology from North Carolina A&T State University and a master's degree in Biology from Virginia State University. He obtained another master's degree in Cell Biology and Anatomy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Brother Keith's teaching career began in the public schools, teaching physical science, biology and chemistry. He has since gone on to teach science courses at St. Augustine's College, Shaw University and UNC at Chapel Hill where he currently serves as the course director for Medical Allied Health Gross Anatomy.

Brother Keith is a member of the Iota Iota Chapter in Raleigh, NC and is married to Wilma Spann Keith. They have two children, Channte and Quinton Keith.

# >> SEVENTH district

BETA ALPHA CHAPTER:

## >> Brother Jamison Honored

**JACKSON, MS** – Brother George W. Jamison II was honored by the Jackson City Council on December 16, 2008 for his unwavering commitment to the local community. A resolution was presented to Brother Jamison by Councilman Kenneth Stokes, as well as other council members, for his leadership with the Beta Alpha Chapter, mentorship he has rendered to youth, attention given to the homeless, and many other community service projects in which he has been involved. More than 40 brothers attended the City Council Meeting in support of Brother Jamison.

Brother Jamison is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and is a 1990 graduate of Jackson State University with a degree in Elementary Education. He began his career in the Jackson Public School System as a school teacher, and used his talents to educate and mentor youth. Brother Jamison's personal philosophy is "Saving our youth means believing in our future." Using this mantra as his personal inspiration, Brother Jamison reactivated the Beta Alpha Chapter's mentoring program for young men and received several awards and recognitions from community organizations. He is currently a Package Service Center Administrator employed with the United Parcel Service where 22 years of experience has honed his efficiency and time management skills. He is a member of the NAACP, a member of Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church, and serves as Vice President of his neighborhood association. He also volunteers time to organizations such as the American Red Cross and The Stewpot Community Center in the Jackson area.

Brother Jamison was initiated in Beta Alpha Chapter in Jackson, MS in 1992, and has been very active the past 16 years. He has served as Basileus for Beta Alpha Chapter from 2002-2006, and chaired the Social Action Committee

on the State level for a number of years. His leadership in Beta Alpha brought recognition and awards to the chapter on the State and District levels. The chapter received the State Reclamation Chapter of the Year Award during the 7th District's annual meeting two consecutive years, and in 2006 the chapter was awarded the Mississippi Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. State Chapter of the Year Award. Brother Jamison was named Beta Alpha's 2005 Omega Man of the Year, received the 2005 Superior Service Award at the Mississippi State Meeting, and was Mississippi's 2006 Omega Man of the Year. Brother Jamison is also a 2009 recipient of the Central Mississippi Chapter's Carter G. Woodson Award.

*-Brother Germerique G. Stewart, PhD*



## KAPPA UPSILON CHAPTER:

### >> Chapter Scholarships



**WEST PALM BEACH, FL** - The Kappa Upsilon Chapter recently awarded 14 scholarships to outstanding high school students of Palm Beach County. Each student received a \$500 scholarship to assist in defraying his or her college costs this fall. Additionally, several students participated in the Chapter's 57th Annual Talent Hunt, which was jointly held with the scholarship awards ceremony.

The program was well-attended with family members, friends and well-wishers, whose presence produced a visible and festive display of community support for student achievement in academics and the performing

arts. Students displayed an abundance of talent that produced sustained applause from an appreciative audience. The top three performers in the Talent Hunt were: Hadiya Smith, first place; Myah K. Black, second place; and Christopher Powell, third place.

Each year members of Kappa Upsilon work with and assist several bright and talented students of Palm Beach County—students who are deserving of public recognition and financial support to attend college. The Chapter seeks to identify, honor and support students, whose potential and high achievement merit increased opportunities in higher education. Through funds generated by a successful Annual Formal Masquerade Ball, several scholarships are awarded each year to deserving college-bound students.

## ETA OMICRON CHAPTER:

### >> Men of Excellence



**ALBANY, GA.** — Omega Men of Excellence, the mentoring organization of Eta Omicron Chapter, participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Celebration on Jan. 19, 2009 at the Albany Civic Center.

The 17 junior high school students made their presence known by serving as ushers for the program attendees, assisted with passing out programs, taking awards to recipients and helping attendees feel comfortable. They received many favorable comments from program organizers and people in general who witnessed their efforts which included approximately 700 participants, of many different ethnicities.

The Golden Voices of Tuskegee University Concert Choir rendered several songs relative to the Civil Rights Movement, which was the highlight of the program.

*-Brother Farris L. Shorter, Jr.*



## RHO DELTA DELTA CHAPTER:

## &gt;&gt; Making A Difference

**TROY, AL** - Over the past few months, the members of the Rho Delta Delta Chapter have been contributing their time and affection to the community. Some of the members have been involved in helping the elderly at the Colley Complex. Our duties consist of cleaning, renovating, and assisting with various projects around the building. In addition to helping the elderly, our time has also been spent with the children at Troy Elementary. We have acquired an Adopt-a-Class program where we read to and tutor the children. After school, some members walk the children home or to the Family Life Center. During this time of reconciliation, the members performed a variety of activities that enhanced their relationship with each other. This has been a new practicum for the members and the outcome was well worth it.

As of January 2009, The Rho Delta Delta Chapter has also added seven new worthy members to its roster: Tony Goins of Birmingham, AL; Frederick Moore of Tuscaloosa, AL; Theo Moore of Anniston, AL; Jhared McCleary of Leroy, AL; Marlon Quinn of Fontana, CA; Brandon Williams of Dothan, AL and Jeremy Hawkins of Americus, GA. The members of Rho Delta Delta Chapter have received the NPHC Point's Award. This is a competition between all NPHC fraternities and sororities to contribute and take part in numerous activities around Troy University.

*-By Brother George Thomas*



## ETA OMICRON & CHI EPSILON CHAPTERS:

### >> 61st Anniversary

**ALBANY, GA** – Eta Omicron and Chi Epsilon Chapters celebrated its 61st Anniversary on November 1, 2008 at the graduate chapters' fraternity house.

Brother Dr. John E. Maupin, President of Morehouse School of Medicine intrigued the brotherhood as guest speaker for this auspicious occasion. He emphasized that brothers should rededicate themselves to the Cardinal Principles. We should provide service to those who are misfortunate in our community and show our love and concern for the brotherhood and their families. The image we have as "Que Dogs" and the partying and stepping fraternity must be dispelled and instead use

those energies to uplift someone along the way. Brother Maupin received a standing ovation from the more than 40 brothers in attendance.

Brother Fred Polite, Former Basileus, presented chapter awards to the following brothers; Superior Service - Jeffrey Bogues; Newcomer Award- Teron Hayes; Founders Award - Farris L. Shorter, Jr.; Citizen of the Year Award - Glenn Singfield; and Omega Man of the Year Award - Andre Stevenson.

The newly elected officers of Eta Omicron Chapter for 2008-2009 are W. Frank Wilson – Basileus; Tim Knowles - Vice Basileus; Vachel Reese - Keeper of Finance; Terron Hayes – KRS; Charlie Mathis – Chaplain; and Michael Robinson - Keeper of Peace.



## CHI OMEGA CHAPTER:

### >> Black History Tribute

**TALLAHASSEE, FL** - Chi Omega Chapter held its Annual Carter G. Woodson History program in conjunction with the two undergraduate chapters, Upsilon Psi at Florida A&M University and Chi Theta at Florida State University on February 26, 2009. Every year, local chapters close out the celebration of Black History Month with a tribute to Brother Carter G. Woodson.

This year's close out program featured Brother Albert McLeod Bethune Jr. (1942 Psi Chapter). Brother Bethune is the grandson, of Ms. Mary McLeod Bethune, Founder of the Daytona National and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls in 1908, today known as Bethune-Cookman University.

Brother Bethune spoke on a number of issues in which his grandmother addressed as well as the relationship that Bethune-Cookman University had with Florida A&M University. The speech also focused on how important it was for the establishment of the historically black colleges and universities to the survival of African-Americans. The audience listened to a speech written by Ms. Mary McLeod Bethune, which addressed the men of Omega Psi Phi. Ms. Bethune was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and because of that relationship; she often talked to the Fraternity.

At the close of the program there were a number of questions answered by Brother Bethune. The program attendees and the brothers had a great time in this educational experience. The Tallahassee Chapters take pride in leading the way in Tallahassee and the surrounding areas to bring programs to the community for our families and friends to enjoy.

- Brother Darron Toston





# >> EIGHTH district

CHI PHI CHAPTER:

## >> Diversity in the Classroom

**DENVER, CO** – Brother Omar Montgomery is a native of Los Angeles, California. He entered Omega through the Lambda Omicron chapter in 1994. Brother Montgomery relocated to Denver in the fall of 2002 at the behest of close friend and colleague, Dr. Jennifer Wade, who encouraged him to pursue his PH.D. Upon his arrival in Colorado, Brother Montgomery linked with the brothers of Chi Phi Chapter. As a member of Chi Phi chapter, Brother Montgomery has continued to shine the light of Omega brightly in the Denver community.

Brother Montgomery is pursuing his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Innovation. While pursuing his Ph.D., he is also employed as the Director of Black Student Services and an adjunct professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Denver (UCD). In his role as Director of Black Student Services, Brother Montgomery is responsible for Innovative outreach programs that target people of African descent and retention programs that assist throughout the academic tenure at UCD.

As an adjunct professor Brother Montgomery teaches a course entitled Race, Class and Alienation. And



he also teaches classes on African-American history. Brother Montgomery feels that “any course which discusses cultural awareness and other cultures contributions to society can only enhance a diverse community.”

In Brother Montgomery’s own words, “my class is very diverse itself.” His students range in age from 18-60. According to Brother Montgomery, only half of what’s learned in his class comes from the information he provides. Everyone brings their own life experiences to the class. So the wide gamut of experiences enhances the learning opportunity in the class.



## &gt;&gt; Salute to World War II Veteran

**DENVER, CO** - In today's world, it seems that people are always searching for a hero. The historic election of this nation's 44th President, Barack Obama, has provided that for some. I am proud to say that in my time in Omega, I have never seen a shortage of heroes. From the very beginning, Omega men have been heroes in their homes, communities and around the world. Brother George Crenshaw is such an Omega man. For many heroes, their "thank you" often comes too late; not this time. Brothers of the Chi Phi Chapter pay tribute and say thank you to Brother George Crenshaw while he's here to appreciate it.

Born in Memphis, TN, Brother Crenshaw was raised in Wewoka, OK. When World War II broke out, Brother Crenshaw, like many other heroic black men of his day, volunteered to stand on behalf of this nation. Brother Crenshaw joined the United States Army and served this great country as a Radio Operator in the South Pacific Theater from 1941-1945. Following World War II, the nation in general and the Army specifically were slow to say a proper thank you to this hero and many others like him who served courageously and with honor.

Upon his return to the country and having been Honorably Discharged, Brother Crenshaw began pursuing his high ideals of scholarship at Langston University in Langs-

ton, OK. It was there that he initially met the lady who would later become his wife for nearly 50 years.

Brother Crenshaw, who distinguished himself in service to the country, has only recently received the medals he earned during World War II. In early 2009, the United States Army sent Brother George L. Crenshaw the following medals: Bronze Star Medal; Good Conduct Medal; American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 1 bronze service star; World War II Victory Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award; and an Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII.

As we prepare to celebrate Brother Crenshaw's 60th year in Omega, we pause to say thank you for all that he has done. Brother Crenshaw is still an active member in Chi Phi Chapter. Brother George Lidell Crenshaw continues to live his creed. After 60 years of service to Omega and service this nation, it is fitting that this nation, the men of Chi Phi Chapter and the entire Eighth District say "thank you" to Brother Crenshaw.





## OMICRON LAMBDA CHAPTER:

### >> Natural Disaster Preparedness

**STILLWATER, OK** – On February 27, 2009, Omicron Lambda Chapter of Oklahoma State University teamed with the American Red Cross to prepare for emergency situations. The team hosted a fundraiser entitled, "Be Red Cross Ready." Companies, organizations, groups, and individual members of the community were asked to donate funds and help assemble as many disaster kits as possible for individuals and families who were, and potentially will be deeply affected by a natural disaster, i.e. hurricane, floods, tornadoes.

Each disaster kit consisted of 21 essential toiletry and personal hygiene items. Thirty disaster kits were delivered to the Payne County Chapter of the American Red Cross on December 1, 2008. All donations were useful and helpful for the cause.



-Brother Darryl Hillard

## RHO XI CHAPTER:

### >> Health Education

**FREEPORT, TX** - On Saturday, November 4, 2008, approximately 25 members of the community attended the health Symposium on the campus of Texas Southern University located in Houston, Texas. The symposium was free and open to the public. Rho Xi Chapter hosted the event on behalf of the Houston Area Coalition. Brother Raylon Hailey opened and moderated the event, which included three field experts. The attendees had the opportunity to participate in relevant and informative breakout sessions with the various field experts on AIDS, HIV, heart disease and prostate cancer.

Participants were encouraged to take the knowledge and information back to their families and communities in support of making healthy changes

in their lifestyles. The Health Symposium is a key component of the Rho Xi Chapter's Social Action program as it demonstrates the chapter's commitment and contributions to the improvement of the overall physical and mental health of the community.

Rho Xi Chapter also participated in the Americans with Diabetes Walk-A-Thon held in Houston. Rho Xi teamed up with the brothers of the Houston Area Coalition to make a difference in the fight against diabetes on behalf of friends and family members who battle the disease. The monies raised by the chapter benefits research to find a cure as well as to raise awareness of the disease that affects predominantly African-Americans and other minority groups. Several hundred friends, family and members of the community turned out to participate in the walk.

- Brother Nathaniel Grace

## >> Chairman Voter Registration

The Brothers of the Ninth District individually and collectively participated in the greatest electoral event in U.S. history. On November 4, 2008, the first African American was elected by a landslide as the 44th President of the United State of America. The election of Barrack Obama is the culmination of a dream that was so eloquently articulated by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during a speech in Memphis in 1968. Dr. King said, "I have been to the Mountain top and I have seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but we as a people will get there."

Ninth District Brothers were among the first to join the call for a change in direction as the country seemed to have lost its way. Brothers all across the Ninth District were galvanized by a desire to make it known that change was needed at every level of government. The Ninth District Political/Social Action committee kicked into high gear and made its presence felt by rallying in every State Capital via the Black Caucus members in the four state regions of Texas, Oklahoma Arkansas and Louisiana. Ninth District Brothers stepped up their efforts by communicating their views as to the dissatisfaction of the current state of affairs in their respective communities.

Brothers voiced their opinions to federal, state, county, and local government officials and anybody else who would listen. Ninth District Brothers continued to build

momentum by joining forces with civic groups, political action committees, faith groups and other Greek Letter Organizations. Ninth District Brothers made media presentations at every opportunity, encouraging people to vote for change. To facilitate the change, Ninth District Brothers conducted voter registration drives, presented educational programs directed at young first time voters that focused on the political process, voting rights act, and issues that related to their communities. Ninth District Brothers formally endorsed the Democratic Party and its candidates for national office. By doing so, they heightened the awareness of the voters and introduce them to the idea of a more ambitious notion of electing a Black Man named Senator Barrack Obama for President.

As we were fully engaged in the political process, we witnessed several furious political debates during the prolonged national primaries. The most critical and staunch opposition to the Barrack Obama campaign seemed to be shocked and surprised at the size and Diversity of the crowds that gathered at Obama rallies. In late summer 2008, it was no doubt that the Ninth District brothers lived up to their mandate. At last, the voting public recognizes that change is inevitable and that a Black Man can now overcome the political and racial divide in this country and will carry the banner for the United States of America.

We, the Ninth District Brothers and all members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. are among the faces of the Political and Civil Rights movement, and we will determine the next barriers to cross. With God's help we will continue to educate, uplift and have a positive affect across our great country.

*-Bro. Curt Childers*



### ETA MU MU CHAPTER:

## >> Fastest Growing Chapter in Texas

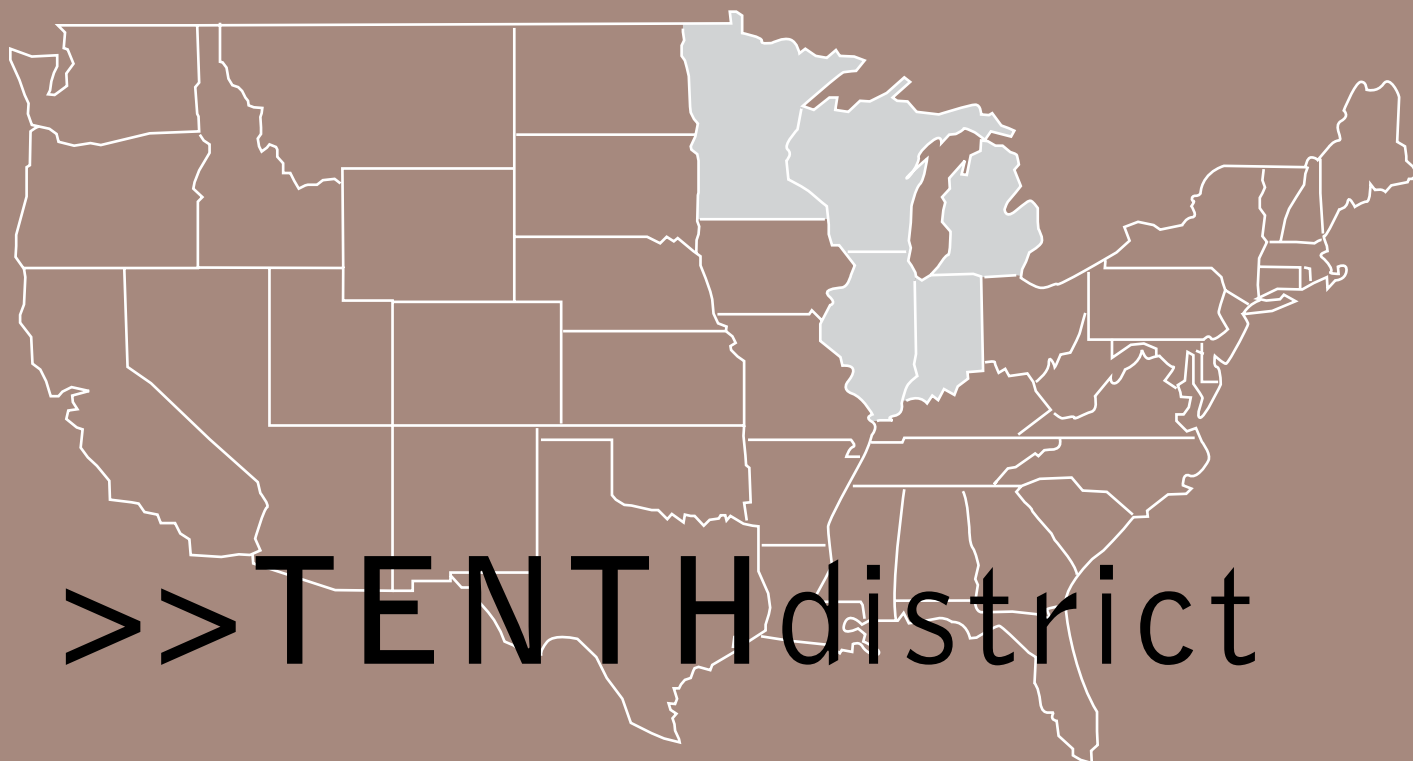
**DENTON, TX** – Eta Mu Mu Chapter is the newest and fastest growing graduate chapter in North Texas. The Chapter began meeting in July 2008 with a mutual thought of being a collective positive force in the area. Eta Mu Mu has reclaimed 22 non-financial members back into the fold of Omega! The chapter motto is "Enthusiastic HM2--Christ based and merciful Omega-minded brothers, humbling, motivating and making a change in the community."

The Chapter conducted several social action programs including a School Supply Drive at Thomas Rivera Elementary in Denton. The Chapter sponsors a mentoring

program at Thomas Rivera and Denton High School, where members pair-up with students every Friday. The Chapter also partnered with local undergraduate chapter Phi Gamma, to conduct a voter registration drive. The Eta Mu Mu and Phi Gamma chapters, helped register people that participated in the largest voter turnout in U.S. history.

*-Brother Todd Mohair*





# >>TENTHdistrict

NU OMEGA CHAPTER:

## >> 90th Birthday Celebration



**DETROIT, MI** - Nu Omega Chapter honored Brother John H. Williams on October 26, 2009. Brother Williams celebrated his 90th birthday and the momentous occasion was held at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit.

There were over 300 Omega Men and guests in attendance, as well as family members. The Mistress of Ceremony for the evening was Mrs. Lauren Sanders (niece of Brother Williams), the wife of former Detroit Lions running back Barry Sanders.

First Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl A. Blunt, made a special trip from Arizona to attend the birthday celebration. He spoke of all the many years Brother Williams has served the Fraternity, taking pictures that have

created a pictorial history of the past and present of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Brother Blunt presented Brother Williams with a special medallion. Brother John Williams was initiated at Nu Sigma Chapter at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI in 1955. In 2005, the museum at the International Headquarters was named the Omega-Williams International Museum in honor of Brother Williams. Brother Williams in his most gracious manner thanked everyone for such a wonderful affair.

-Brother Harold B. Tyler

## >> Chicago Joint Founders Banquet 2008

**CHICAGO, IL** – The Joint Founders Banquet consisting of Chi Lambda Lambda, Iota, Mu Xi, Nu Pi, Rho Gamma Gamma, and Sigma Omega Chapters was held in Chicago, IL. Awards were given from the chapters for Citizen of the Year, Omega Man of the Year, Life Time Achievement, and Chicago First.

Brother Fred Rice, 1st Black Police Chief of Chicago was in attendance. First Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl Blunt, was the guest speaker for the program. Brother Blunt enthusiastically gave a Fraternity history lesson, which kept the crowd captivated.

District Representative Climent J. Edmond swore in all of the current officers of the chapters, which was an amazing feat. At the end of the program, brothers sang "Omega Dear." The hymn was lead Brother Delano

O'Banion. A major highlight of the evening featured 70-year Omega man - Brother Daniel Wearing (Initiated in 1938) enjoying the festivities right along with all of the brothers.

Brother Ernest Fair, Sr. gave a great benediction to what was an outstanding evening. Brother Carnell Newbill performed, Brother Bobby Lay filmed the event, Brother Reggie Payton was the photographer, and Brother Robert McCarty was the featured deejay.



### NU PI & PI ETA CHAPTER:

## >> Talent Hunt Showcase

**JOLIET, IL** - The Nu Pi Graduate Chapter and the Pi Eta Undergraduate Chapter of Lewis University held its first Annual Joint Talent Showcase and Achievement Week Celebration at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Multipurpose Center located at 402 Singleton Place in Joliet, Illinois.

This year's recipients were Mrs. Louise Ray who received the Life Time Achievement Award for her leadership and dedication to the citizens of Joliet, IL and Will County and Mrs. Betty Washington of the Joliet Community Action Network received the Chapter's Social Action Award.

As part of the celebration, Nu Pi Chapter gave away four scholarships to deserving African-American male high school seniors who participated in this year's national essay competition. The winners of the scholarships were 1) Herford Johnson, a senior at Joliet West; 2) London Dorris, a freshman at Joliet Junior College; 3) Ray Croom, a senior at Plainfield South and 4) Christopher Brown, a senior at Plainfield High School.

In addition, four young men were honored for their participation in the mentoring program. They were Sean Rollins, Lorenza Powell, Kevin Rollins and Cody Wallace.

The Fraternity also honored brothers for their dedication to the chapter and the Fraternity. Brother Anthony Richardson received the Omega Man of the Year Award. The Basileus Awards were presented to Brothers Jason Bradford and Pasquell Robinson for their service to the Chapter.

This was the first year for the Talent Hunt Showcase. Several local African-American high school students participated in the competition. The first place winner was Cellist Ms. Ayanna Williams, second place went to vocalist Wesley James Taylor, and third place went to Bassist Leslie Hodges.

Nu Pi Chapter was chartered on March 9, 1974 in Joliet, Illinois. Several young men who were active in the Joliet community were influential in the formation of the chapter. In 1975, these young men reached out to Lewis University to bring the legacy of Omega Psi Phi to the campus and established Pi Eta chapter. Over 100 men have joined Nu Pi since its inception. This year's chairmen were Brother Robert Ellis Achievement Week and Brother Willie L. Lewis, Jr. Talent Hunt.

## >> 3rd Annual Black History Month Gala

**BLOOMINGTON, IN** – Brothers Gerald Lee Mitchell, Jr. and Dr. James E. Mumford were honored recently at the Third Annual City of Bloomington Black History Month Gala. More than 125 people attended the February 23, 2009 event at the Bloomington Convention Center. The gala was the closing celebration of events hosted by the City of Bloomington to commemorate Black History Month.

"The Black History Month Gala was the perfect event to conclude Black History Month with a splash," Mayor Mark Kruzan said. "It's important to honor the people who make Bloomington the wonderful place it is."

Brother Mitchell received the City of Bloomington Outstanding Young Black Male Leader of Tomorrow Award, an annual award presented by the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males.

Brother Mitchell has lived in Bloomington since beginning his undergraduate studies at Indiana University in 2000. After receiving his Master's degree, he accepted a position as Director of Student Support and Development for Ivy Tech Community College. He is also a member of the current Leadership Bloomington-Monroe County class. Mitchell's nominator says he is "a motivator, an idealist and a person possessed of a relentless tenacity." His volunteer activities include positions on the Commission on the Status of Black Males, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Indiana University Men of Color Conference.

IU Professor Emeritus Dr. James Mumford was the inaugural recipient of the Black History Month Trailblazer Award. The Trailblazer Award was created by the City of Bloomington Black History Month Committee to honor individuals who are especially meaningful to many African Americans in Bloomington. "Strides made by Dr. Mumford and others like



him have opened doors that have created opportunities for so many that have come after them," Safe and Civil City Director Beverly Calender-Anderson said. "This is one way of saying thank you."

Dr. Mumford served as Director of the African American Chorale Ensemble from 1983-2006. He received his Ph.D. from the Indiana University School of Music in 1974 with a major in music education and a minor in voice and ethnomusicology. Mumford is a member of the Music Educators National Conference, Equity Union for Theatre, Black Music Caucus, Phi Delta Kappa, Indiana Music Education, the Association Society for Ethnomusicology, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, and the Music Teachers National Association.

In addition to the City of Bloomington, the Black History Month Gala was sponsored by Indiana University Office of the Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Sheer Elegance Draperies, Blinds and More, LLC, Ivy Tech Community College, Bloomington Hospital Positive Link, Beverly Calender-Anderson, Wainona O. Collins, Donald, Nicole and Dexter Griffin, Alphonso and Dollie Manns, Dedric Dennist and Sharlene Newman, and Laffoon Design & Marketing.

*-Brothe Alrick L. Banks*



## PI ETA CHAPTER:

### >> Annual Blood Drive

**LOCKPORT, IL-** Brothers of Pi Eta Chapter of Lewis University held their Annual Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood on October 17, 2008. The Chapter broke the Lewis University record for most people attending a blood drive with 65 people donating. Students and university staff members were very supportive of the event and expressed commitments to donate at future blood drives. The project was co-sponsored with the Student Nursing organization at Lewis University.



## ALPHA CHI CHAPTER:

### >> Voter Registration Drive

On Saturday, October 4, 2008 the brothers of Alpha Chi Chapter held its annual Voter's Registration Drive. The one day affair was held at Gary's Village Mall, brothers assisted individuals within the community to register for the upcoming election. The annual event gave potential voters the opportunity to register before the October 6 deadline.

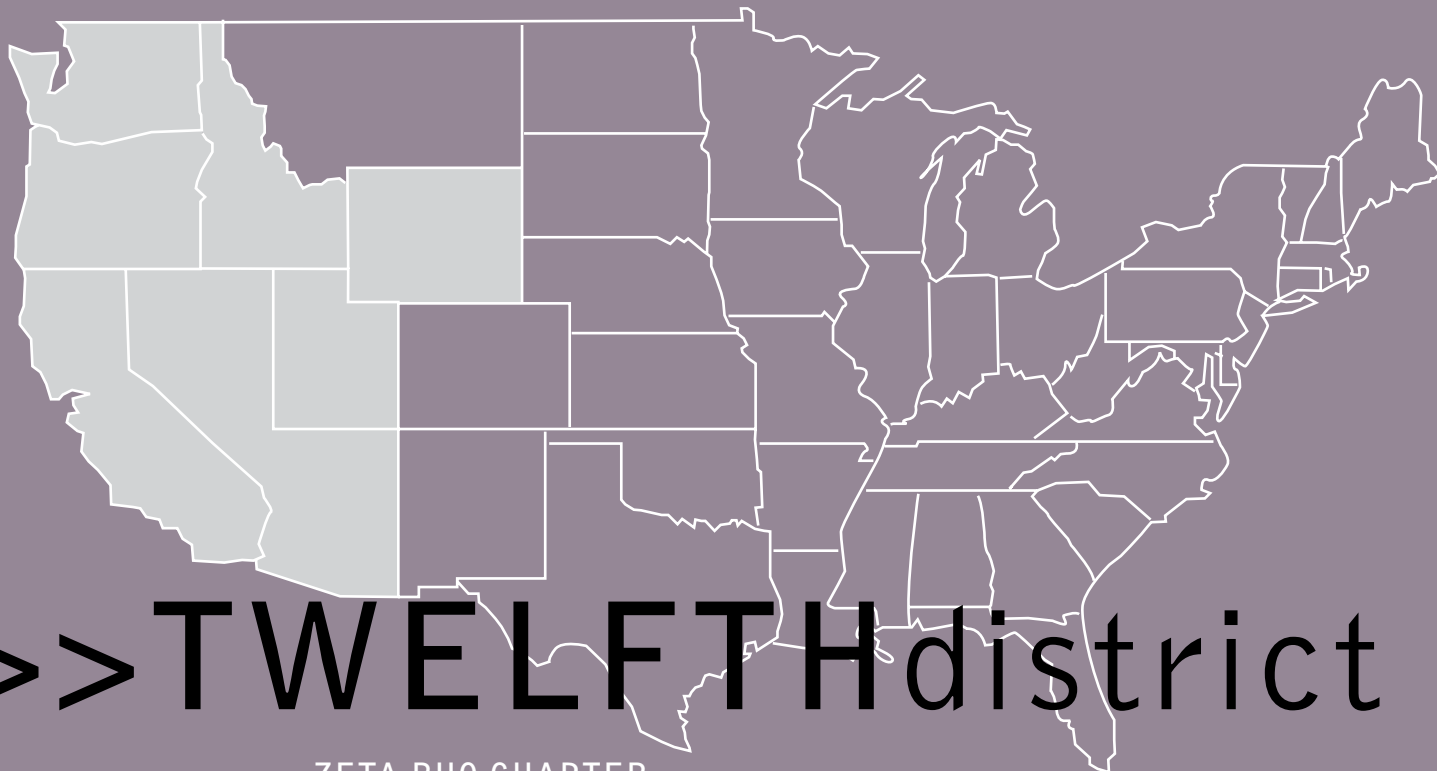
The community had the wonderful opportunity to interact and see many local Omegas working together in such a momentous event in our country's history. The event helped to reclaim some brothers for future work within the Fraternity. The most exciting portion of this event was seeing the community fulfill the vision of our forefathers in having the right for African-Americans to freely vote and have their voice be heard in the political process.

The Brothers of Alpha Chi mobilized to partner with Habitat for Humanity to help build new homes in the Gary Community. The Alpha Chi Chapter was a constant presence in the building of the new homes on 17th and Adams in Gary's Midtown area. The new homes will provide families in the community to own their homes and raise their families.

Alpha Chi has joined with Habitat for Humanity in recognition of World Habitat Day 2008, as we bring attention to and seek solutions for the millions of people around the world who face wrongful eviction each year. Currently many families in parts of the world are being forced from their homes as a result of harassment, corruption, excessive bureaucracy and discrimination against women and minorities.

The partnership with Habitat for Humanity in building new homes in the Gary Community will help to spur economic development, offering long-term stability for families and reducing hardship within community; the chapter is looking forward to future projects and programs with Habitat in the Gary Community.

- Brothers Brian Williams and Gregory B. Lewis



# >>TWELFTHdistrict

ZETA RHO CHAPTER

## >> Marine Biology Program Concludes a Successful Year

**LOS ANGELES, CA** – Over the past seven summers junior high school girls and boys, ages 10 to 14, have explored the wonders and fascinations of marine biology and science through the Zeta Rho Chapter's Dr. Ernest E. Just Marine Biology Program. The program was started seven years ago and has matured to become the premier social actions program for the chapter.

It is designed to expose minority students to careers and academic pursuits in marine science in a manner that combines classroom career instructions with field trips, laboratory analysis, fun projects and experiences. The program is dedicated to Dr. Ernest E. Just, who was a charter and founding member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and a marine biologist.

The program is conducted over two consecutive weekends each summer and includes three venues, Bolsa Chica Wetland Preserve at Huntington Beach, CA, The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA, and University of Southern California (USC) Wrigley Marine Science Center at Catalina Island, CA.

Activities and projects included nature observations and recordings, sampling, snorkeling, sea life and wetland tours. The professional staffs at each location provide valuable instruction and invaluable insights on marine biology and marine science careers.

Over 30 students participate in the program each year, which is fully sponsored by the Zeta Rho Foundation, Inc., including meals, transportation, lodging, supplies, classroom instruction, a commemorative t-shirt and notebook. The students also are provided access to laptop computers to support laboratory data analysis during the summer program.

The Bolsa Chica Conservancy in Huntington Beach, California, provided an opportunity for students from all over Southern California to enjoy multiple marine science activities which included field flora observations, instructions on indigenous marine life, running water quality tests, and data sampling and collection.

The program continues with a behind-the-scenes trip to the Long Beach Aquarium where students received classroom instruction on Marine Life. In addition to a very comprehensive tour of all exhibits, the Aquarium also offered opportunities for students to participate in touch tank exercises and watch fun, educational 3D film presentations of the marine environment. A very special feature in 2008 included a presentation from one of the Aquarium of the Pacific's newest "Volunteers" and an EE Just Program alumnus, Simone Stephans.

The program peaks with multiple unique experiences on Catalina Island at the University of Southern California Wrigley Marine Institute where students learn and use computer skills to manipulate the data collected at Bolsa Chica. Students also learn how to kayak and snorkel. The program's final exercise before the exam is a very comprehensive fish dissection lab.

*-Brother Earl H. Jones, Jr.*

## >> Scholarship Awards

**PASADENA, CA** – Brother Eugene Quishenberry, Scholarship Committee Chairman of Zeta Tau Chapter, announced that four scholarships were awarded to well deserving Pasadena high school graduating seniors. Each student will receive a \$500.00 scholarship from Zeta Tau. Brother Quishenberry stated, "We want the students to know that there are people in the community who share in their aspirations and well being, and who are counting on them to make a difference in the world."

Fourteen high school students submitted applications for consideration and four were selected to receive scholarships. The recipients are Moses Xavier McDonald, James A. Ogbeide, and Brian Andrew Reese of Marshall Fundamental High School; and Arness Anthony Ikner, Pasadena High School.

Dr. Derrick Evans, principal at Pasadena High, treated his junior and senior scholars and their parents, to a dinner-program held for the second year at the First Church of the Nazarene on Sierra Madre Blvd.

Pasadena High School student athlete, Arness Anthony Ikner was the forth student to receive a scholarship from the Fraternity. The proud principals of both schools welcomed parents and students to these events and commended their teachers and counselors on a job well done.

*-Brother G.D. Taylor*



## BETA MU MU CHAPTER:

## >> Service Project



### **LAS VEGAS, NV-**

During these tough economic times charitable giving has seen a significant downturn. It is certainly understandable when finances at home are minimal; our ability to give monetarily is diminished. A greater

strain is experienced during the Christmas Holiday as we attempt to provide for our own families. However, this is also the time for the Men of Omega to recognize that not all charitable acts entail financial contribution. The donation of our personal time is, potentially, the most rewarding act of charity and service that we can provide.

On Saturday December 20, 2008 Beta Mu Mu teamed with St. Vincent Shelter to help feed over two hundred people. The volunteers were Brothers Eric Adams, Randy Bacon, Michael Littlejohn, Charles Waldon, Wayne Williams, and chapter friends Leidy Serna and Deyber Jimenez. The effort went non-stop for two hours, but the personal experience lasted a lot longer.

The donation of personal time resulted in the direct interaction with individuals who were in need of help. This personal interaction had a significantly greater affect than the simplicity of writing a check. Brother Charles Walden observed

that "it's amazing how many normal everyday people are here. With things the way they are right now, this could easily be someone we know." Workers at the shelter advised the group that they have seen a significant increase in the number of meals they serve on a daily basis to new recipients. Brother Michael Littlejohn stated "It is hard to believe that there are so many families here. You hear about it, read about it, but to see it like this is tough." The notion of homeless people is often misconceived. Brothers realized the homeless people at the shelter are families and ordinary people needing a little extra help.

The personal reward from this event was immeasurable. Brother Eric Adams was humbled by the experience. "As I was serving recipients they would often thank me for being here. I could not help but think that this is the very least I could do." Brothers walked away with a true sense of pride and accomplishment, knowing that this was truly a service project. The Brothers were joined by a young man, Deyber Jimenez, who volunteered to help the chapter. At eight years old, he made a statement that was in each our hearts and minds, he said "this was great! Can we do it again tomorrow?" Maybe not tomorrow young friend, but Beta Mu Mu Chapter has begun plans to make this an on-going service project.

*-Brother Michael Littlejohn*



# >>THIRTEENTHdistrict

ALPHA DELTA XI CHAPTER:

## >> Omega Psi Phi Claims Canadian Campus



**OTTAWA** - The 13th District is proud to announce that Canada has been added to the list of countries it represents. The Alpha Delta Xi Chapter is located in Ottawa, Ontario and it is the Fraternity's 1st International Undergraduate Chapter. The city is home to the largest skating rink in the world, the Parliament buildings, and eight new Omega men.

On Saturday, March 15, 2008, the halls of Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada echoed the rhythm of golden boots and Fraternity songs. The "OMEstad 8" were presented to the nation's capital university with a burst of energy never before seen on campus. The arrival had been anticipated and the wait was great. Omega was finally here. At first, the newly chartered Omega men were heard and not seen. More than 200 students made the effort to be on campus that Saturday to witness history in the making.

When the eight men appeared around the corner they were wearing purple and gold masks. Their peers were uncertain of their identities. Some of them believed that these were Fraternity brothers from America and were surprised when they learned otherwise. One by one, the "OMEstad 8" were re-introduced to Carleton University. Many onlookers were quoted as saying "is that ... I can't believe it."

The 13th District Keeper of Records and Seal, Bro. T.D. Chism, led the presentation with enthusiasm and poise. He explained the great significance of this newly formed chapter. For now, this was the only undergraduate chapter in the 13th District, the Fraternity's only Canadian chapter, and the first time that a Canadian chapter has been attempted since Dr. Charles R. Drew studied at a Canadian university in the 1930s.

Many preachers have said 2008 is the year of "open doors" and "new beginnings." With the birth of Alpha Delta Xi Chapter in Canada, Omega men can rest assured that the good word is forever true.

-Brother Stefan Keyes

## >> One Year Later

When eight young men in Canada stumbled upon the life-changing experience of joining Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., they soon realized the heavy work ahead of them.

It was more than parties and step shows portrayed on television by the media and the Internet. It was more than a selfish pursuit of success. They had embarked upon a chance of bettering humanity.

Creeping before they could walk, the men of Alpha Delta Xi took baby steps. They organized clothing drives, food drives, tutored teens, assisted the university president's office with various events, volunteered at the soup kitchen, and marched in demonstrations supporting mothers against violence.

Now, a year since their initiation, they are ready to run. Bridges have been built and challenges conquered. The chapter hosted its 1st Achievement Week Banquet on November 22, 2008. It was attended by prominent community members in Canada's capital city, the 13th District's 1st Vice District Representative,



## PI XI CHAPTER:

## >> Providing Disaster Relief

**NASSAU, BAHAMAS** - The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) accepted 70 cases of one gallon bottles of water and 42 cases of the 12 ounces of water to be used in lunch boxes of students at the Inagua All-Age School, donated by Pi Xi Chapter.

The Chapter also donated cases of fruit juices to be distributed among the students, whose regular school routine was disrupted as a consequence of Hurricane Ike, which struck the island on September 7, 2008.

Pictured from left are Vaughn Culmer, Gary Cooper, Bahamian Springs Ltd; Eugene Horton, Basileus, Pi Xi Chapter; Chrystal Ginton, first assistant secretary, NEMA; Dr. Judson Eneas, Marcus Francis and Curtis Newbold.

-Brother Eugene Horton



Brother Torrance D. Chism, brothers from Buffalo N.Y, and family and friends.

The chapter recognized over a dozen community builder awards and honored Brother Chism as the chapter's 1st Omega Man of the Year. One deserving student received a \$1,000 scholarship to attend college.

A few weeks later, Ottawa faced labor dispute's that crippled the city. On December 10, 2008 approximately 2,300 public transit workers went on strike. There were no buses or trains. Some of the most vulnerable people in Ottawa were trapped at home in the dead of winter. The sick and elderly couldn't get to doctor appointments. Low-income citizens couldn't get to work and students couldn't get to school for classes. The strike lasted 60 days and ended just before President Obama's visit.

During the strike the chapter did what they could to help the community. The brothers with cars surrendered their vehicles to transport people to work, school and to hospitals. They took turns to chauffeur around vulnerable members of the community – most who were black and disadvantaged.

Young black men coming together to make a difference is a new concept north of the border. Here the fraternal lifestyle is rare and unknown; but the Basileus of the chapter says they are here to change all of that. "My brothers and I are going to change how Canadians view black men," said Bichoux St-Juste a junior languages major. "Right now we are doing well for ourselves and hope to be an example to the entire community."

Needless to say, though the chapter is few in numbers, Omega men continue to be successful while servicing the community. "And like the brothers of Omega who built the bridge for them in 1924 in Montreal, the Canadian Ques motto still rings true: Up here near the land of eternal snows, the pearls shall ever gleam brightly".

-Brother Stefan Keyes

## >> Community Impact

### ALPHA DELTA XI CHAPTER:

**OTTAWA** - It hasn't been terribly long since the 13th District's newest chapter was chartered. Alpha Delta Xi was chartered Spring 2008 and already the community in Ottawa, Canada has been taken by storm.

When eight men are thoroughly immersed in the true Omega spirit great things happen. Just a few weeks after being initiated in the Fraternity, Alpha Delta Xi went to work, making their presence known on and off the Carleton University campus.

First, was the clothing drive held in April 2008. The chapter notified more than 400 students, friends, and family that the chapter would be accepting new and gently used clothing to donate to the Canadian Diabetes Association. Alpha Delta Xi provided a drop-off location as well as a pick-up option.

Within a few weeks, bags full of clothing piled into a small room. The response was overwhelming. The chapter allowed two and a half weeks for donations to be made. Though some felt it was a small window of opportunity, the amount of clothing collected suggested otherwise. Ninety large and heavy bags stuffed with clothing forced Alpha Delta Xi to rent a U-haul truck to make the delivery. They originally hoped to transport the clothing using their own vehicles.

The month of May brought a commitment to volunteer at a local soup kitchen at least once a month. The Shepherds of Good Hope were in need of volunteers and were happy to hear Alpha Delta Xi answer the call to help fill



that void. The first time they volunteered at the soup kitchen was close to a five-hour day. Meat needed to be chopped, potatoes to be peeled, and pots and pans to be cleaned. As the men of Alpha Delta Xi worked, one of the coordinators encouraged them to look at the line that formed outside the small centre. It stretched out the door and down the street. He said the kitchen serves 375 people or more on a daily basis.

Summer projects that have already started include fundraisers for sickle cell and multiple sclerosis, an adopt-a-highway program, and a "ThanQue" weekend to say "thank you" to the community and chapter supporters.

*-Brother Stefan Keyes*



## >>A Time of War Truly Makes Friendship Essential to the Soul

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** – Omega men continue to serve their country honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since the initial invasion on March 20, 2003, brothers have answered the nation's call. Some brothers are on their 2nd or 3rd rotation in the country. When the history of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are written, the history books of academia will be clear that men of Omega made significant sacrifices and contributions in defending the nation's freedom.

Despite the hardship of war, the Fraternity's motto "Friendship is Essential to the Soul" has been validated and solidified through the friendly interaction among brothers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Omega men are deployed throughout the Middle East. Even the fraternity's Supreme Council is represented in the Middle East due to the service of the 13th District Representative, Brother Jonathan N. Griffin, Sr., who is currently serving in Afghanistan. Brothers in the Middle East are composed of members from all branches of service, the civilian sector, and from various districts and chapters throughout the Fraternity, hence the adopted name "Coalition Ques." This symbolizes the unity of effort from all brothers to continue friendly interaction and fraternal socialization under the harsh conditions of combat. No matter what Forward Operating Base (FOB) you are on, you can be assured that an Omega man is there and can guarantee that they are fraternizing frequently. The standard is to be in the region no more than 48 hours before you find brothers and start socializing.

Most brothers send emails before their arrival to alert brothers of their destination. The roads between FOBs are dangerous and only traveled for specific combat missions. As a result, most brothers on various FOBs don't get to see each other while deployed, but share phone calls and emails providing uplift and friendship.



Lastly, brothers in the Middle East continue the traditions and mandated programs of the Fraternity. Unfortunately brothers in Iraq conducted a Memorial Service in March 2008, for one of its fallen Comrade-in-Arms. During the Memorial Service, brothers paid tribute and attempted to bring closure to the death of CPT Curtis Armstrong. Brother Armstrong was a caring and loving brother who was totally dedicated to the Fraternity. He never missed a gathering of brothers large or small. He was the first to volunteer, organize, or do whatever it took to accomplish the mission. Brother Armstrong epitomizes the poem "Members Versus Men" because he was truly one of the eight. The Fraternity lost a great brother and the United States Army lost a great soldier. Brother Curtis Armstrong will be tremendously missed and will forever be enshrined in the hearts of all "Coalition Ques" both past and present.

*-Brother (LTC) Kem Fleming*

## BROTHER BEN ADAMS



**Dayton, OH** – On February 9, 2009, Brother Ben Adams entered Omega Chapter. The measure of Omega's love, his life, and his worth were shown ostensibly at his funeral service by the brothers of Delta Alpha Chapter. Brother Ben Adams began his journey to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1950 at Youngstown College, but he eventually transferred to the University of Toledo to attend pharmacy school. He was initiated at the Iota Sigma Chapter in Toledo in 1952. After graduating from Toledo with a degree in accounting in 1954, he served in the US Army. Brother Adams moved to Dayton, OH in 1961 and became a member of Delta Alpha Chapter at that time. He has served Omega well over the past 57 years. Brother Adams served on many committees- especially various fundraisers, and has been Grand Conclave Delegate and District Delegate countless times. He was a Life Member of the Fraternity and a special advisor to four District Representatives hailing from Delta Alpha Chapter. Brother Adams was a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility and a constant reminder for brothers of Omega to live up to our motto "friendship is essential to the soul." Brother Adams will be greatly missed.

## BROTHER ROBERT CARTER

**Greensboro, NC**— Brother Robert Carter of Tau Omega Chapter – Greensboro, NC, entered Omega Chapter at 12:20 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7, 2008.

Brother Carter was initiated into Omega through Tau Psi Chapter at North Carolina Central University. He was both a 50-Year and Life Member. He maintained his fraternal affiliation since his initiation. He was a member of Pi Phi Chapter in Charlotte before moving to Greensboro. He held numerous positions in Tau Omega Chapter; including Basileus.

Brother Carter's health declined severely during the past several years. However, both his spirits and love for Omega never wavered. He is now at peace. Brother Carter's funeral took place Friday, October 10, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, Greensboro, NC.

## CAPTAIN LORENZA CONNOR



**Pasadena, CA**- October 25, 2008 marked a final homecoming in Cartersville, GA for the remains of Captain Lorenza Conner. His F-4D Phantom II fighter jet was shot down October 27, 1967 over the skies of Tuyen Quang, Vietnam. He was unable to eject from his aircraft and died as a result of the downed fighter jet. His remains were returned home for a proper military burial after having laid 41 years in the jungles of Vietnam.

Visiting Brothers Jerome B. Williams, DC Madison and George D. Taylor arrived in Cartersville, GA Friday evening to pay their respects to the family of their departed Lambda Epsilon brother.

During the Omega Memorial Service, 7th District Representative Brother Keith Jackson presided. Brother Jackson presented the family with a resolution from Grand Basileus Warren Lee.

Along the way, people lined the streets in Cartersville and tendered farewell to their lost son of the Vietnam War. When he viewed the photos, Brother Ed Massey said, "He was their legitimate hero." Lorenza "Ren" Conner was coming home this bright and clear day – having been in service to his country. Brother Conner's body was interred at Oak Hill Cemetery in full military tradition, with a 21-gun salute, playing of taps by the bugler, the traditional missing man flyover by the USAF; all happening under the watchful and protective view of the hundreds of Patriot Guard Riders who lined the walk ways and circled the gravesite where he was laid to rest next to his mother Ms. Pauline Conner.

## BROTHER LUCIUS JONES

**Jefferson City, MO**—On Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 11:15 a.m., Eta Alpha Chapter lost its patriarch, Brother Lucius Jones to Omega Chapter. He was born on June 16, 1918, in Birmingham, AL. He graduated from Industrial High School (now Parker High School) in 1936 and went on to earn degrees from Alabama A&M University and Lincoln University of Missouri.

Brother Jones's initiation into the Fraternity is of legendary status. In 1945, Lucius Jones of Tulsa, OK, was voted membership into Omega by the delegates of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Grand Conclave held in Washington, D.C. (Chapter IV, pg. 24, *Supplement to the History of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*, Herman Dreer). On May 25, 1946, he was duly initiated through the auspices of the XI Omega Chapter in Tulsa, OK.

Brother Jones was a Life Member of the Fraternity. He is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Mrs. Vivian Dotson Jones; daughter, Ms. Vivian Eilene Jones; one sister, nieces, nephews and a host of friends.



1918-2008

## BROTHER RAOUL "RAY" L. CARROLL



1950-2008

Brother Raoul "Ray" L. Carroll was born March 16, 1950 and entered Omega Chapter December 28, 2008. He attended Morgan State University from 1968 to 1972, and graduated cum laude with a B.S. in business administration and with a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Field Artillery branch. Brother Carroll won a scholarship to attend St. John's University School of Law in New York, graduating in June 1975. He was sworn in as a member of the New York bar in January 1976.

Brother Carroll spent four years on active duty in the Judge Advocate General Corps before resigning his commission in September 1979. He spent a majority of his life working in securities law and litigation as a partner in two law firms. Prior to his death, he was a general partner in Christalex Partners.

Brother Ray Carroll was initiated at Pi Chapter in 1970, while attending Morgan State University. An ardent supporter of Pi Chapter, he was the 40<sup>th</sup> of 44 members on the line "Grand Funk Railroad 44." He attended Pi Chapter's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on November 9, 2008. Brother Carroll departed from this life suddenly on December 28, 2008 and is survived by his wife, Elizabeth and daughters, Alexandria and Christina, his sister, V'Nell DeCosta and his brother, Jan M. Carroll also a Brother of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. initiated into Pi Chapter in 1973.

## BROTHER JOHN W. DILLARD



**Los Angeles, CA-** Brother John Wesley Dillard entered Omega Chapter on September 12, 2007. Brother Dillard was born in Greenwood, MS, where he received his primary and secondary education. He was active on the high school varsity basketball team. He entered Tennessee State University in 1953 and graduated in 1957 with a B.S. degree in Biology. In the fall of 1954, Brother Dillard became a member of Rho Psi Chapter.

Brother Dillard married his childhood sweetheart, Daisy, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, in 1956 and after completing his undergraduate work, he moved to Los Angeles in 1957. They are the parents of three grown children Gilbert, Brother William, and daughter Lya.

Brother Dillard retired as the Assistant Probation Director from the Los Angeles Probation Department after serving from 1959 to 1981. Because of his devotion to scholarship and uplifting young people, he served as a science teacher at Locke High School for twenty four years, (1965-1989).

Brother Dillard joined Zeta Rho Chapter in 1984 and has participated faithfully on many of the Chapter's committees. He was personally responsible for expanding the pool of students recognized for Salute scholarship awards.

In recognition of contributions to his hometown, the Greenwood Mississippi Cultural Club of Chicago honored him in May 1988. Brother Dillard was awarded the Chapter's Superior Service Award in 1998 and 2005.

## BROTHER BERLIN HAYES



**Los Angeles, CA-** Brother Berlin Hayes entered Omega Chapter, October 23, 2007. After completing high school at George Washington Carver in Bunkie, LA, he enrolled at Southern University located in Baton Rouge, LA. In 1969, as a member of the U.S. Army, Brother Hayes served his country as a paratrooper in the Vietnam War. During his tour of duty in Vietnam, Brother Hayes was introduced to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He also treasured his association as a Past Worthy Patron of the Queen Beach Chapter No. 33 and a Past Worshipful Master of the Sunset Lodge No. 26 in Long Beach, CA, as well as his membership with the Zeta Rho Chapter.

Due to his strong belief in the power of education, Brother Hayes completed his college education at both El Camino College and California State University-Long Beach after his return from service in Vietnam. His education would later allow him to serve in the Office of the Attorney General for the State of California. Brother Hayes retired in 1991 and devoted his efforts full-time to his independently owned security firm, Hayes Protective Services, Inc.

Brother Hayes was wed to Eva Jewel Pierson of Los Angeles, CA, for 9 years, and they enjoyed life as husband and wife until his passing at Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, TX. Brother Hayes joined the Fraternity through the Zeta Rho Chapter of Los Angeles in 2002. He served on the Annual Omega Salute and Scholarship Program Committee every year and actively supported several other chapter community programs. In 2007 Brother Hayes relocated from Los Angeles to Houston, TX. Brother Hayes made a lasting impact on the brothers of Zeta Rho. His warm and loving demeanor epitomized "Friendship Is Essential to the Soul."



## REV. DR. KENNETH B. SMITH



1931-2008

**Chicago, IL** – The Reverend Dr. Kenneth B. Smith Sr. was born February 19, 1931 in Montclair, NJ. Brother Smith was educated in the Montclair public schools. After high school, he attended college at Virginia Union University where he majored in History. He obtained a Master's degree from Drew University and a degree in divinity from Bethany Theological Seminary.

Brother Smith was the founding pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago and senior minister at the Church of the Good Shepherd where he served for 16 years. He was President of the Chicago Theological Seminary for 14 years. His devotion to religious studies was permanently acknowledged by The Chicago Theological Seminary when the Kenneth B. Smith Chair in Religious Studies was created in his honor.

His service to the greater community included the following: first black President of the Chicago Board of Education; Chairman of the Board, Chicago Community Trust; and member of President Clinton's Taskforce on Teen Pregnancy.

Among his numerous honors were Volunteer of the Year from the United Way of Chicago, Humanitarian of the Year from the Abraham Lincoln center and the Humanitarian Award from the National Society and Fund Raiser Executives.

His devotion to his family was unparalleled. He will be remembered always by his loving wife of 37 years, Gladys, his dutiful children, Kenneth B. Smith, Jr., Kourtney Montgomery and Kristen B. Smith and his adoring grandchildren.

Brother Smith was initiated via Zeta Chapter and was a highly active brother of Sigma Omega Chapter in Chicago, IL.

## BROTHER MATTHEW C. WORRELL

1952-2009

**Philadelphia, PA** – Brother Matthew C. Worrell entered Omega Chapter on Monday, February 2, 2009. Brother Worrell was born on October 10, 1952, in Philadelphia, PA, to the late Latisha Worrell and Herman Worrell.

He attended and graduated from Mastbaum High School in 1970. He went on to Rutgers University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree, and was later employed by the City of Philadelphia's Judicial Parole and Probations Department. Along with making an impact at the Parole and Probations Department, Matt immersed himself in the study of Martial Arts. A man dedicated to his craft, he received numerous accolades and was a Third-Degree Black Belt and served in the role of Sensei while maintaining the status of a life student.

Brother Worrell was initiated into the Fraternity through the Mu Omega Chapter, on July 2, 1978. He served as Housing Chairman and was recently the Chapter's Keeper of Peace. He served on the security team at the 2006 Second District Conference as well as the 2007 Leadership Conference. By doing such a stellar job, Brother Worrell was part of the security team at the 2008 Grand Conclave in Birmingham, AL. He was a Life Member of the Fraternity.

Matt leaves his wife, Janet Renita; sons, Erving, Malcolm, and Julian; his sister, Carolyn Nobles; brothers, Phillip Worrell, Arthur Worrell, and Leonard Wilkerson, and a host of other extended family members, friends, and colleagues from the Parole and Probations Department.

## BROTHER DENNIS STUART HAYLE



**Greensboro, NC**— Dennis Stuart Hayle was born on February 18, 1986 in Hempstead – Long Island, New York. He was the younger of two children born to David and Stephanie Hayle; and their only son. He became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Mu Psi Chapter and was initiated on February 23, 2008.

When he graduated from Uniondale High School in New York, he announced to his family and friends that one of his greatest ambitions was to attend North Carolina A&T State University. Dennis moved to Greensboro in 2004 and took several courses at Guilford Technical Community College before transferring to A&T in the spring of 2005, where he majored in Political Science and Criminal Justice.

He was excited about graduating and was working diligently to finish his studies by May 2009. Dennis aspired to become a lawyer or a lobbyist. He also told his family that he wanted to become a member of Omega Psi Phi.

As a child, he saw men in his community helping others. He also observed that they enjoyed being together as a group. When he asked his mother about them, she told him that they were Omega Men.

He then added becoming an Omega Man to his list of ambitions. Dennis would have celebrated both his birthday and one full year of membership in February 2009, but a cowardly act took his life much too soon.

We know that Dennis will always be with us if we honor his memory. He is now at peace. His journey in this life may be complete; but he will always live in our memories.

## BROTHER LEWIS DUNLAP JR.



**Greensboro, NC**— Brother Lewis Edward Dunlap, Jr., the reigning Omega Man of the Year of Tau Omega Chapter, entered Omega Chapter on September 6, 2008.

Brother Lewis Dunlap, Jr. was the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dunlap, Sr. He was born in Savannah, GA. His family relocated to Asheville, NC and he finished high school there before enrolling at what is now NC Agricultural and Technical State University. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Arts and a Master of Science in Education.

Education became both his passion and his profession. His leadership skills were obvious; he began as a teacher in the Norwalk Connecticut Public School System, became principal of Norwalk High School, and was promoted to Assistant Superintendent. He retired after more than 35 years of dedicated service in the public school system.

He entered the Fraternity through Alpha Nu Chapter in Connecticut on December 4, 1983. He was an active participant in the programs of our Fraternity in Connecticut. He also served as Basileus of the chapter in Connecticut.

Brother Lewis leaves a wife, Yvonne, children Donna and Lewis III and a host of family and friends to cherish his memory. He will be sorely missed.

## BROTHER LLOYD CHARLES ELAM, M.D.



1929-2008

**Nashville, TN**— Brother Dr. Lloyd Elam entered Omega Chapter on October 4, 2008. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 51 years, Clara Carpenter Elam, and two daughters, Dr. Gloria Elam-Norris of Chicago and Dr. Laurie Elam-Evans of Atlanta, as well as two grandchildren.

Born in 1929 and a native of Little Rock, Ark., Brother Elam earned an undergraduate degree at Chicago's Roosevelt University in 1950. In 1957, after serving in the U.S. Army, he became the first African-American to receive an M.D. degree from the University Of Washington School Of Medicine. Brother Elam was initiated into the Fraternity in 1975 and has been a faithful member for over 33 years.

Dr. Elam was recruited to Meharry Medical College in 1961 to start a Department of Psychiatry. He served as Assistant Professor, Professor and Chairman of Psychiatry and Interim Dean at the age of 39, he served in this capacity from 1968-1981.

Dr. Elam also served on many boards. Some of these include: Metropolitan Hospital Authority, First Union Bank of Tennessee, Bell South Telecommunications and the Board of Trustees of Fisk University. He was a faithful member of First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill and the Gamma Phi Chapter.

## BROTHER ARCHIE WILLIAMS



**Gary, IN**- Brother Archie Williams was born in Birmingham, AL on June 7, 1928 to Elizabeth and Archie Williams, Sr.

Brother William served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, where he was assigned to the 382 General Hospitals in Osaka, Japan. He served as a certified X-Ray and Lab Technician.

Brother Williams earned a B.A. in Science from Talladega College. While at Talladega, Brother Williams was initiated into the Gamma Psi Chapter in 1946. later received a Chicago teaching certificate. He was awarded a Masters of Science in Education and Certification in Administration from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN.

His career with the Gary Community School System started in 1963 as a Special Education teacher at Jefferson Elementary. He was appointed Assistant Principal at Frobel and Jefferson Middle Schools and Director of the Bilingual Rights Program. Brother Williams served as principal at Jefferson and Douglass Elementary Schools.

Brother Williams was a faithful member of St. Timothy Community Church for 47 years. His passion for Omega Psi Phi was shown as a Former Basileus, Chaplain, "Omega Man of The Year," and social chair for several committees within the Fraternity.

Brother Williams was a loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Ms. Sara Spikner-Williams and two daughters, Denise Elizabeth and Sara Patrice.

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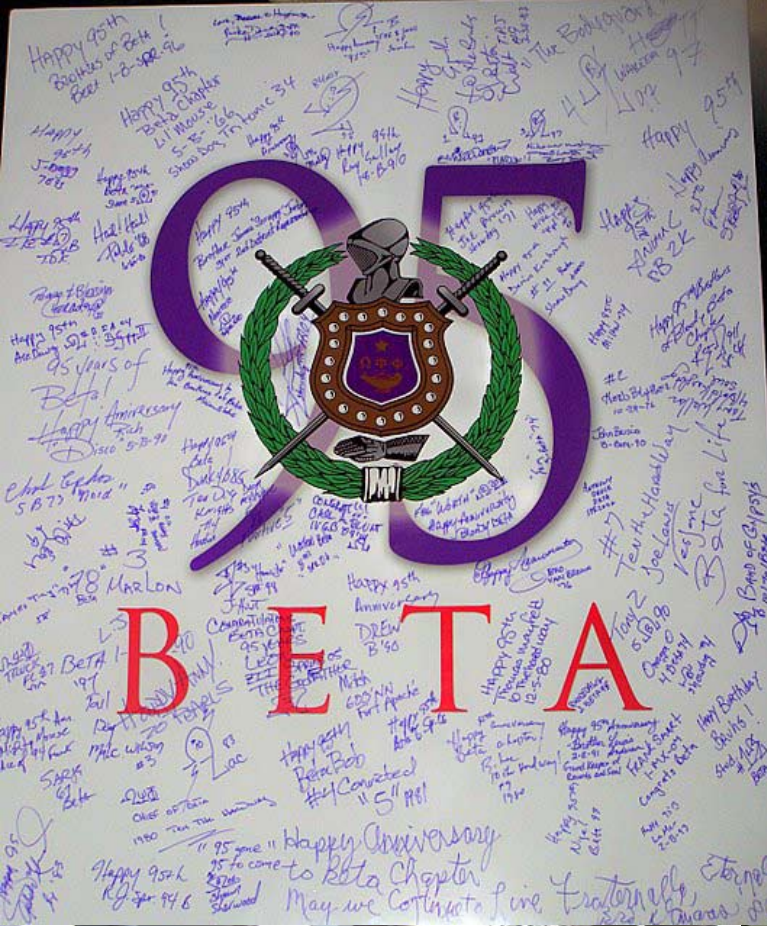
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– Brother Lewis Anderson, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal.



\*\*\* = Not provided as of March 19, 2009







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*“Friendship Is Essential To The Soul”*