



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

International Fatherhood and Mentoring (FM) Newsletter



“A Mandated Program”

Fatherhood Initiative

Youth Leadership Conferences

Mentoring

Brother, You Are On My Mind

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84th Grand Conclave Memories: A Conclave With A Purpose

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WE ARE BLACK HISTORY!

“... MOVING FORWARD ... TOWARD GREATER SERVICE ... Saving Lives, One Child ... at a time!”

GRAND CONCLAVE REGISTRATION

Initial Registration Goal
4400

Actual REGISTERED
8458

IMPACT
Significant and Huge

[Click Here](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C9K0dHLRZk8/), See the GC Sights and Sounds: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C9K0dHLRZk8/>

SPECIAL GRAND CONCLAVE ISSUE

“SAVE A LIFE: ONE CHILD, ONE FATHER, ONE FAMILY, ONE COMMUNITY, AT A TIME”

Sights from the 84th Grand Conclave, Tampa, FL



[HTTPS://TRUEBLACKHISTORY.COM/](https://trueblackhistory.com/)



“I’m Black History!”



Let's tell the “children”
and others.
This we do in homage to
our ancestors, our
families, our faith, and
our fraternity!



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**See the Websites: <http://www.omegafandm.org>
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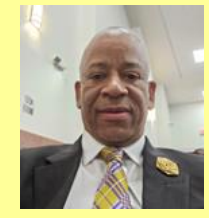
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LET'S MAKE THIS THE GREATEST FRATERNITY YEAR OF SERVICE AND UPLIFT!

Brother Robert W. Fairchild, Fatherhood and Mentoring Advisor
Awareness, Advocacy, Partnerships, Celebration

Brothers, as we come through the Father's Day Celebration season and from the Conclave, I am seeing some very positive results and getting some excellent feedback. I have had the opportunity to communicate with many brothers from around the country and from outside the country in the 13th District.

The conversations range from getting a basic understanding of all the elements of the Fatherhood and Mentoring effort to hearing about the positive results in a community after the various programs have been implemented. Mothers on numerous occasions have expressed their appreciation for our involvement in helping to save their sons lives.

BROTHERS, OUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT in our communities has had a noticeable effect. I have always been an encourager of having fatherhood roundtables because they give fathers an opportunity to talk about their issues and concerns. It gives them an opportunity to vent some of their frustrations. These are very powerful sessions for all participants including the brothers. Many a tear has been shed in these sessions. I encourage you to do these sessions. You will find a powerful opportunity for finding out what is on our mind, and where discussion of potential solutions can occur.

Another area I found quite interesting is having roundtable discussions with the same group but include the young brothers ages 7-17. Have the group question

each other. No question is a bad question. It gives the other group and opportunity to find out (*what's on your mind, what's bothering you*) and other stuff. This is a true intergenerational conversation.

MY FINAL POINT: We have an opportunity to capture what is on Black men's mind.

When the question came up what is on Black Men's Mind, the two previously mentioned processes get to that and touch on two of our tenets, *Advocacy and Awareness*. Direct involvement with Black men, getting them to talk about what's on their mind, can be a source for legislation; it is information coming straight from the people that have the problem.

Black men seeing the success of this kind of effort can see that their vote really does count. **This year, of all the years that ever existed, it is important that we go to the polls and Vote.** The concerns and the issues that Black Fathers, Young Men, and Boys have can be addressed.



Brother Robert W. Fairchild
Fatherhood and Mentoring
Chief Advisor

Robert W. Fairchild

Chief Advisor
Fatherhood and Mentoring

~~~~~ **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** ~~~~~

**September 15, 2024**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2024, Submit information for July, Aug, and September, 2024**

**Our Goal: Publish Information from Each District, Each Quarter about  
Fatherhood, Youth Leadership Conferences, Mentoring  
[geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net)**

## Fatherhood and Mentoring: Fatherhood is Caring!

Brother Eric O. Johnson, 1-11-LBB, LM #7792 \* International Father's Day Committee

### The DMV Fatherhood Coalition/A Cause Greater than Self

**T**HE ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER'S FATHERHOOD & MENTORING INSTITUTE, along with various organizations forming the DMV Fatherhood Coalition, successfully coordinated an event on June 14, 2024, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The event saw a significant turnout, with 41 individuals in attendance, and was organized by **100 Fathers, Inc., of Washington, DC**. It served as a vital platform for mentoring young Black boys, with 12 attendees present, and highlighted the importance of fatherhood and positive male influence. The event also emphasized the collective solidarity essential for nurturing a supportive community environment and aimed to underscore the invaluable role of fathers and positive male role models in shaping the lives of young boys.



and supportive environment for the next generation. Through the celebration and recognition of the values of fatherhood and positive male influence, the event



conveyed a resounding message about the collective commitment to uplift and support the well-being of families and young individuals within the community.

While celebrating the dedication and love of Black fathers, the event acknowledged their unwavering commitment to their children and families, emphasizing their profound impact within the community.

The organizers were grateful for the attendees who adjusted their schedules to participate and pledged to give advanced notice for future gatherings. They expressed their appreciation to the participants, supporters, and volunteers for their invaluable contributions and anticipated their continued support in future initiatives. Further, the organizers facilitated meaningful conversations and community engagement by posing thought-provoking questions for reflection, such as: "Who are the Elders in your life?" "What do you love about being a father?" and, "What do you need to help you thrive?" These questions aimed to stimulate dialogue and foster community involvement in upcoming initiatives.

In addition, the event stressed the significance of promoting positive male role models to empower young boys to realize their full potential. This initiative, centered on fatherhood and mentoring; it laid the groundwork for catalyzing positive and enduring changes in the community. By fostering open dialogue and a shared sense of responsibility, the event sought to cultivate a nurturing

In Friendship,

**Bro. Eric O. Johnson**

Fatherhood & Mentoring Institute Chair

**THE FRATERNITY'S FATHERHOOD & MENTORING AIM:** The Fraternity continues to enhance-educate-engage in closing the gap of father absenteeism in the lives of their children. As mentors, the Fraternity understands the need to assume several different roles during a successful mentor-mentee relationship. It has called on its membership to focus on the importance of mentoring our next generation of young men and fathers and to actively engage in Fatherhood and Mentoring activities that are centered on four value-laden strategies: 1. Raising Awareness, 2. Developing Partnerships, 3. Increasing Advocacy, and 4. Promoting and Celebrating Achievements. (Quote from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., *Fatherhood and Mentoring Status Report, November 11, 2014.*)

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**CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT:** In keeping with the aspirations of our founders, Brothers Coleman, Cooper, Love and Just and Brother Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the father of African American history, we envision Brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., continuing to first, engage in self-development and, second, maintain ways by which we will involve male youth and fathers in growth opportunities that will enable them to be benefactors of service and uplift to our communities and our spheres of influence! (Quote from: unpublished **GUIDE AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS TOOL KIT, January, 2023**)

## Just A Thought: A Color-Blind Society

**WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?** How often do we hear politicians and government officials who are covered by the national media, quote Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s statement about not judging people on the color of their skin but by the content of their character?

Others on the local, regional, and social media level who mimic them provide just as much toxicity to the issue by misusing that statement to absolve themselves from the inherent affliction of racism and privilege that is embedded in their souls and has metastasized from generations of self-hatred and devoid of humane feelings. Those so-called leaders are reiterating the age-old narrative that portrays the actual victims of racism as the oppressors while espousing that the true oppressors (themselves) are really the victims.

To be more specific, the essence of Dr. King's statement which alludes to the content of one's character is blithely overlooked. **As spoken, the content of one's character and the color of one's skin go hand-in-hand, with the content of one's character being the most important element of the phrase.** Dr. King, in his famous statement used the noun *content* to refer to the composition, substance or essence of one's character which reveals who they really are and exposes their true motives and intentions. In my mind, those that only accentuate the first part of the statement are attempting to validate the long-standing fallacy that there is a natural order of racial hierarchy and acceptability, with Whiteness being at the top.

For those who have done their homework, it is evident that scholars continue to debate over the status of the first Africans who were brought to Virginia in and around 1619. It is said that not all were sold into bondage, but rather it was a combination of enslaved persons and indentured servants. Technically, there were no slave laws at the time to give a clear definition of status.

Approximately six decades later, the concept of race was introduced by the elite landowners because of the **Bacon**

**Rebellion of 1676** in Virginia. That is where White and Black indentured servants joined together in an armed rebellion against the colonial government.

At that time freedom preceded slavery and integration preceded racism. That sense of unity and commitment between Blacks and Whites frightened the elite landowners who by custom and contract had to release the indentured servants once they fulfilled their service obligations. They were free to amass their own land, indentured servants, and wealth, which many of them did. That type of competition and equality was something the elite landowners did not want.

In response to that terrifying possibility, a new policy of separating Blacks and Whites by nomenclature and color was implemented. Blacks were still considered to be indentured servants and it was no longer a guarantee that they would be freed of their obligation according to their contracts. White indentured servants, on the other hand, were now being identified as apprentices and freed at the completion of their contracts. In addition, Whites including poor Whites on a lesser level, were accorded special status over Blacks who were being portrayed as sub-human and the Natives who were referred to as savages.

Eventually the term White became more than a description of skin pigmentation, it became a defined consciousness and way of life that many still ascribe to today. The term and concept of a *Color-Blind Society* conjures up feelings of all that is considered acceptable to White society. That mantra was a major plank in the platform of racism and bigotry that was imbedded in the building of America and the overall development of American Society. The Native American population knows it all too well. During the so-called Westward Expansion, it was called "Civilizing the Tribes."

Today, a Color-Blind Society is commonly defined as aiming to treat individuals as equally as possible, and



**Brother Dr. Carl A Blunt, 32<sup>nd</sup> First Vice Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

free from differential legal or social treatment without regards to race or color. That approach unfortunately discounts the unique lived experiences, heritage, advancement, accomplishments, and perspectives of other cultures. It can be said that those who justify the **Color-Blind Society** concept and promote it, have not experienced disadvantages or difficulties due to their race or color. Instead, most have benefited from the privilege of the perverse concept of the natural order of Whiteness and see nothing wrong with that.

Accurate history reveals that Africans either in bondage or indentured servitude came to the colonies from a culture of great traders and merchants as opposed to the British. In Britain's case, roughly two-thirds of the 250,000 to 300,000 White immigrants that arrived in the colonies between 1717 and 1782 were felons. According to the British government, to drain the nation of its offensive rubbish, prisoners were transported to the colonies as a means of severe punishment, exile, and slave labor under the British Transportation Act of 1717.

In closing, WE MUST EDUCATE OUR PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY YOUNG BLACK STUDENTS at a very early age and make them aware of how the concept of race was a trick developed out of fear and insecurity, how history has been manipulated to tip the scale in favor of Whiteness, and the belief that being classified as White carries some sort of inherent privileges is false and has no merit whatsoever.

Knowledge will overcome belief.

Brother Dr. Carl A. Blunt is an author, lecturer, and immediate past Board Chairman of the Omega Youth Leadership Academy. He also served as the 32nd First Vice Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc.

## The Fatherhood Journey – Through the Eyes of Age!

By Brother Larry Hammond, Sr.

### *When the Tide Turns – A Reflection on Father's Day*

**I**N LIFE, WE ALL PLAY MULTIPLE ROLES. And, in each of those roles we have different responsibilities that we perform. Some of our extended roles include, leader, co-worker, supervisor, fraternity member; just to name a few. Some of our more immediate roles include: husband, partner, friend, brother, father, and son. Then there are the auxiliary roles that we play in our communities, such as, coach, church member, volunteer, and many others.

One of those auxiliary roles that I have played in my life is that of charter boat captain. In that role, one of the most important functions that I played was to ensure the safe navigation of the vessel that I was operating. While doing so, one of the most significant responsibilities of a captain is to be cognizant of the changing tides. Tides play an essential part in piloting any watercraft, as it influences steering, docking or whether you can safely traverse the waterways to avoid the shallows or other potential hazards. However, when the tide turns, everything changes. As captain, you must adapt and modify your actions, as appropriate, to meet the varying circumstances. You must approach the changing situation with confidence and positivity.

Last month, we celebrated Father's Day. While my father's memory is always prevalent, It is during this time that I take a special pause to reflect on his life. My dad was a very charismatic individual and loved life to the fullest. I thoroughly enjoyed our time together. He taught me about life and people. He had a wisdom, that was unmatched, in my opinion. He enjoyed an outstanding career in the world of education and was an Omega Man of impeccable character and distinction.

After being diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2005, he moved from Washington D.C. to California where my role changed from son to caregiver. The tide had turned. As he passed through the various stages the illness, I got to experience, with him, the ups and downs that came along with the progression of the ailment.

IN MY NEW ROLE, AND WHILE THE SITUATION WAS DIFFICULT, I knew that I must deal with this state-of-affairs confidently and with positivity. One way to do that was to create happy memories. While there are many, one that comes to mind, as I reflected, was when Barack Obama

became president of the United States. My dad, who was a product of the Civil Rights Movement, did not believe that a Black man had become president – he never believed that this could happen in is lifetime.

At that time, he had lost his ability to speak – but he remained candid and attentive and never experienced a time that he did not recognize me, my wife, or my children, which was a blessing.



**Brother Larry Hammond, Sr.**  
**V1H Consulting**



My youngest daughter took it upon herself to convince him that Barack Obama was indeed the current president. She would bring pictures and periodicals, books, and her computer to try to show her grandfather that it was true, to which, with an absolute determination, he continually

shook his head, "NO!" My daughter persisted with her quest, but to no avail. Then, one day, I had bought the Micheal Jackson DVD, "This is It." We would watch movies with him often. My dad love music and he was a big MJ fan. I was unaware that as an addition to the movie on the DVD, that there was an introductory mini-documentary about Barack Obama's journey to the presidency. As we all viewed the feature, my dad watched intently and with tears running down his face, he finally - believed!

That moment is etched indelibly in my consciousness. It remains a reflection that I draw from that helps me to maintain a significant connection for me even though it occurred during a time of great difficulty and trepidation. But it also brings thoughts of joy and positivity.

WHEN THE TIDE TURNS, and you may find yourself shifting from student to teacher, mentee to mentor or from son to father; create momentous memories that will endure and let Omega's Four Cardinal Principles, Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift, help to guide you – **when the tide turns. ///**

## History Bears Witness to the Truth Brother Charles “Chuck” Clemons, Jr., 12<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain

“A Person’s Passion for Justice is NOT the same as a Desire for Revenge!”

Brother Charles “Chuck” Clemons, July 1, 2024

### Wise Character in Leadership Transcends Age: Remains Essential

The 2024 Tampa Grand Conclave brought brothers together from around the world to conduct Omega’s business. Among the impactful sessions, Brother James Clyburn, the United States Representative for South Carolina’s 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, stood out. His compelling lesson on history and the importance of voting resonated deeply.

As we consider leadership, the debate often centers on age, vigor, and capability. However, character—marked by wisdom, courage, honesty, and integrity—should be the true measure of leadership.

This reminds me of the scripture in the book of Joshua 14:10-12, where Caleb, at 85 years old, still possessed strength and determination.

10. And now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today.

11. I am still as strong today as I was on the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in.

12. Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out just as the LORD has spoken.

He sought the hill country promised to him, demonstrating that **wisdom knows no age limits.**

With the Lord’s help, he aimed to overcome challenges and lead with unwavering character.



Charles “Chuck” Clemons, Jr.,  
20 – Beta – 1990

### Wisdom and Character Displayed by Caleb and Brother Jim Clyburn:

In the familiar scripture passage, Caleb and Joshua faithfully reported on the land they explored, enduring 40 years in the desert. Caleb, at 85 years old, remained as strong as he was in his youth, relying on God’s faithfulness to courageously pursue unfinished work. His example inspires us to persevere and call others to do the same.

Brother Jim Clyburn, now 84, witnessed Omega men as a child, youth, and college student. Their example shaped his life, leading him to noble political work and public service. Standing before the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Grand Conclave, he exemplified strength and readiness for justice.

**Consider this:** Are you exercising wisdom that leads to a lifetime of service? Does your character reflect God’s work, inspiring others to follow? As our country debates leadership fitness, remember that trust is built on exemplary character. Wisdom, lived out, becomes an honorable pattern—one that aligns with God’s purpose.

Brother Charles Clemons, Jr., 12<sup>th</sup> District Chaplain, author of “UNDIVIDED: A Biblical Response to What Divides U.S.,” 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2020



by D. A. Profit

### On Health and Wellness

Let us look at this topic through learned eyes; what is health? Health is, simply soundness of the body and mind; free from dis-ease. Collectively, how do we determine that we are healthy? Will you concede that good health has a youthful look?

Do we gauge our health by numbers (age), the wrinkles on our skin, perhaps our appearance, our strength and/or girth, our mental capacity or may-be the immediate pain we encounter?

No pain, no problem, *no health problems*? Do we go to the doctor to make sure our machine is in optimal working condition as we do with our automobile? Oh yes, our bodies are made up of systems that operate in unison as equivalent to the systems of an automobile. For example, if your car dies it can be jumpstarted; if you die you can be jumpstarted (*electrical shock*). Fluid runs through you; fluid runs through a car. Electricity flows through a car; electricity flows through you. I will stop there -- you get the picture we are carbon-based machines. God made humans and humans made machines.

Now, to keep this human machine running we must consume food like a car consumes fuel. The difference being a car's tank (fuel carrier) does not expand but the fuel carrier of a human (the stomach) expands and contracts. Think about it...while young we eat only what we were given for fuel by our parent or guardian shaping our eating habits; like it or not, rarely over consuming food but burning what is in our fuel tank by running, jumping, playing the day away. Until we reach an age that we begin to feed ourselves. As our food consumption increases our activity decreases.

This is the point we start to determine our health & wellness pattern, ignoring the signs of poorly made health decisions, i.e., heartburn, over eating, not



Brothers walking the morning of the 79<sup>th</sup> Twelfth District Meeting in Sacramento.

properly chewing before swallowing, and the dreaded weight gain.

I'll leave you with this...while in middle school an instructor asked the class to write the top 5 things we'd like to have. Most of the class chose money, cars, homes, and other material objects. On no one's list was good health or wellness. The instructor not only pointed this out but he elaborated by saying of all those things you like to have; how can you truly enjoy them if you are in poor health? He made the connection by asking when we are sick what do we want to do? Most of us agreed to do nothing, lay in the bed, watch television and/or sleep. He concluded by pointing out when our health is poor those things we enjoy are harder to do, if at all.

Consider the vital pearls in your testimony of your journey of weight loss and wellness that will connect with your audience when promoting our health initiative.

So, brothers...No More Benefit of Doubt. Take this seriously. Are you uplifting as we climb, giving life to this organization by living this creed? Are you giving equal time to your health & wellness? Scholars, read the nutritional facts on that which you consume. ///

## From Around the Districts

### Following the 84<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave: from the Editors Desk “QUES OWT AND ABOUT IN TAMPA!”



#### Just A Note:

**FOLLOWING THE LAST OFFICIAL SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING AT THE 84<sup>TH</sup> GRAND CONCLAVE**, I had the opportunity to visit with a friend (*a college-mate and fraternity brother*) and his lovely and cherished wife; both of whom I've known for 60 years or more. During our dinner and chat about all things Alma Mater and Omega, I asked him to list a few of his many ideas about making the world a better place and our Omega Psi Phi Fraternity a better advocate for all things uplifting for our communities so that when we decide to pack our bags and head to Omega Chapter, we will have said something that might have spurred great conversation – if not action. He mentioned three items for consideration. (gdt)

Here, we labeled his thoughts,

#### THINGS OMEGA: What if...

**1. ... our military members/brothers** were allowed to do volunteer work with schools without having to take leave as is the case with Boy Scouts? This could lead to increased Black men mentoring Black students in all schools, especially underachieving schools. Charles R. Drew Elementary School in Tampa closed primarily because of low achievement and the fact that it could not attract the best teachers.\* I am convinced that if my frat brothers had been more involved at the school, we could have made a difference. Most of our chapter members are young active duty, or recently retired military. I personally know of many military people working with Boy Scouts because their bosses encouraged them to do so, and in many cases this activity made a difference in performance appraisals and promotions. Department of Defense (DoD) and service directives allow this practice and refer to it as permissive temporary duty (PTDY), giving specific examples of acceptable activities. These directives could be modified to show service in connection with failing or underperforming public schools would meet authorized PTDY standards.

(\*See: **Opinion page, Tampa Bay Times Editorial Board, Published May 10, and website below:**  
<https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/investigations/10-investigates/proposal-close-just-elementary-west-tampa-outrage-black-community/67-dc2c8dfb-a62d-4437-bcee-0eaa2f7b5778>)

**2. ... we continued with an aggressive voter registration, education, and mobilization (GOTV) campaign?** Government is more directly involved in the lives of Americans than religion and I think it is not very well recognized or accepted by many brothers, especially the younger ones. If the frat is serious about changing this situation the District Representatives (DR) and chapters must be convinced that it is so and should be given achievable goals for correcting the condition. It is the government, especially local governments, that pave our streets and pay our teachers. For example, based on geographics and other factors, chapters should be given goals for outreach, the number of voters contacted/registered/re-registered, education sessions held and reporting the number of people attending. Some states have enacted laws and regulations making it difficult to register voters, and even a felony for minor violations of voter registration statutes in those states. Extreme caution must be exercised in these states. Like the civil rights protests of the past, we must challenge these states and conduct VREM and GOTV activities to show resolve and maintain voter rights.

**3. ... our brother, General Charles Young and The Buffalo Soldiers were recognized more than now?** We should do more to honor this fine Gentleman/Brother/Officer. The Buffalo Soldiers camped in Tampa and Lakeland awaiting ship transport to Cuba. There is a “Buffalo Soldiers Park” in Tampa that is just an open grassy area with a marking. We can and should do better in Tampa and across this country.

**And so Brothers, what if ... By Brother Wilson Blount, Colonel, USAF, Retired, LE – 1964**

# 1<sup>st</sup> District: Brother Anthony Lilley, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

## Second Annual Father's Day Cookout

**Waterbury, CT** – The Brothers of Lambda Rho in collaboration with The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and New Opportunities hosted its second annual Father's Day Cookout. The cookout was held on June 1, 2024 and had over 20 fathers and their children. Along with food, there was also a graduation ceremony for the 24/7 Dads Program done by New Opportunities. All the fathers who participated are involved with DCF. This was a fun filled family event. The Brothers of Lambda Rho thanked New Opportunities and DCF for allowing us to collaborate on this amazing project.



**Roxbury, MA** – On June 16th, Eta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Incorporated had an amazing time celebrating fatherhood and father figures at our inaugural Father's Day event. The day was filled with laughter, games, and fellowship among over 50 guests, and we are grateful for the incredible community support that made it all possible.

Held at the beautiful 86 Thornton Street in Roxbury, courtesy of Chris Walters, the event was a resounding success. Attendees enjoyed enriching activities and engaging discussions, fostering a sense of community and support. Special shout-outs to everyone who helped on the grill; the day was not just about games and

fellowship but also about enjoying some of the best-grilled chicken we've ever had!

We also had the privilege of viewing the Omega Psi Phi national Father's Day message, adding a meaningful touch to the celebration. This event would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and support of everyone who attended.

A heartfelt thank you to **Lindsey and Associates Realty** for their co-sponsorship and to all the fathers, father figures, and guests who made this day unforgettable. Your presence and participation truly made a difference. We look forward to hosting this event in the future and continuing to celebrate the incredible fathers in our community.

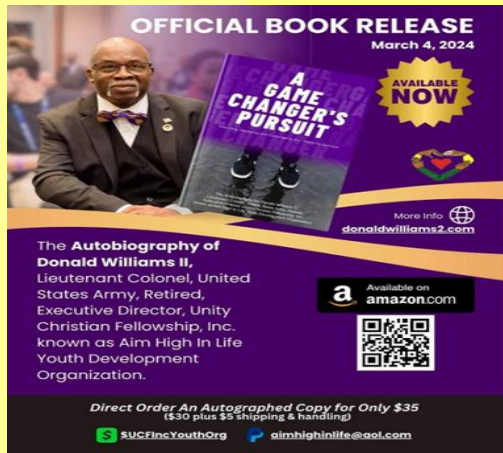
Submitted by Eric Lindsey, 2-23 HΦ

## 2<sup>nd</sup> District: Brother Matthew Stevens, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania

### A Game Changer's Pursuit

Submitted by Donald Williams, II



I am excited to be a first-time published author, my autobiography entitled: **A Game Changer's Pursuit: Educating, Equipping, and Encouraging Our Youth For Success!** The book is a Clarion Call to Action to become a mentor, save and transform lives while strengthening families. It captures my journey as an educator, a 20-year career as Military Officer, a Community Leader and a servant leader in the greatest fraternity known in the world – Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The Book has three (3) Key Messages. For information about the book, go to **Amazon.com**.

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### Community Ques Go Back to Nature

By Matthew Stevens

**East Orange, New Jersey** – On Saturday, June 8, 2024, the Eta Pi Chapter's Dr. Ernest Everett Just Mentoring Program worked in partnership with the East Orange Family Success Center to participate in the annual Boys to Men retreat. The event occurred at the YMCA Retreat Center in Up State New York (Bear Mountain).

Twenty-five male youths ages 10 - 18 attended the one-day session that included fishing, hiking, rock climbing, and team-building exercises. Shmarr Harrison, an 18-year-old senior in high school, said, "This was my first-time fishing and I was surprised to catch something!" This sentiment was shared by most of the youth as they encountered several first-time adventures. Pre-retreat surveys indicated that 85% of

the youth had never been to a lake, gone fishing nor had experienced nature through hiking.

Brother Eric Harrifeld, Eta Pi Chapter, FMC Committee Member shared his thoughts on the retreat. "The look in the boys' eyes as they encountered the rock climbing and zip drive activities was priceless! While some were hesitant to participate, the majority were excited to give it a shot." Harrifeld, asserted that all of the youth eventually completed the obstacle course and the mentors ensured that the exercises were "Team Oriented."

Janice Sanders, mother of 12-year-old Jamaal Sanders asserted, "At first, I was a bit hesitant in sending my son to the camping trip due to fear that he would get hurt. The Brothers assured me that they would look after him and I am elated that he was able to attend. The pictures he brought back as well as the memories he expressed will last him a lifetime."



The trip was funded through a grant received by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Brother Matt Stevens, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Corridor 4 and Eta Pi Chapter FMC Chairman was part of the grant writing team that helped secure the funds.

He states "The challenge of delinquency prevention has traditionally been attempted through disciplinary means such as scared straight programming. However, the Eta Pi Chapter seeks to lead the charge to examine camping, hiking, and other prevention measures as viable options to address these types of concerns." Stevens went on to say "As the District Chairman our goal will be to help other Chapters seek and get awarded these types of funds to facilitate this type of programming throughout the district."

For more information about the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Corridor 4 and Eta Pi Chapter Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee, see: **www.EtaPiChapter.org**

All Through the Year, 2024; Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, Community!

## Eta Pi Seeks to Share Funding Template

By Matthew Stevens



**L-R: Brother Matthew Stevens, Chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee; Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., City of Orange Township; Khari Edwards, youth in mentoring program; Brother Barry Devone, Chairman, Eta Pi Chapter Foundation**

**East Orange, New Jersey** – On June 28, 2024, the Eta Pi Chapter’s Foundation was awarded two of three grants that it applied for to support Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives in Corridor 4 of the Second District.

Brother Barry Devone, Chairman of the Eta Pi Chapter Foundation, A 501 (c) 3 affiliate of the Eta Pi Chapter, led the charge to seek funding in support of the Chapter’s initiatives. Devone stated, “We strongly believe that funding is available in the City, County, State, Federal, Community Based and Corporate sectors. Our charge is to find those resources and apply them to the good work being done by the Community Ques (Mighty Mighty Eta Pi Chapter).”

Brother Matthew Stevens, Chairman of the Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee for the Eta Pi Chapter, Corridor 4 and Second District, sums up the general sentiment of the Eta Pi Chapter Foundation’s fundraising goal with the words of Cuba Gooding Jr in the movie Jerry McGuire “Show Me The Money!”

Two of the grants that have been received are: 1. Sparks NJ Community Development Grant; and 2. the Institute of Citizens and Scholars Civic Summer Fellowship.

Sparks NJ granted the Eta Pi Foundation five thousand dollars to host weekly mentoring sessions with elementary school youth. The funds will be allocated to support stipends for high school students to assist with mentoring. The program’s target audience is boys in grades 5 - 8, so the program explored the idea of working with high school male student-athletes to

assist in a variety of recreational activities. The average age of the mentor (Eta Pi Chapter Brother) is 45 - 60 years old, thus the high school youth provided much-needed energy and enthusiasm in mentoring efforts that include recreational components (Basketball, Bowling, Exercise).

The Civic Summer Fellowship provides an opportunity for four high school youth to produce a public service announcement focused on the importance of voting. This twelve-thousand-dollar (\$12,000) grant assists with hiring a videographer, scriptwriter, support material, and stipends for the youth. Muath Savory, one of the young men participating in the fellowship stated “I am learning all about the importance of voting and we hope our project will get people to recognize the fact that voting is important.”

Brother Stevens has played a major role in securing and coordinating the grants and is working with Brother Raymond Bell, International Fatherhood, and Mentoring Chairman, to provide a template for all chapters to use. Stevens asserts “there is no reason for every Chapter to continue to start from scratch as it relates to grant search, writing, submission, and reporting. Following the leadership of Brother Bell, we look to ease the road toward funding for all Chapters.”

Stevens also reported that the Eta Pi Foundation recently completed and submitted a \$ 1 million grant to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). This grant is set to provide funding for three years to support mentoring in Corridor 4 in the Cities of East Orange and Orange (Eta Pi Chapter) Paterson (Lambda Upsilon Chapter) and Newark (Upsilon Phi Chapter). The grant is named Omega Mentors New Jersey. This name allows each of the Chapters to maintain their Chapter’s Mentor Identity while simultaneously falling under one Statewide umbrella. Stevens, following the lead of Chairman Bell, is exploring this concept for IHQ as it seeks funding. Stay Tuned!

For more information about the Second District, Corridor 4 and Eta Pi Chapter Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee see: [www.EtaPiChapter.org](http://www.EtaPiChapter.org)

# 3<sup>rd</sup> District: Brother Michael Frazier, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Virginia, Washington, D.C.



Third District Miles Q Student and STEAM Expo | Bro. Dr. George M. Hampton Middle School | Spring 2024

The Third District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (TDOPPF) Incorporated in partnership with The Third District Foundation (TDF) hosted their inaugural District Youth Leadership Conference (DYLC), titled The Miles Q Student & STEAM Expo on March 23, 2024 at Dr. George M. Hampton Middle School (Hampton MS) in Woodbridge, Virginia. The event had over 200 participants that enjoyed an intensely wonderful motivational session from Bro. Shawn R. Lacey, 31<sup>st</sup> District Representative, and Bro. Brian Heat, motivational speaker, and best-selling author. Brian shared with the audience the 4 points, practice self-love every day, embrace your gifts, put yourself in a position to grow, avoid toxic people, places, and situations. **OUTWORK EVERYBODY!** The TDOPPF DYLC is intended for rising high school freshman to graduating seniors in high school. The annual event takes place in numerous cities serving the IMMERSED Fatherhood & Mentoring program of the Third District ([www.3rddistrictques.org](http://www.3rddistrictques.org)).



Bro. Brian Heat, Motivational Speaker, Best-Selling Author, Educator, and Entrepreneur blessing the participants at the Miles Q Conference with a dynamic oration of wisdom, encouragement, and motivation.



Garfield Senior High School MJROTC Color Guard performing at Miles Q Youth Leadership Conference | Spring 2024

All Through the Year, 2024; Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, Community!



**Bro. Shawn R. Lacey, 31<sup>st</sup> District Representative**

The event kicked off with a wonderful rendition of Whitney Houston's National Anthem with the Marine JROTC (MJROTC) Color Guard from Garfield Senior High School (GFSHS). Hampton MS is the main feeder school into GFSHS. GFSHS MJROTC is led by LTC. Eric W. Kelly Sr. The DYLC offered adult and student panel discussions led by Bro. James Harris on mental health, healthy relationships, and the HBCU experience led by Bro. Hector Sheppard. Bro. Shawn R. Lacey and Bro. Pittman Rock, Third District Foundation ([www.3rddistrictfoundation.org](http://www.3rddistrictfoundation.org)) President gave inspirational words of encouragement and appreciation to the parents and students the DYLC participation.

Students and adults discussed current and trending topics as it relates to mental health in minority communities, mental health stigmas, availability of resources, and where to obtain resources when needed. This perceptive group of student panelists from the audience ages ranged from middle school to college. Bro. Shawn R. Lacey served as a dynamic panelist enthralled with the audience and other panel members with various discussion threads that offered a level of emotional understanding on the realities and sensitivities on mental health from all the featured panelists.



**Bro. Lacey sharing a moment with an Omega U Student.**

The discussion thread dove further into understanding foundational elements of healthy relationships, what a healthy relationship may look like that includes the levels of plutonic, non-plutonic, and/or intimate relationships.

Students shared authentic and raw feelings on their understanding with audience participants which led to several touching moments and shares from panelists and audience members alike. The discussions left parents and students feeling energized, engaged, and opened a level of communication with different audience members from different generations in understanding and learning from one another.

The STEAM Expo included hands-on paint labs where students were able to paint pre-drawn images and learn from an industry expert, Mrs. Chelsea Vanhook Sweeney, CEO and founder of Defined Arts. The STEAM Expo also offered students and parents a robust Career and College fair that included Old Dominion University, Howard University, George Mason University, Prairie View A&M University, Marine Corps, and the United States Air Force Reserve.

The DYLC featured and expansive hands-on STEM labs and workshops led by TDOPPF STEM Chair, Bro. Melvin Stallings, included mechanical engineering and race cars, shoe manufacturing, 3D-manufacturing and design, VEX robotics, video game design & gaming, UAVs/Drone and python programming, cyber-escape room, and “how to be a youtuber.”







Bro. Hector Sheppard, HBCU Committee Chairman leading the panel discussion on “The HBCU Experience”

The DYLC concluded with “The HBCU Experience.” The HBCU Experience was the last featured panel discussion with students and adults who have or are attending a HBCU served as panelists. The range of discussion included the financial matters and cost of attending a private HBCU vs a public HBCU, as well as a private and public college in general to college entry, and preparation to choosing a major for an intended career to graduating from college in the most favorable outcome based on the individual circumstances. This was a huge hit with the students and parents for college bound students as well as students still deciding options after high school.



The Third District HBCU Committee hosted the “The HBCU Experience” with alumnus representing Grambling, Howard, Norfolk State, Morgan State universities at the Miles Q Student and STEM Expo & Conference on March 23, 2024.

# 4<sup>th</sup> District Brother Quintin Sweat, PhD, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Ohio, West Virginia

## Are Our Youth Well?

Submitted by Brother Quintin Sweat, PhD



Many thanks and kudos to the Brothers who came out to Support, Engage, and Encourage the youth



**Cincinnati, OH** – On Wednesday, April 3, 2024, the 4<sup>th</sup> District held a Youth Mentoring Session as a lead-up to the District Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. The session was organized and led by Beta Iota's Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman, Chris Macklin.

Through our partnership with St. Monica's Community Center, the brothers held roundtable discussions with 80+ youth ages 6 - 16 who were enrolled in St. Monica's afterschool program. The focus was on helping the youth to explore strategies for resilience and perseverance. In preparation for the event, Bro. Macklin noted 50% of all lifetime mental illnesses develop by age 14, and 75% develop by age 24. So, we wanted to address some mental health conditions and triggers that are common among teens and young adults.

In small break-out groups, the youth responded to two prompts: (1) What is something you wish adults

understood about kids today? and (2) What is the most challenging part of your life right now?

Students responded with candor and active engagement. *"They think all kids do is stay in the house on the phone."* *"We're not lazy. When we play games, it's to relax."* *"We learn from our phones just as much as from any other media."* *"We wish parents would listen to understand, and not just say we're lying."* Common themes included social anxiety, communication issues with parents & teachers, peer pressure, bullying, and depression. The brothers provided words of encouragement and advice to help the youth cope with the concerns they raised.

The event was well-received by the students and brothers involved. Beta Iota has plans to leverage the partnership with St. Monica to expand its mentoring program. ///

## **My Sheep Know My Voice ... Omega Psi Phi**

Father To Father Breakfast Debrief

By Andre Anderson

**Nashville, TN** – On June 1, 2024, approximately 60 brothers of the Omega Lambda Lambda chapter met at the "Love Circle" of 909 Flats in Nashville. Spearheaded by Dr. Allataye Russ, the brothers greeted, cooked, prayed, served, and subsequently experienced a solace consistent with their motto, "friendship is essential to the soul."

"I couldn't hear your voice" Bryan White's daughter shared with him, lamenting a loss in a wrestling match that her father was not able to attend. This reflection was followed by Bro. Ron Reed, " ... I could tell it was my daughter's handwriting ... although the post-it notes were supposed to be anonymous, I clearly read her deep call. . . 'I want to be accepted' ... she went on to become the first African American prom queen at her school."

Several testimonies ensued at the Father-to-Father Breakfast on June 1, 2024. Brothers added to the smorgasbord of socialization, honestly, humbly and with respect. Brian Wilkins, the featured speaker,

unveiled 30-year tears with courage and chivalry. Dr. Kenneth Sykes synthesized the love for his daughter via academics, track, and an international movement, "First Fridays Fresh Flowers." Harold Lercius pinpointed the mind-blowing roles of acting, husband and father, "Don't let the bruhs f#%\* up your family." Bro Maurice Vanderbilt called me hours later and his observations stick with me as I type, " ... we got better today."

Something about God's voice has a way of reverberating through the soul. An interesting dynamic happened: Brian Wilkins was disclosing the ominous directive to share with his daughter that his wife – her mom was in heaven and would not be coming back, "Daddy wouldn't play about that." Simultaneously, the background voice of Jacob, Jason Hall's young son with autism, echoed through the hallway, lending a spiritual sound effect, " ... unless you become as a child you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." Undoubtedly, "my sheep know my voice."///



## **Gamma Phi Scholarship Recognition Ceremony 2024**

**Nashville, TN** – A collaboration between the Scholarship, Fatherhood and Mentoring and the Rite of Passage program held their fourth Annual Scholarship Recognition event at Martin Luther King Jr., Magnet High School in Nashville honoring this years' Gamma Phi Scholars.

The students and parents were treated to a star-studded presentation. Chris Morant, Gamma Phi Vice Basileus was the MC for the ceremony. Scholarship Chair Bernard Ray recognized the Scholars and their many accomplishments.

The list of colleges that the Scholars will be attending were wide from Stanford University, University of Tennessee to Tennessee Tech and Ohio State. This is a highlight of the school year and is always well attended. The event serves as a launch pad for the Scholars to begin their collegiate future.

The saying "Our Children are the Future" is more critical than ever before. We must continue, no increase our efforts to support, nurture, engage, promote, and lead our youth down the path that will assist them in making good choices, develop a love of learning and the abilities that will help be positive role models in our communities. This is our goal; we are Omegas this is what we do. ///



Jaylen Anderson and Parents

## Gamma Phi volunteers at H.G. Hill Field Day

**Nashville, TN** – The Men from Gamma Phi volunteered for the fourth year in a row at H.G. Hill's Annual Field Day. They grilled 150 hamburgers, 500 hot dogs and handed out 350 bags of chips to the kids at H.G. Hill during their Field Day. Even from home recovering from a recent doctor visit, Fifth District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chair Julius Hill was collaborating with his committee and chapter brothers on the setup and logistics for the event. Brother Bernard Ray who is also a Teacher at H.G. Hill, coordinated the event onsite.



Ques on the grill, serving the Youth at H.G. Hill

The school administrators were very grateful for the Omega men being on the grill. Many youths came back for seconds on the hamburgers. The children were very engaging with the brothers of Gamma Phi, with most of them seeing Omegas every year they talked freely and interacted like family giving “high fives” and “thank yous”.

The event is a highlight of the school year and always well attended; sometimes we must keep parents out!! The day served as just another feather in the cap to

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## Fatherhood Golf Classic 2024

**Nashville, TN** – Friendship, Scholarships and Golf on Father's Day! Sunshine and the smell of fresh cut grass are the backdrop to Brothers working hard for Omega. Gamma Phi's Scholarship and Fatherhood/Mentoring Committees again hosted their Fatherhood Golf Classic. The event is a collaboration between the Gamma Phi chapter and Vinny Links Golf Club, that has lasted more than four years.



The day began with recognizing the Father of the Year and the Father Figure of the Year. The awards were given to Bro. Bobby Cain (Father of the Year) a legendary figure in the Fraternity and in the Nashville community and Bro. Dale Robinson (Father Figure of the Year) for his tireless work to uplift the children in our community even though he does not have any of his own.

Every year the focus of the event is to recognize outstanding leaders and fathers in the community, raise money for the chapter's scholarship fund and introduce the neighborhood youth to the game of Golf. It is an

connect with our youth in a way they can respect and appreciate. The brothers of Gamma Phi reinforced the message that education is necessary but can also be fun. Uplift and service was the mandate of the day and Omega delivered. H.G. Hill administrators reached out to Brother Hill throughout the day to thank him and the chapter for always standing up and volunteering at the school. The four cardinal principles are not just who we are, it's what we do! ///

event near and dear to the Men of Gamma Phi, to celebrate the uplift of our youth and to use the event to thank the community for their hard work and scholarship.

After the awards, the Brothers/Golfers took to the course to test their skills, compete against each other, and teach the game to the younger generation. The Rite of Passage Mentoring program partnership has been instrumental in identifying,

educating, and leading the community's youth to be a better version of themselves and to be better prepared for the next stages of life.

The highlight of the yearly event is the Scholarship Winners showcase. All the years' scholarship winners are invited to the event with their parents. They are then loved on with good food, good music, golf and friendship. The scholarship winners and the men of Gamma Phi end the day with a group pie. Another year under the belt, our youth recognized, our Fathers loved on and the love of Omega flowing freely for the world to see. ///

## **Phi Alpha Alpha - Assault on Literacy Update**

**Goldsboro, North Carolina** – Phi Alpha Alpha’s assault on literacy program seeks to “Inspire youth in Wayne County to become productive citizens by engaging in a variety of programs and activities that produce positive outcomes.”

This project is a collaboration between North Drive Elementary School and the PAA Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity members to support second-grade male students who are at risk based on academic, attendance, and behavioral needs.

The program fosters student success and encourages cooperation and collaboration between all stakeholders. Teachers, members of the fraternity, and school support

staff communicate regularly through meetings, emails, and surveys to continuously improve the program to better meet the needs of the students.

During the month of May, several initiatives took place in conjunction with the community to further this relationship including: Thursday, May 16, Field Day at North Drive Elementary School (NDES); Thursday, May 23, Mentoring Session; Thursday, May 28, Field trip to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (SJAFB); Thursday, May 30, Program Celebration Inspire youth in Wayne County, to become productive citizens by engaging in a variety of programs and activities that produce positive outcomes. ///

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## **YES! Omega Men Vote!!**

**Ulysses S. G. Sweeney, IV, Chairman,  
International Community and Civic Affair Committee**

In this current political posturing season, the questions are raised and often asked “Does My One Vote Really Matter?” “Does It Really Matter Who The President Is?” “Why Should I Get Involved? They Are Going To Do What They Want To Anyway”. “No Matter Who Wins I Can’t Tell The Difference.” “Do Omega Men Vote?” Yes!

Omega Men Vote! Omega Men know and understand the value of voting and participating in fair and democratic elections. Omega Men understand that our forefathers and foremothers fought, bled, and died for the right to vote. They knew that voting was one of the vehicles to increasing the chances of a better life for them and their children. They knew that if they didn’t earn and have the right to vote that someone else would always make the decisions for them and that those decisions might not always be in their best interest. Omega Men know that it is our responsibility to teach and mentor our young brothers to vote.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated is committed to not only participate in the voting process by urging every member to go out and vote in every election from the top of the ticket to candidates on page 10 at the bottom of the ticket. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated through its International Voter Registration, Education, and Mobilization (VERM)

Committee have developed a very informative, user friendly, and helpful tool to assist Brothers and the Community with the Voting Process.

It does not matter where you live, how you traditionally vote, whether you have voted in the past, this is your first-time voting, or you simply want to be an active participant in helping with the voting process. The Voter Registration, Education, and Mobilization (VERM) Plan is on the International Headquarters website ([oppf.org](http://oppf.org)) and is available for any Brother or Chapter to use as a tool to work through and with the voting process in your area, city, or state. Please take advantage of it. “Yes! Omega Men Vote!!”

These elections over the past decade, the current elections, and elections to come for the next decade are about more than who gets elected. These elections are about more than which party one supports. These elections are about more than Blue States and Red States. These elections are about Democracy! Democracy is on the Ballot!! The very soul of this country is on the ballot! Omega Men have the moral obligation to lead the community in the voting process. Omega Men are duty bound to not only participate, to vote, to assist and mobilize the electorate, to see it through until victory is won.

YES!! Omega Men Vote!! ///

**7<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Jonathan Gaines, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring**  
Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi

**7<sup>th</sup> District - Class of 2024 Youth Mentee High School  
Senior Graduates Salute**



The 7<sup>th</sup> District - Fatherhood and Youth Mentorship Committee is honored to salute our Class of 2024 - Youth Mentee Senior High School Graduates from across the great states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. On behalf of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council, we wish our graduates continued success of their selected university/college, military, and professional trade of choice. We salute the 7<sup>th</sup> District Family Village consisting of State & Local Chapter Chairmen, Omega Brothers/Mentors, Parents and our many Community Partners for their committed service in mentoring our Youths to succeed in life. The 7<sup>th</sup> District will continue to pray and provide guidance for their continued development as young men/women, and academic scholars entering their freshman year of college in the Fall of 2024 and/or chosen profession.

Submissions by Chapter:

- |                                                  |                                        |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sigma Phi Chapter - AL (5)                       | Eta Nu Chapter - FL (4)                | Alpha Phi Chapter - AL (7)      |
| Pi Beta Beta Chapter - FL (1)                    | Theta Phi Chapter - FL (6)             | Mu Beta Beta Chapter - GA (4)   |
| Sigma Alpha Chapter - FL (1)                     | Mu Mu Mu Chapter - GA (2)              | Zeta Beta Beta Chapter - FL (1) |
| Delta Mu Mu Chapter - GA (12)                    | Omicron Tau Chapter - FL (3)           | Lambda Iota Chapter - GA (4)    |
| Iota Upsilon/Sigma Alpha Alpha Chapters – MS (4) | Upsilon Psi/Chi Omega Chapter - FL (8) |                                 |

Submissions by State: Alabama (12), Georgia (22), Florida (24), Mississippi (4)

*Special Note: 2024 Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Districtwide Fatherhood & Youth Mentorship Committee survey will be administered by email to all Local Graduate & Undergraduate Chapters via the seat of the 7th DKRS in the month of August 2024. Thank you in advance, Bro. J. Gaines – 7th District FMC Chairman.*



Dashaun Caffee  
Stanhope Elmore HS  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter, AL  
**South Alabama University**



Devin Harper  
Brewbaker Tech Magnet HS  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter, AL  
**Tuskegee University**



Brandon Elmore  
Johnson A.Graetz HS  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter, AL  
**Armed Services**



Carlton Merriweather II  
Brewbaker Tech Magnet HS  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter, AL  
**Tuskegee University**



Tristan D. Semaj Harris  
Stanhope Elmore HS  
Omega Sparks  
Sigma Phi Chapter, AL



Khamari Griffin  
Dillard High School  
Gentlemen of Influence  
Eta Nu Chapter, FL  
**FLORIDA A M UNIVERSITY**



Terrtric Doctor Jr.  
South Broward HS  
Gentlemen of Influence  
Eta Nu Chapter, FL  
**BROWARD COLLEGE**



Jayden Saint-Velus  
Nova High School  
Gentlemen of Influence  
Eta Nu Chapter, FL  
**Broward College/FAMU**



Demetri Joseph  
Monarch High School  
Gentlemen of Influence  
Eta Nu Chapter, FL  
**BROWARD COLLEGE**



Johnteris Tolbert  
Luella High School  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**Morehouse College**

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Jaylan Terrell  
GA Connections Academy  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**SCAD Atlanta**



Rajah Broadus  
Chapel High School  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter  
**Georgia Tech**



Myles Jameson Howard  
Peachtree Ridge HS  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**UCF**



Jadon Monestime  
Chattahoochee HS  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**Georgia State University**



Terrell Thomas  
Lakeside High School  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**GORDON STATE COLLEGE**



David Wilkinson  
Maynard Jackson HS  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**Alabama A&M University**



Isaiah Williams  
Dunwoody High School  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**Kennesaw State University**



Dorien Rhodes  
Benjamin E. Mays HS  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY**



George Evans Bostic  
Southwest DeKalb HS  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY**



Devin White  
Woodard Academy  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**Trade**



Langston Philpot  
Paul Duke STEM HS  
Black Rhinos  
Delta Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**Trade**



Jante Ransom  
Minor High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter, AL  
**Tennessee State**



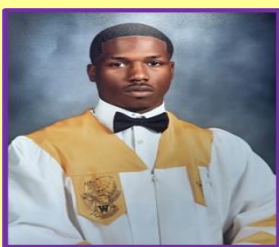
Tyler Jones  
Wenonah High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter, AL  
**Miles College**



Malik Phair  
Cornerstone High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter, AL  
**LAWSON STATE CC**



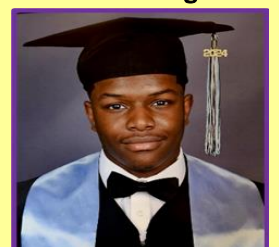
Quintez Square  
Clay-Chalkville High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter, AL  
**MILES COLLEGE**



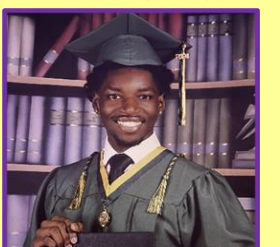
Nigel Jamil Cortez Fowler  
Wenonah High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter, AL  
**Miles College**



Donovan James Gibson  
Ramsay IB High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter, AL  
**JACKSONVILLE ST UNIVERSITY**



Michael Kimble, II  
Spain Park High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Alpha Phi Chapter, AL  
**Tennessee Wesleyan Univ**



Spencer Germeil  
Miami Jackson Senior HS  
Omega Lamplighter  
Sigma Alpha Chapter, FL  
**Miami-Dade College**



Seven Amar-Jordan Card  
Woodland High School  
I.M.A.G.E. Mentoring Prog.  
Mu Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
**ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY**



**Michael Elijah Colbert Jr.**  
Lithia Springs High School  
I.M.A.G.E. Mentoring Prog.  
Mu Mu Mu Chapter, GA  
Alabama A&M University



**Travien Watson**  
Gainesville High School  
L.A.M.P.S. Mentor Program  
Zeta Beta Beta Chapter, FL  
East Tennessee St. University



**Jonathan Lee Styles, Jr.**  
Southeast High School  
O.M.E.G.A. Pupil Participate M.I.  
Pi Beta Beta Chapter, FL  
Bethune Cookman University



**Jonathan Lee Styles, Jr.**  
Southeast High School  
O.M.E.G.A. Pupil Participate  
M.I. Pi Beta Beta Chapter, FL  
Bethune Cookman University



**Kendall Miles Greene**  
Fort Pierce Central HS  
Treasure Coast Lamplighters  
Omicron Tau Chapter, FL  
University Central Florida



**Aiden Minion Stone**  
Gaines Fort Pierce Central HS  
Treasure Coast Lamplighters  
Omicron Tau Chapter, FL  
Howard University



**Daniel Walker**  
Lincoln High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Up Psi Chapter, FL  
Florida A&M University



**DelAndre LeConte**  
FSU High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Up Psi Chapter, FL  
Tallahassee CC



**Jaishun Frazier**  
Rickards High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Up Psi Chapter, FL  
LaGrange College



**Joshua Ezekiel**  
FSU School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Up Psi Chapter, FL  
Florida A&M University



**Kelvin Graves II**  
Lincoln High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Up Psi Chapter, FL  
Tallahassee CC



**Matthew Cooper**  
Lincoln High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Up Psi Chapter, FL  
NCCU



**Myles Dugans**  
Rickards High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Up Psi Chapter, FL  
Bethel University



**Tristen Aikens**  
Lincoln High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Up Psi Chapter, FL  
Florida A&M University



**Jonathan Michael Forte**  
Columbus High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Lambda Iota Chapter, GA  
MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE



**Aiden Marquez Murphy**  
Northside High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Lambda Iota Chapter, GA  
KENNESAW STATE



**Cameron Simons**  
GW Carver High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Lambda Iota Chapter, GA  
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY



**James Darren Cottingham II**  
Northside High School  
Omega Lamplighters  
Lambda Iota Chapter, GA



**Demarcus Bowers**  
Moss Point HS  
MS GC Omega Lamplighters  
Iota Upsilon/Sigma Alpha  
Alpha  
Pearl River CC



**Roman Scott**  
Ocean Springs HS  
MS GC Omega Lamplighters  
Iota Upsilon/Sigma Alpha  
Alpha  
Singing River Hospital

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**Thomas Allen Jr.**  
**Harrison Central HS**  
**Mississippi G C Omega Lamplighters**  
**Iota Upsilon/Sigma Alpha Alpha**  
**U.S. NAVY**



**Jayden Acker**  
**Pass Christian HS**  
**Mississippi G C Omega Lamplighters**  
**Iota Upsilon/Sigma Alpha Alpha**  
**MISSISSIPPI GULF CCC**



**Calen Wiggins**  
**San Jose Prep**  
**Omega Lamplighters**  
**Theta Phi Chapter, FL**  
**Claflin University**



**Nico Flower**  
**Edward H. Whites HS**  
**Omega Lamplighters**  
**Theta Phi Chapter, FL**  
**Florida State University**



**Zechariah Murphy**  
**Foundation Academy**  
**Omega Lamplighters**  
**Theta Phi Chapter, FL**  
**Florida State College**



**Donovan Carmichael**  
**Andrew Jackson HS**  
**Omega Lamplighters**  
**Theta Phi Chapter, FL**  
**Alabama State**



**Darien Hookfin**  
**Edward H. White HS**  
**Omega Lamplighters**  
**Theta Phi Chapter, FL**  
**University of Mount UN**



**Jory Powers**  
**Edward H. White HS**  
**Omega Lamplighters**  
**Theta Phi Chapter, FL**  
**South Carolina State**

**FATHERHOOD STARTS AT HOME FOR MANY**  
Gamma Upsilon Chapter



**L-R: Kristin Brewer (mother), Destiny, Bro. DeMario Smith at Senior night.**



**L-R: Back row, far right. Jalil Hemphill: Pic 2 Jalil Hemphill and Bro. Hemphill at the Father's Day 5k**

**Wichita, KS** – As a Fraternity we are dedicated to bridging the gap of father absenteeism and mentoring fathers and youth internally within and externally to the broader community. The brothers at Gamma Upsilon are doing their part to help bridge the gap as well. In this instance, we highlight the consistent support and impact that both Bro. Mario Smith and Bro. Colonel Johari Hemphill have made on their own children as well.

First, Destiny Smith (daughter of Bro. Smith) finished her Senior year at Derby High School with her name etched in the archives in academics and athletics. Her scholarship efforts are noteworthy. However, many outside of the walls of Derby High across the city and state have come to know her on the hardwood floor. She leaves a legacy of being ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the most points scored, 7<sup>th</sup> most in steals, and 1<sup>st</sup> in having the most 3pt shots in a game. Destiny is also the all-time 3pt leader and 6<sup>th</sup> most career games played. She is also a 4-year Varsity letter winner. Her senior year, Destiny was a McDonald's All-American Nominee, 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-League, Prep Girl's Hoops Kansas 2024 top 10, KWCH Rising Star, and had a host of other season accolades.

With offers from New Mexico State, University of Kansas City - Missouri, Southern Illinois, and Emporia State. There was strong interest from Drake, Bradley, Northern Colorado, Washburn, Missouri Western, and NW Missouri State. Destiny surprised a lot of coaches by committing to Butler Community College and using that year to develop and potentially pick up a Power 5 offer. Bro. Smith is proud of Destiny's decision, as it is the outcome of his guiding and coaching her throughout life.

Second, Jalil Hemphill, son of Bro. Hemphill, who attends Collegiate Upper School. He will be a senior in the fall and has been visiting colleges to finally choose where he wants to study Cyber Security, a passion he has had since he was eight or nine years old. He is also a student athlete who excels in all academics. At this year's Honors Convocation, he was selected by every department and by the faculty for the "I AM" (Constantly Learning Award) for his scholarly aspirations. Bro. Hemphill and Jalil share a passion for running, which led to Jalil running cross-country in the Fall and cross-country in the Spring. At each track meet Jalil would achieve a new personal record (PR).

It's exciting to see the growth in him as a person and as an athlete. This passion for running allowed Bro. Hemphill and Jalil to participate in the Father's Day 5K on McConnell Air Force Base, where Bro. Hemphill is a Commander. The young Hemphill came in first out of 12 runners and Bro. Hemphill came in third. It was a great day for the Hemphill's to share this most and understand what is worthwhile - a Father's presence! ///

## 9<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Sedric Myers, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

### Fathers, Family, and Friends Celebration

**Houston, TX** – Hosted by the Nu Phi Chapter in collaboration with the Houston Area Coalition of Omega Psi Phi chapters, our recent event was a heartwarming tribute to the incredible bonds we share within our community.

Our event featured:

- **Uplifting words:** Honoring the fathers and families who play a pivotal role in our lives.
- **Reclamation and Retention:** Welcoming back members and strengthening our fraternity's unity.
- **Entertainment:** Music, food, and fellowship. A day filled with laughter, heartfelt moments, and the spirit of brotherhood. It was truly wonderful to see the young and seasoned brothers and to create new memories with our Omega Psi Phi family. Happy Father's Day!!!



CELEBRATING FATHER'S DAY WITH A REEL GOOD TIME! Nu Phi Chapter proudly hosted its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Offshore Fishing Trip, bringing together fathers and sons for a day of bonding and adventure on the open water in the Gulf of Mexico. Joined by the Houston Area Coalition of Omega Lamplighters and WABC Boy Scout Troop 242. This event was more than just a fishing trip – it was a celebration of mentorship, family, and community.



Thank you to everyone who made this special day possible. Here is to many more years of creating unforgettable memories together! ///



**COMING, In September, 2024**  
Sign up below:

**Registration Link for students (Boys and Girls):**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLZG6fMZXSrBE51RHGEWF-ELv92vXiyWrp3HmteRuML5NzNQ/viewform>

**Registration Link for Volunteers and Brothers:**

**REGISTRATION FORM: THE THIRD ANNUAL FALL YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND OMEGA STEM CONFERENCE (google.com)**

All Through the Year, 2024; Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, Community!

## **Washington Park Comes Alive: 10<sup>th</sup> District's Largest Father's Day CookOWT**



By Brother District Representative Sean T. Long  
Current and 38<sup>th</sup> Tenth District Representative

**Chicago, IL** – On June 15, Washington Park, located behind Dyett High School, came alive with the vibrant sounds and joyous celebrations of the Tenth District's Largest **Father's Day CookOWT**. This highly anticipated event was no ordinary cookout, organized by Bro. Sean T. Long, 38<sup>th</sup> Tenth District Representative, with Bro. Michael Davis and Bro. Christopher Glenn, serving as Vice-Chairs, was hosted by Sigma Omega, Nu Pi, Mu Xi, Rho Gamma Gamma, Chi Lambda Lambda, Omicron Mu Mu, and Rho Mu Mu Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

This inaugural event fell under their Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative and Brother You're on My Mind Mental Health Initiative. The goal of this event was to strengthen the mental health of Black men and provide a strong positive image for Black fatherhood.

**A Day to Celebrate Fathers and Juneteenth:** The Father's Day CookOWT was more than just a cookout; it was a celebration of fatherhood and a tribute to the importance of family and community. The event invited brothers, their friends, families, community partners, and other organizations to join in honoring the fathers who play such a vital role in our lives. It also recognized Juneteenth, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, and celebrating African American culture and history.

**Music to Move Your Soul:** The CookOWT featured an impressive lineup of DJs, collectively known as the Purple Reign DJs. This ensemble included DJ Phokiss,

DJ Chip Davis, DJ Yella, DJ Spedy Gunn, DJ Sean Legend, DJ Shawn B., also DJ Fanatic, and DJ One 11. Each DJ brought their unique style and energy to the stage, promising a day filled with great music that kept attendees dancing and enjoying the festive atmosphere from a 20 ft by 20 ft stage. Whether fans of House, hip-hop, R&B, soul, or contemporary hits, the Purple Reign DJs had something for everyone.

**Honoring the Black Father of the Year:** One of the event's most memorable moments was the presentation of the "Black Father of the Year" award to Bro. Pastor Paxton Collins. This prestigious recognition was bestowed upon a father who exhibited exceptional dedication, love, and support for his family and community. Bro. Collins, a devoted father to seven foster children, along with his wife, tirelessly cultivates an environment for the children to thrive.

**Fun Activities for the Whole Family:** The Father's Day CookOWT was carefully planned to create a welcoming environment for families, offering a wide range of activities suitable for all age groups. The children were thrilled with the variety of inflatable bounce houses and engaging games, which kept them entertained and active throughout the entire day. During the event, Bro. Tom Finch's video screen showcased a pre-made video that was specially produced for the occasion.

**Delicious Food and Grill Masters:** No cookout would be complete without delicious food, and the Tenth District's Father's Day CookOWT was no exception. Bro. Charles True's Chuck's Wagon Grill provided a mouth-watering array of dishes, while the neophytes (neo's) of Omega Psi Phi showcased their grilling skills. Guests eagerly anticipated a diverse selection of grilled meats, flavorful sides, and other culinary delights that not only satisfied their appetites but also enhanced the lively and celebratory atmosphere of the event. ///

## Getting Out to Get In – Omega Mentoring Youth Retreat



**Chicago, IL** – To expose them to a new and focused environment supportive of team building and to cultivate learning of life skills, brothers of the Westside Chicago, Illinois chapter, Rho Mu Mu traveled youth in their mentoring program to a remote off-site retreat resort to make a long-lasting impact on the lives of the young men they so dearly care about. The experience included a 1.5-hour bus ride to the resort, three days of fun and developmental activities, two nights away from home and a return trip back to City of Chicago.

The Brothers escorted twelve young men ranging from ages 14 to 19 years old away from their daily environment and provided education, activities, navigational tools, and encouragement for the current situations they are enduring and for their future encounters and endeavors. They held multiple skill development and learning sessions over the three days. The sessions focused on topics such as Emotional Intelligence, Goal Setting, Financial Literacy, Life Choices, Dinner Etiquette, Hygiene, Dealing w/Depression and even career options like Military Life. To balance out the learning

with some fun, the young men were treated to several physical activities that included Wall/Rock Climbing, Basketball, Volleyball, and Zip-lining that both helped to manage/dissipate youth energy while also subliminally creating opportunities for much needed Team Building. The young men were out of their element with many of the activities but they remained committed to trying new things that most of them eventually enjoyed and wanted to keep participating in as they got the hang of it. The young men overcame things they didn't even know they had to overcome.

The participation and execution of this youth retreat not only helped the mentees grow, this experience was very inspirational and allowed an opportunity for the brothers/mentors to overcome some of their own personal obstacles. It also gave the mentors a chance to develop a deeper bond amongst what we call friends.

Brothers Bryan Morrison, LeVar Trotter and Al Taylor led the efforts on this inaugural retreat and provided guidance, support, testimonies, and Uplift to the young men in attendance during those three days.

Sometimes we need to remove ourselves and the ones we want to help from the typical day-to-day environment to grow enough to excel in the space we occupy daily. Sometimes you must "Get Out, to Get It in"!!!! We thank God for the opportunity to be of Service to these young men and pray we support the positive trajectory of all the young men, but at least one young man, in our group.

By Bryan Morrison, Rho Mu Mu Chapter

\*\*\*\*\*

### STEM Product Pitch by Omega Y.E.S. Mentee Team



**Chicago, IL** – The Rho Gamma Gamma Omega Y.E.S. Mentoring Program continues to serve young African American males in the Chicago metropolitan area by mentoring participants to make positive life choices and

accept responsibility for their decisions, their education, and their future. One aspect of their future that Omega Y.E.S. [as well as our Omega Psi Phi Fraternity] is focusing on with the youth is Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics [STEM]. As our Rho Gamma Gamma STEM Committee Chair Brother Michael Brewer states, "We cannot continue to let our young Black men and women fall behind in their education because we as a people do not stress and teach the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math. For our youth to get into the careers with the high paying salaries, they are going to need to get fully exposed and immersed in STEM."

The Omega Y.E.S. Mentoring Program had the honor of participating in a major STEM event -- the MxD Learn High School Program. This innovative project-based learning initiative leverages students' individual interests to explore cutting-edge technologies, entrepreneurship, and potential career paths. During the program, students identified a real-

world problem and devised a concept for a hardware product that addresses the issue. Our group had the exciting opportunity to witness the manufacturing process in real-time during a site visit. Subsequently, the team was tasked with building a business model around their product idea. Finally, the team pitched their product concept to a panel of business representatives from the Digital Manufacturing & Cybersecurity Institute (MxD) in a dynamic ‘shark-tank’ style setting.

Their product was a pair of digitally enhancing glasses to allow people who are “legally blind” to see, read, and visually comprehend better. This product had a major meaning and aspiration for our mentees as one of their mentee teammates in the group has a major visual impairment. For our mentees to think of a product that would directly help one of their own is a direct testament of the Omega Y.E.S. mission of building unity and uplift to our young Black men.

The impact of our mentees’ initial pitch was so impressive that they were invited to represent MxD in a subsequent event—the Emerging Technology Product Pitch held 3 weeks later. This event was sponsored by a consortium of strategic partners from diverse manufacturing sectors, including digital manufacturing, cybersecurity, biopharmaceuticals, photonics, and flexible hybrid electronics. It provided yet another valuable platform for our mentees to showcase their ideas and engage with a distinguished panel. Sponsors of the Emerging Technology Product Pitch were fully delighted and thoroughly impressed with our mentees’ presentation.

Rho Gamma Gamma Brothers of Omega Y.E.S. were very, very proud of all the preparation and work the Omega Y.E.S. Mentees put into both product presentations. As Brother Brewer states, “STEM is the future of our Black youth, and we must continue to guide them to STEM so they can be successful.”

By Darius McKinney and Michael Brewer

## **Brother Rainey Equips Parents and Students for Free Application for Federal Student Aid**

**Chicago, IL** - Omega Y.E.S. continues to mentor young African American males in Chicago on making positive life choices about their education and their future. As Omega Men, we deeply value our Cardinal Principle of Scholarship. We teach our young men the value of a high school education and the value of a college education -- both will lead our young men to a successful future. However, the question that always comes up when talking about higher education with African Americans is, “How are we going to pay for college?”

This is a major question for Black families as their children become of age to go to college. Many cannot afford the expense to start college. According to the United Negro College Fund [UNCF],



among students enrolled in four-year public institutions, 45.9% of Black students complete their degree in SIX years – the lowest rate compared to other races and ethnicities. Black men have the lowest college completion rate at 40%.

The high dropout rate is partially because 65% of African American college students are independent, meaning they must balance pursuing a degree with full-time work and family responsibilities.

Brother Maceo Rainey, United Way Northwest Indiana, said, “African American families generally have lower assets and incomes that limit their ability to contribute towards college expenses. We need to teach our youth and their families how to apply for scholarships and financial aid.”

In partnership with the Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Door Neighborhood Center in the Morgan Park Community in Chicago, the Omega Y.E.S. Mentoring Program hosted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA] workshop for the Omega Y.E.S. mentees, their parents, and any other students and family who wanted to know more about the FAFSA process.

After a 20-minute discussion on goal setting, Brother Rainey discussed the difference between scholarships, grants, and other financial aid items, taught the process of completing a FAFSA, and lectured about several different ways our young adults not only can enter college, but also how to continue with the college education process and graduate with a college degree on time. About 30 students and parents attended Brother Rainey’s FAFSA presentation at the Blue Door Neighborhood Center, and all gave outstanding feedback about the presentation. One parent stated, “I have much, much more hope now that my husband and I can afford to send my daughter to college and graduate. I now know what to do to assist my daughter in applying for financial aid”. Young adults are better planning for their futures and becoming more confident in their future educational goals because of the Rho Gamma Gamma Omega Y.E.S. Mentoring Program.

By Bro Darius McKinney, Rho Gamma Gamma

**"Indeed, Friendship Is Essential to The Soul"**

By Brother Dr. ED YOUNG, 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative

**W**HILE THE CONCEPT OF FRIENDSHIP can be easily defined, its true essence is complex and multifaceted. It is a rich tapestry woven with threads of mutual respect, understanding, trust, empathy, and shared experiences. Experiencing true friendship is a rarity, a treasure to cherish.

Not too long ago, I had the privilege to share and witness a display of true friendship.

I was recently conferenced into a call with three of our Brothers, during which I was apprised of a situation that would later serve as a rallying cry for true friendship. During the call, one of the Brothers, who resides in Brea, an affluent suburb of Orange County, California, shared a gut-wrenching encounter that his son recently experienced at his local elementary school.

It is important to note that the Black demographic in Brea makes up less than 1% of the population, which can often lead to feelings of isolation and marginalization. This seemingly misplaced but significant information will reveal its relevance as the story unfolds.

The students at the school engaged in a reenactment of the West Atlantic slave trade, where his son, who is Black, was auctioned off to the highest bidder. The students involved in this horrific event, who were primarily White, informed the son that he was now the property of another student and was required to serve as his indentured servant for the day.

Naturally, the son was shocked and humiliated by the event and immediately informed his father, our Brother, of what occurred.

Our Brother, fueled by fury, immediately engaged the principal. Unsatisfied with the somewhat dismissive response, the incident was escalated to the school district superintendent.

Unfortunately, the superintendent did not share in our disbelief but rather made allowances for the student's inappropriate behavior, downplaying the incident by citing a lack of historical knowledge and misguided adolescence by the White students, but not discrimination.

Dismayed by the school district's lack of support, our Brother talked with his son about what course of action he would like him to take. **Surprisingly, his only request was to have eight Black men attend his school promotion as a display of support.**

Instinctively, a call to action was sent to the Brotherhood to attend the promotion ceremony. As expected, **twenty Omega men adorned in Purple and Gold, a symbol of our unity and strength, gathered and stood in unison to support the young man.** This was a powerful demonstration of our fraternity's commitment to standing together in times of need.

As the young man's name echoed through the speaker, barking sounds reverberated through the halls, creating a deafening yet exhilarating display of unity and support for the young man, inspiring us all.

Overwhelmed with pride and emotion, the young man's father, our Brother embraced me tightly. His grip

was firm, a silent expression of his deep appreciation. As tears welled up in his eyes, a testament to the profound joy and pride he felt, his son strode confidently across the crowd of Brothers, visibly bolstered by the unwavering support of his community.

As we broke our embrace, the father looked me in the eye and said, "Thank you." I replied, "You do not ever thank family because it's what we are supposed to do."

I followed up by stating, "Let this moment be a constant reminder to your son that he is never alone. Moreover, let this be a constant reminder to every Brother that you always have 20 friends with you."

Fatherhood is a profound responsibility that goes beyond just being a provider. It is about being a role model, a guide, and a pillar of support for your children. The challenges of parenthood can test one's patience and resolve, but these trials also foster growth and resilience.

The support of friends, family, and the wider community can be invaluable in this journey. Thankfully, the men of Omega Psi Phi are always ready to stand in the gap and offer their support and wisdom when needed.

Let us continue to support each other in this journey, for it is through unity and shared responsibility that we can raise the next generation to be strong, compassionate, and resilient. This is not just a goal, but a fundamental part of our fraternity's mission. ///

**OMEGA BLACK IX WRITER'S SERIES**

JOIN US TO HEAR FROM EXCITING BLACK WRITERS ON THE JOURNEY TO DEVELOPING THEIR PUBLISHED WORKS AND BEING SUCCESSFUL WRITERS.

**DONALD WILLIAMS II**

Donald Williams II, is a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Army, is an accomplished leader who has served in many distinguished leadership roles. He is a product of a military family who traveled extensively as a family member and adult. Donald, a first-time published author, shares inspirational stories, practical applications, and advice to engage the next generation of Game Changers. His autobiography book entitled: *A Game Changer's Pursuit: Educating, Equipping, and Encouraging our Youth for Success* is a clarion call to action – Become a Mentor and Save Lives. There is no better investment than our young people. When people care, remarkable things happen!

**THURS. JULY 18TH 5:00PM-6:30PM PST**  
CLICK ZOOM LINK TO REGISTER

**OMEGA BLACK IX WRITER'S SERIES**

JOIN US TO HEAR FROM EXCITING BLACK WRITERS ON THE JOURNEY TO DEVELOPING THEIR PUBLISHED WORKS AND BEING SUCCESSFUL WRITERS.

**CEDRIC A. WASHINGTON**

Cedric A. Washington is an educator extraordinaire! Using culturally relevant pedagogical practices to meet state standards teaching English, Composition, Senior Literature, and African American Studies in Gary, IN and Chicago, IL, Mr. Washington engaged, enlightened, and empowered his students through practical teaching giving his students a sense of knowledge of self. Graduating to the role of administration in education, Washington used a social-empowering approach advocating for students mentoring students, and developing young leaders and thinkers to make the right choices and prepares for the next phase of life. The founder of N.E.R.D. (Mentoring Education Rewarding Determination), Youth Services, Inc. Washington is now devoted to teaching and empowering all through his youth services and professional development for educators. Cedric Washington has received numerous accolades for his community service and most notably conducted a workshop for the youth in Washington D.C. for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity centennial celebration at Howard University. When he is not empowering the people, he enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, listening to music, watching and playing basketball. His lectures on "The Miseducation of the Negro in the 21st Century" will inspire educators, leaders, students, and people of the world alike to the truth.

**THURS. JULY 18TH 5:00PM-6:30PM PST**  
CLICK ZOOM LINK TO REGISTER

**OMEGA BLACK IX WRITER'S SERIES**

JOIN US TO HEAR FROM EXCITING BLACK WRITERS ON THE JOURNEY TO DEVELOPING THEIR PUBLISHED WORKS AND BEING SUCCESSFUL WRITERS.

**J.R. REYNOLDS**

J.R. Reynolds is a writer, social justice consultant and leadership coach. He holds expertise in racial equity, anti-oppression theory and cultural relations. J.R. penned the weekly newspaper column and blog, *Humans being*, which created connections—between people and across cultures—by exploring the things we share in common. J.R. holds deep experience in food justice, with emerging competence in systemic housing inequities. He is a former R&B music editor for *Billboard Magazine*, and also worked as a strategic communication consultant and advertising copywriter. He has four children, enjoys running and learning about quantum mechanics and cosmology.

**THURS. JULY 18TH 5:00PM-6:30PM PST**  
CLICK ZOOM LINK TO REGISTER

**OMEGA BLACK IX WRITER'S SERIES**

Join Us to hear from exciting black writers on the journey to developing their published works and being successful writers.

**THURSDAY JULY 18TH**  
5:00PM TO 6:30PM PST  
CLICK ZOOM LINK TO REGISTER

**You are invited to a Zoom webinar.**  
**When: Jul 18, 2024 17:00 Pacific Time (US and Canada)**  
**Topic: Omega Black Writers Series IX**  
**Register in advance for this webinar:**  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_aCh20epFQISNmznz4cySZ8A](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aCh20epFQISNmznz4cySZ8A)

**Zeta Tau Chapter Sponsors a JAZZ Outdoor Concert**

**Click on the link below:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summertimejazz-in-the-park-tickets-925658548637?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**Date: Sunday, August 11, 2024**  
**Time: 3pm – 7pm**  
**Where: Memorial Park**  
**85 E. Holly St. Pasadena 91103**  
**Contact: 626-394-9795**



**SCAN TO PURCHASE YOUR \$25 TICKETS**

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## Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Xi Chapter

P.O. Box 270226

www.ques-kappaxi.org



who introduced Brother Reverend Dr. Anthony Nixon to say a prayer. This was followed by a powerful rendition of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by Brother Rick Austin, a member of the Board of Directors of the Uplift Foundation of Nevada.

A review of the History of the Scholarship Program was provided by Brother Dr. Andre Denson, President of the Uplift Foundation of Nevada. A highlight of the comments was that in 20 years of giving the Kappa Xi Chapter and the Uplift Foundation of have awarded \$400,000.00 in Scholarships!

The Scholarship Luncheon Keynote Speaker was Brother Leon Pearson, who served as the Grand Marshal for the 80th Grand Conclave held in Las Vegas Nevada. Brother Pearson spoke on the Theme: Scholarship, A Key To Success. He shared a rousing and exciting speech highlighting keys for success and sharing the importance of a good work ethic.

Brother Leon Pearson committed a \$1,500.00 tax deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund and it was promptly matched by four other attendees. Raising a total a of \$7,500.00 during the event. Brother Pearson was accompanied to the luncheon by his wife Rhoda and his daughter Mia.

Music for the Luncheon was provided by Brother Russell Singleton (DJ QRS).

Please help us continue to help our students with your tax-deductible donations. You can submit your donation online at <https://upliftfoundation-nv.org/donate/>

Committee Co-Chairs Brothers Jerry Holliday and Edsel Bester thank their Committee Members who gave of their time to review the applications and select these outstanding 2024 Scholarship winners. The committee included Brothers Paul Bennett, Joseph Simmons, Dr. Andre Denson, and Darcy Stallings. ///

**Las Vegas, NV** – Kappa Xi Chapter, in collaboration with the **Uplift Foundation** of Nevada, held their Annual Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at the University of Nevada – Las Vegas in the Marietta Tiberti Grand Hall. Six (6) Black Male Students graduating from local Las Vegas High Schools were the outstanding 2024 Scholarship Winners. This year’s winners were recognized and awarded \$3,000.00 each. Their Colleges and Universities are as follow:

1. Christian Fikre – University of Nevada – Las Vegas
2. Giovanni Rosales – Barry University (Dr. Andre Denson named Scholarship Winner)
3. Marcus Myles – University of Nevada – Las Vegas
4. Michael Jackson – University of Nevada – Reno
5. Zoren Scott – Paca – Grambling State University
6. Johnathan Lyons – Taking a year off. Enrolling in the Fall 2025

Scholarships valued at \$2,000.00 each were awarded to Alumni winners:

1. Christian Smith – Arizona State University
2. Isaiah Rayes – University of Nevada – Las Vegas
3. Jalen Banks-Smith – University of Nevada – Reno
4. Dallas Smith – University of Nevada – Las Vegas

The Scholarship Luncheon was opened with a Greeting from the Master of Ceremony, Brother Darcy Stallings,

All Through the Year, 2024; Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, Community!

## Delta Pi Chapter: Proudly Serving Omega at the 84<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave

by Brothers Lewis B. Brinson, IV, Taurus D. Richardson, and Vincent "Staci" Howard



(L - R) Brothers Taurus D. Richardson, Michael Shilo, James Dubose, Willis Jenkins, William Moseley, Lewis B. Brinson, IV, Richard Boulware, Vincent "Staci" Howard, and Tony Martin.

**Tacoma, WA** - The Tacoma "Grit City Ques" of Delta Pi Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., participated in the 84<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave's "Conclave with A Purpose" from June 26 to July 2, 2024. The event was hosted by the Pi Iota Chapter, along with co-host chapters Epsilon Mu Mu, Eta Rho, Upsilon Xi, Pi Beta

Beta, and Upsilon Delta. On Wednesday, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus Brother Ricky Lewis threw out the first pitch at the Tampa Bay baseball game, where brothers could purchase tickets that included a royal purple and old gold Tampa Bay hat tagged with "ΩΨΦ 2024 Grand Conclave."



L: R: Basileus Brothers Kelly Harris, William Moseley, and Lewis B. Brinson, IV, and (R) William Moseley

FOLLOWING THE GAME, the Tacoma Ques engaged in community and civic activities with a purpose. To name a few great moments, the brothers of Pi Iota and co-host chapters led a Health Leadership Conference, STEM Conference, Youth Leadership Conference, and Mobile Blood Drives. There was also a significant effort to donate 8,400 books. The Supreme Council and Brotherhood, alongside Brother Benjamin Crump, led a peaceful march against Governor DeSantis's decision to

remove Black historical events and textbooks from public schools and libraries. The march took place along the riverfront, where participants voiced their concerns about the impact of these actions on Black and Indigenous Peoples of Color (BIPOC). The message was clear: those who are willing and able to vote should mobilize voter registration and support others in getting to the polls. ///



**L-R: Delta Pi 94 (30 years' Service Award) photo with the 36<sup>th</sup> District Representative Bro. Dr. Edward Young; Right side Photo, Delta Pi and Zeta Upsilon at the 1994 Pool Party at the 84<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave.**

THE MASSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE 12<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT had strong representation at the plenary sessions. With our very own 36<sup>th</sup> District Representative Bro. Dr. Edward D. Young receiving his Supreme Council pin. Brother Kwame Dow was the Master of Ceremony for the

Founder's Banquet. I was excited to see that the Supreme Council will continue to lead the Fraternity under the leadership of Brother Ricky L. Lewis, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus.



During the 84<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave, brothers were celebrating their anniversaries and service award recipients were recognized. Our very own Pacific Northwest Area Representative, Brother Lewis B. Brinson, IV (30 years), and Delta Pi Chapter Keeper of

Finance, Brother Colonel William "Bill" Moseley, USAF, Ret. (55 years), received their service awards and pins from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus Brother Ricky L. Lewis. ///

### **Omega STEM-Tampa Conclave 6/28/24**

Brother Michal Haynes conducted a "Hands-On" Exercise in Cybersecurity Training with Certification. The number of participants total one hundred and seventy-five (175). Also, attendees received a

Certificate of Completion, and some were awarded Door prizes, such as Drones and Hydroponics growing kits. For additional information call Mr. M. Haynes, STEM Program Chair, at 909-396-236. ///

# STEM on display at 79<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> District Meeting – Sacramento, CA

By Brother Michal Haynes, Phi Beta Beta

**Sacramento, CA** – On Thursday, May 15, 2024, the 12<sup>th</sup> District’s STEM Program presented a STEM Workshop at the Martin Luther King Technical High School. This workshop was not just about STEM Careers of the Future, but also about providing Skill Training (Environmental Sampling Tech) that could be crucial for future careers. This was a unique opportunity for youth to attend the first ever Youth Leadership Workshop and Skill Training, at the MLK Technical High School in Sacramento.

Student attendees learned from EPA/Cal-EPA Trained Environmental professionals where they gained insights into STEM Careers of the Future, and acquired a technical skill set training on being an Environmental Sampling Technician. This skill, Environmental Sampling Technician (Water/Air), is in Great demand as the World deals with climate change, contaminated water, and illegal disposal of hazardous/toxic wastes. Students using Standard testing kits will test various Bottled waters for hazardous Inorganic Chemicals. ///

## Artificial Intelligence Jobs to Consider

### 1. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) ENGINEER

AI engineers are professionals who use AI and machine learning techniques to develop applications and systems that help organizations become more efficient. AI engineering focuses on developing the tools, systems, and processes that enable AI to be applied to real-world problems. Algorithms are “trained” by data, which helps them to learn and perform better. Ai engineers can help cut costs, increase productivity and profits, and make business recommendations.

Average salary: \$120,017 [5]

Read more: What Is an AI Engineer? (And How to Become One)

### 2. MACHINE LEARNING ENGINEER

Machine learning engineers are professionals who research, build, and design the AI responsible for machine learning. They maintain and improve existing AI systems. A machine learning engineer often serves as a liaison with other data science team members, collaborating with the data scientists who develop models for building AI systems. They run experiments and tests, perform statistical analyses, and develop machine learning systems.

Average salary: \$125,087 [6]

Read more: What Is a Machine Learning Engineer? (+ How to Get Started)

### 3. DATA ENGINEER

Data engineers build systems that collect, manage, and convert raw data into usable information for data scientists, business analysts, and other data professionals to interpret. They make data accessible so that organizations can use it to evaluate and optimize their performance. Data engineering is a broad field with applications in nearly every industry.

Average salary: \$115,592 [7]

Read more: What Is a Data Engineer? A Guide to This In-Demand Career

### 4. ROBOTICS ENGINEER

Robotics engineers develop robotic applications for many industries, including automotive, manufacturing, defense, and medicine. A robotics engineer designs new products or assembles prototypes for testing. Some may work on-site at a manufacturing plant overseeing robots as they are being produced, while others monitor their performance in the real world. Robotics engineering combines elements of mechanical and electrical engineer with computer science.

Average salary: \$101,062 [8]

Read more: Guide to a Robotics Engineering Career

### 5. SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Software engineers, sometimes called developers, create software for computers and applications. They use programming languages, platforms, and architectures to develop anything from a computer game to network control systems. A software engineer may also test, improve, and maintain software built by other engineers. If you’re an analytical thinker who enjoys solving problems and improving digital systems, you may find this career rewarding.

Average salary: \$107,169 [9]

Read more: What Does a Software Engineer Do?

### 6. DATA SCIENTIST

Data scientists determine what questions an organization or team should be asking, and help them figure out how to answer those questions using data. They often develop predictive models used to theorize and forecast patterns and outcomes. A data scientist might use machine learning techniques to improve the quality of data or product offerings.

Average salary: \$126,575 [10]

Compiled and Submitted by Brother Michal Haynes, Phi Beta Beta

## Massive and Progressive 12<sup>th</sup> District's Father of the Year & Video



**Congratulations, Brother Jeffery Douglass, 12<sup>th</sup> District “Father of the Year.”  
Brother Douglass and Daughters.**

To view his Father's Day video and hear his compelling and impactful story,  
click on the link below:

[Brother Jeffery Douglass - Father's Day Video](#)

**Other Noted 12<sup>th</sup> District's Brother with Individual Family Photo**



This is **BROTHER DONOVAN BELL** with his lovely wife and ten (10) children. Brother Bell, Zeta Lambda, F-98. Currently with Phi Iota Chapter. To view his Father's Day video, click on the link below:

[Brother Donovan Bell - Father's Day Video](#)

The video below by **BROTHER SEAN SCOTT** tells a powerful story about being allowed to fail, then to succeed. His individual family photos are imbedded within the video. To view his video, click on the link below:

[Brother Sean Scott – Father's Day Video](#)

## 13<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Michael Robinson, Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring

Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Hawai'i, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, South Korea, St. Croix, St. Maarten, St. Thomas, United Arabs Emirates, United Kingdom

*“Uplifting Youth Around the Globe”*

### 13<sup>th</sup> International District Promotes Month of the Military Child

By Brother Michael Robinson

**13<sup>th</sup> District** - April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, highlighting the vital role military children play within the armed forces community. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the month of April honors military families and their children for the daily sacrifices and challenges they face every day.

The theme for this year is “Military Children: Brave, Fearless, Resilient!” This observance is part of the legacy of former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who established it in 1986. The Brothers of the 13<sup>th</sup> International District join the Department of Defense Education Activity, the Department of Defense, and the military community in celebrating this important month. Throughout April, schools are encouraged to plan special events to honor military children, with administrators and principals incorporating the theme of this month into their daily responsibilities. These efforts emphasize the importance of providing quality services and support to help military connected children succeed in their mobile lifestyle.



*Photo L – Brother Shaun Stanley, United States Navy, Lieutenant Commander, O-5, Deputy Director, United States Forces Korea, Cyberspace Operations - Integrated Planning Element with his wife Erica and 10-year-old son Micah.*

*Photo R – Brother Bandon Spencer with his children and wife Jevonna Spencer United States Army, Captain, O-3, 19<sup>th</sup> Human Resources Company Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, Division Sustainment Brigade, Division Special Troops Battalion.*



All Through the Year, 2024; Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, Community!

## 13<sup>th</sup> International District Promotes Purple Up Day By Brother Michael Robinson

**13<sup>th</sup> District** – On April 17, 2024, Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter in Mainland, Japan and Lambda Xi Chapter in South Korea promoted Purple Up Day by wearing the color purple to show support and gratitude to military children for their strength and sacrifices. This initiative, started 13 years ago by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Military Youth

and Family Program. Today, “Purple Up Day” has expanded to include businesses and various organizations around the world. The collective effort aims to inspire military-connected children to continue striving for their goals, demonstrating widespread appreciation, and encouragement for their resilience.



*Photo top – Brothers Michael Preaster and Randy Pringle from Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter participated in Purple Up Day at Niles C. Kinnick High School located on Yokosuka Naval Base in Yokosuka, Japan.*



*Photo bottom – Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter with their children promoted Purple Up Day on Camp Humphreys Army Base in South Korea (Brothers William Little, Eugene Gibbs, and Brandon Spencer).*

# Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter Host 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Father & Daughter Dance

By Brother Randy Pringle



Brother Randy Pringle of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter delivers opening remarks

**Mainland, Japan** – The Brothers of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter’s “Samurai Fatherhood and Mentoring Program” hosted their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Father & Daughter Dance on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the Officers’ Club on Yokosuka Naval Base.

This year’s theme was: “Light Up the Night.” The event was sold out with 154 participants (83 daughters and 71 fathers) from the Kanto Plain communities in

attendance. Each young lady received a special gift bag upon arrival. The evening featured live entertainment, special father-daughter photos, face-painting, a buffet meal, and “lots” of dancing. Chaplain Christopher Evans Autumn Butler-Saeger, Commander, United States Navy CTF-71/DESRON 15 Command Chaplain gave the invocation and inspired the fathers and daughters with words of encouragement.



Father and daughter waiting for the 360-degree video both.

All fathers that attended this year’s event were glad to once again have an opportunity to spend quality time together with their young Princesses, which strengthened their family bond. This event also left precious memories to cherish in the future.

Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter remains committed to uplifting our youth throughout the Kanto Plain communities of Japan. ///

## Lambda Xi Volunteers at Camp Humphreys Unified Special Olympics

By Brother Michael Robinson



**8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Forces Korea** – On April 11, 2023, two brothers from the Lambda Xi Chapter’s “SINSA DREAM” Fatherhood and Mentoring Program joined over 50 local volunteers and military service members to support the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Unified Special Olympics at Camp Humphreys Middle School football field. Fifty-five student athletes from Camp Humphreys Army Base, Osan Air Base, Daegu, and Pyeongtaek participated in track and field events, including

standing long-jumps, softball throws, and races ranging from 25 to 400 meters.

Brothers Michael Robinson and Shawn Stanley helped set up and break down equipment, while also cheering on the athletes throughout the day. The event was a resounding success, with students, parents, and community supporters celebrating each participant's achievements and ensuring everyone felt like a winner. ///



## Lambda Xi Chapter Volunteered at the Kyle Hamilton Pro Football Camp

By Brother Michael Robinson

**Humphreys, South Korea** – On Saturday, April 13 - Sunday April 14, 2024, Eight Brothers from Lambda Xi Chapter in the Republic of Korea volunteered at the Kyle Hamilton Pro Football Camp held at Humphreys Middle School on Camp Humphreys Army Base. **Kyle Hamilton** is currently the starting Safety for the Baltimore Ravens. His camp in conjunction with the Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) was held for school age U.S. military dependents from across the Republic of Korea. Over 200 girls and boys attended the two-day event.

DECA Senior Enlisted Advisor Brother Anthony Polk and Humphreys Middle School Administrative Brother Michael Robinson coordinated the volunteerism amongst the local community and chapter.

The Kyle Hamilton Pro Football Camp focused on the fundamentals of the game for younger participants and more advanced skills for older youth. The following Brothers from Lambda Xi Chapter's "Sinsa" Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee (Brothers Shawn Stanley, Courtland Carson, Randy Artis, William Little, Anthony Polk, Eugene Gibbs, Brandon Spencer, Nathaniel Benton, and Michael Robinson) volunteered to work with the kids for the weekend. The camp was an outstanding opportunity for the U.S. and Korean military community to see the Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter working with youth and exemplifying Manhood. ///



Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter with NFL Baltimore Ravens Safety Kyle Hamilton (Brothers Shawn Stanley, Courtland Carson, Randy Artis, William Little, Anthony Polk, Eugene Gibbs, Brandon Spencer, Nathaniel Benton, and Michael Robinson).



Kyle Hamilton provides open remarks to youth and parents attending Youth Pro Football Camp.

## Lambda Xi Chapter Participates in STEM Event

By Brother Michael Robinson



L - Bro. Brandon Spencer assisted a student with positioning the robot to shoot the ball into the basket: R - Brothers Eugene Gibbs and Chunkis Moss describe robot operating instructions to youth.

**South Korea** – On Thursday, May 23, 2024, six Brothers from the Lambda Xi Chapter took part in a STEM event at Humphreys Central Elementary School on Camp Humphreys Army Base in South Korea. The event, designed for children ages 4 to 9, showcased engaging science, technology, and math activities. The Brothers of Lambda Xi set up two robotic demonstration stations, where participants navigated

robots through an obstacle course and aimed balls into a basket. These activities increased the children's attention to detail, concentration, and analytical skills. The young participants enjoyed experimenting with the robots' advanced features, including rotation, acceleration, sensing, and communication signals. As a reward, those who completed the challenges received treats from the Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter. ///

## Lambda Xi Chapter Promote Mental Health Awareness Month and Brother You're On My Mind

By Brother Michael Robinson



**South Korea** – On May 31, 2024, the Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter held a Virtual Mental Health Awareness Month & Brother You're On My Mind presentation via Zoom. The event featured guest speaker Dr. JiHye Park, Employee Assistance Program Manager, Army Substance Abuse Program at United States Army Garrison (USAG) on Camp Humphreys. Dr. Park discussed the theme for Mental Health Awareness Month: "Where to Start: Mental Health in a Changing World," addressing the challenges of coping

with a rapidly evolving world. Following her insightful presentation, attendees engaged in a lively Question & Answer session, sharing valuable information.

The Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter reaffirmed their commitment to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc's., Brother You're On My Mind Initiative by fostering ongoing mental health conversations among African American men and the local community. ///

# Lambda Xi Chapter Honors Outstanding Educators & Teachers in South Korea

By Brother Michael Robinson

**South Korea** - In a heartfelt gesture of gratitude, the Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter in South Korea honored exemplary educators across the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools on military installations during Teacher Appreciation Week, held from May 6 to May 10. This initiative, part of their “SINSA DREAM” Fatherhood & Mentoring Program, aims to uplift and support educators and youth within the local community.

With the assistance of administrative staff, the Lambda Xi Chapter identified teachers who demonstrated exceptional dedication throughout the school year. These teachers were presented with certificates of appreciation and a check as tokens of recognition for their unwavering commitment to their students.

The honored educators front top to bottom included:

1. Ms. Melody Gersper, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher, Humphreys Middle School.
  2. Ms. Lorraine Romano, 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Humphreys High School.
  3. Mr. Richard Taylor, Educational Technician, Humphreys Central Elementary School.
  4. Ms. Ester Kim, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Humphreys West Elementary School.
  5. Ms. Nancy Magoon, Information Specialist, Daegu Elementary School.
  6. Mr. Miles Workman, High School Counselor, Daegu Middle High School.
  7. Ms. Jacqueline Luff, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, Osan Middle High School.
- Mr. Cornell Jones, not pictured, Art Teacher, Team Leader at Osan Elementary School. He also is Track Coach at Osan Middle High School.

Teacher Appreciation Week, established by the National Parent Teacher Association in 1985, celebrates the vital contributions of educators. As the school year ended, the Lambda Xi Chapter’s recognition of these outstanding teachers and educators underscored the importance of their role in shaping the future of our youth. Their efforts to go above and beyond in meeting educational needs were duly celebrated, reflecting the chapter's commitment to fostering a supportive and nurturing educational environment.

Lambda Xi Chapter remains dedicated to its mission, continually seeking ways to contribute positively to the local community and to the betterment of educational experiences for both teachers and students. Participating brothers were: Eugene Gibbs, Michael Robinson, Randy Artis, William Little, Shaun Stanley, Glendale “Glenn” Vogt, and Courtland Carson. ///



## Lambda Xi Chapter Participates in Father & Daughter Dance

By Brother Michael Robinson



Photo L: Lambda Xi Chapter Keeper of Records and Seal Brother Shawn Stanley dancing with his 5-year-old daughter Atarah Stanley. Photo R: Brothers of Lambda Xi Chapter with daughters at Father & Daughter Dance on Osan Air Base (Bro. Courtland Carson, Bro. William Little, Bro. Shawn Stanley, Bro. Randy Artis, and Bro. Brandon Spencer).

**South Korea** – On June 22, 2024, Osan Air Base in South Korea hosted a memorable evening for fathers and daughters to celebrate fatherhood. Five brothers from Lambda Xi Chapter treated their daughters to a special night filled with dancing, laughter, and cherished bonding moments. "This Father Daughter Dance was a great opportunity to show our daughters some additional love and appreciation," said Brother Shawn Stanley, Lambda Xi Chapter Keeper of Records and Seal.

The chapter continues to uplift youth across the Republic of Korea through their "SINSA Fatherhood and Mentoring Program," which aims to encourage all fathers to embrace their crucial role in shaping the future of their children. The commitment of Fathers at Lambda Xi Chapter to lead by example ensures children and mentees will grow up feeling valued, supported, and above all, loved. ///

# Sigma Gamma Gamma conducts Boyz 2 Men(Torship) Mother's Day Extravaganza

By Brother Cortez Pree

**Okinawa, Japan** – Sigma Gamma Gamma conducted its monthly Boyz 2 Men (Torship) event on May 10, 2024, at Chapel 3 on Kadena Airbase in Okinawa, Japan. The young ladies were invited to assist the males in providing an extravaganza for the mothers.

The youth were divided into two groups as the first group prepared the meal that consisted of the following: eggs, bacon, sausages, waffles, spaghetti, fried chicken, and cheesecake. The second group conducted level one car maintenance that consisted of the following: tire



Photo L – Youth prepare to serve meals. - Photo R – Mothers attending the Mother's Day Extravaganza

pressure, fluid, battery voltage checks along with vacuum services. The mothers were treated to a movie while they waited to be pampered. Chairman Brother Cortez Pree stated that the mothers were pleased with the service that started their Mother's Day weekend. ///

## Tomodachi Bridge Builders Conduct Community Service

By Brother Cortez Pree



Photo 1 – Cortez Pree, Jr. and Kristian Perry conduct cleanup after sandwich preparation: Photo 2 –Tomodachi Bridgebuilders David Dew, Cortez Pree, Jr., Jakai Matthews, Brandon Pree pose with Wired Bean members after presenting them with lunch.

**Okinawa, Japan** – The Tomodachi Bridge Builders conducted community service on May 4, 2024 at Kadena Air Base. The Bridge Builders prepared meals for the 18<sup>th</sup> Wing Security Force Gate Guards and Airman at the Wired Bean Community Center. Their day started early with the preparation of over 100 bags

that included sandwiches, chips, peanut butter, snacks, and a drink. The Airman and gate guards were very appreciative of the Bridge Builders ability to organize this event on their own. The Bridge Builders look forward to providing more service to the Okinawa Community in the future. ///

# Sigma Gamma Gamma Mentors and Lead Youth Basketball Team to Championship

By Brother Cortez Pree



**Photo 1 – Brother Coach Pree poses with Cortez Pree, Jr. Jad Acutim, Brandon Pree, Jeremiah Bumbury, Jayden and Micah Dutcher:  
Photo 2 –SGG Brother Cortez Pree pose with 2024 13 to 15-year-old Basketball Champions**

**Okinawa, Japan** – Brother Cortez Pree serves as the head basketball coach for the Kadena Youth Sports 13 to 15-year-old basketball team in Okinawa, Japan. Brother Pree coached the team to an undefeated season as some of the team members included the Tomodachi Bridge Builders (Cortez Pree, Jr., Brandon Pree, and Kristian Perry). Upon the conclusion of the season,

Coach Pree conducted a professional dinner that included a tie tying session along with the discussion of goals, life choices, anger management, and alternate plans for life choices. ///

## 13<sup>th</sup> International District Congratulates the Class of 2024

By Brother Michael Robinson

GRADUATION IS A SPECIAL TIME OF THE YEAR that brings families together to celebrate the achievements of both children and adults. Today, our graduates face many challenges as they prepare to transition into a fast-changing world. Despite these challenges, they have the foundation to continue the road to success, with

finishing high school as the crucial first step. The phrase, *"children are our future,"* is a testament to the future leaders, citizens, workers, and consumers they will become. The Brothers of the 13<sup>th</sup> International District wish all graduates of the class of 2024 the best in their future endeavors.



**Randy Artis, Jr** with his father **Bro. Randy Artis, Sr.**, Lambda Xi Chapter in South Korea. Graduated from Humphreys High School on Camp Humphreys Army Base. Plans to attend the University of South Carolina (Gateway Program) and majoring in accounting.



**Jhaizel Villareal Buenviaje** with her father **Bro. Desmond Smith**, Lambda Xi Chapter in South Korea. Graduated from Notre Dame of Greater Manila in Caloocan City, Philippines. Plans to attend College in Philippines with a major in Multimedia Arts.



**Cortiah Lachelle Pree**, daughter of **Bro. Cortez Pree**, Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan. She graduated from New Life Academy in Okinawa, Japan and plans to attend the University of Maryland Global Campus in Okinawa, Japan with a major in Photography.



**Brooklynn Patterson**, daughter of **Bro. Terence Harmon**, Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan. She graduated from Kubasaki High School on Camp Foster Marine Corps Base in Okinawa, Japan and plans to attend the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico with a major in Biology.



**Alexa Sinn Braswell**, granddaughter of **Bro. Elvis Jackson**, Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan. She graduated from Ranchview High School in Irving, Texas and plans to attend Southern University in Baton Rouge Louisiana with a major in Nursing.



**Caleb A. Holman** with his father **Bro. James Holeman**, Lambda Beta Beta Chapter in Honolulu, Hawaii. He graduated from West Ashley High School in Charleston, South Carolina and plans to attend the University of Virginia, majoring in Cyber Security while participating on the university's Track & Field Jump Team.



**Anya J. Gant-Holman** with her father **Bro. James Holeman**, Lambda Beta Beta Chapter in Honolulu, Hawaii. She graduated from Moanalua High School in Honolulu, Hawaii and plans to attend North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, majoring in Nursing.

All Through the Year, 2024; Let's GOTV for Family, Friends, Community!

## 13<sup>th</sup> International District Host 3<sup>rd</sup> Virtual Father's Day Program

By Brother Michael Robinson



**13<sup>th</sup> International District Father's Day Program Guest Speaker -**  
Dr. Franklyn M. Malone, Ph.D., LSWA, CACII, LEM, CMFT.

Dr. Malone is the CEO & founder of The 100 Fathers Inc. "Ordinary Men Doing Extraordinary Things." He operates a powerful "Fatherhood Led Rites of Passage Program" transforming the lives of Young Men of Color in the toughest schools and neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. and train others to perform this important work. Dr. Malone has presented Fatherhood discussions before the United States Congress for the Congressional Black Caucus. He studies and writes research papers on Black Men and Boys and offers solutions and answers that promote values, integrity and violence de-escalation for the new 21st century Father and Man. Click on the link below to view highlights from the 13th International District 3rd Virtual Father's Day program: <https://oppf13th.org/fathers-day-2024>

**13<sup>th</sup> International District Father's Day Program Guest Speaker -**  
Dr. Franklyn M. Malone, Ph.D., LSWA, CACII, LEM, CMFT

The 13<sup>th</sup> International District hosted a Virtual Fatherhood Panel on Saturday, June 8, 2024, bringing together Brothers, guests, and fathers from various communities worldwide via Zoom. Brother Tracy George, the 13<sup>th</sup> District Representative, delivered the opening remarks, setting the tone for an inspiring event. The program featured impactful videos created by Brother Alfred Myers, Brother Cortez Pree, and 13<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee Chairman Brother Michael Robinson. These videos showcased recent fatherhood and mentoring events from chapters in **Germany, Mexico, Japan, Korea,**

**China, Hawaii, U.S. Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Panama, and Canada.**

The highlight of the event was a powerful presentation titled "The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Father and Man" by guest speaker Dr. Frank Malone, CEO of 100 Fathers, Inc., "Ordinary Men Doing Extraordinary Things". The program concluded with a lively question-and-answer session, followed by Brothers and fathers sharing positive and memorable experiences related to fatherhood. ///

**Friendship is Essential to the Soul!**

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