

**THE**  
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# RACLE

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED  
WINTER 2019

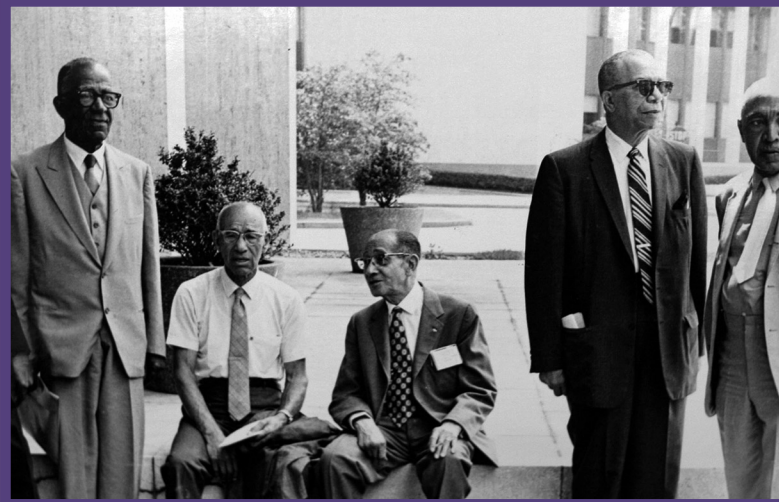
## OMEGA FOUNDERS

*Love and Cooper:*

A MOMENT IN HISTORY  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
THE LATE BROTHER  
JOHN H. WILLIAMS

MANHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP, PERSEVERANCE AND UPLIFT

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Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Founder Bishop Edgar A. Love (seated/left) with Founder Dr. Oscar J. Cooper (seated/right) at the 54th Grand Conclave in Houston (1971). Cover and inside photograph by Bro. John H. Williams.

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# The Oracle

**OMEGA PSI PHI  
FRATERNITY, INC.**

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Decatur, GA 30035  
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Please Email all editorial concerns,  
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## EDITOR'S NOTES

The first issue of *The Oracle* was presented to the Brotherhood in the Spring of 1919, a hundred years ago. On the fourth page of the 1919 *Oracle* issue, it was mentioned that "the *Oracle* is our voice"-the voice of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



According to the *History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity* by Herman Dreer (1940), *The Oracle* was "a booklet 8 3-4 inches by 6 7-8 inches, had twenty-eight pages and was bound in a purple cover, the design of which was in gold, in keeping with colors of the Fraternity." 1

Brother Stanley M. Douglass served as the *Oracle's* first editor. In the first article, called "Introduction" Bro. Douglass wrote that in editing *The Oracle*, the publication should "... divide the matter into two main parts; one dealing with the activities that took place within the organization, and the other part dealing with the relationship which Omega bore to the outside world." 2

Douglass also served as the Fraternity's Grand Keeper of Records. A year later the editor name was changed to the Director of Publicity. In 1921, the title of Director of Publicity was dropped, and Brother William Gilbert, the Grand Keeper of Records began editing *The Oracle*. In 1924, the office of the Editor-in-Chief of the *Oracle* was created.

According to Robert Gill's (1963) *A History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*, Brother Ellis Corbett was the 13th Editor-in-Chief of *The Oracle*. He was one of the longest serving *Oracle* Editors from 1945 to 1963. Four years, later Bro. Corbett was elected as the 27th Grand Basileus (1967-1970). Also, according to Gill, in the mid 1960s, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Oracle* was a Supreme Council position.3 Listed in the Spring 1974 *Oracle* was Brother Sam Shepard, the *Editor of The Oracle*. He was also the Assistant National Secretary, and a national officer. 4

1 Dreer, H. (1940). *The History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*. pp.87.

2 Douglass, S. (ed). *Oracle Magazine*, Spring 1919, p. 4.

3 Gill, R. (1963). *The History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*. pp. 84-86.

4 Shepard, S. (ed). *Oracle Magazine*, Spring 1974, p. 37.

FIETTS,

Brother Dr. Milbert O. Brown, Jr.  
International Editor of *The Oracle*  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

FOUNDERS of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



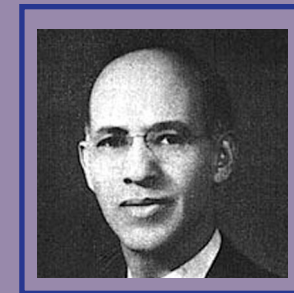
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1883-1941



**FOUNDER**  
Dr. Oscar J. Cooper  
1888-1972



**FOUNDER**  
Professor Frank  
Coleman  
1890-1967



**FOUNDER**  
Bishop Edgar A.  
Love  
1891-1974

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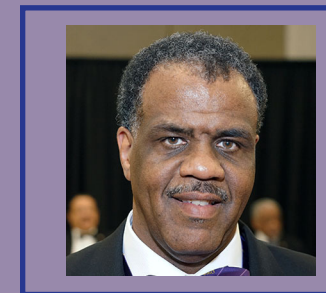
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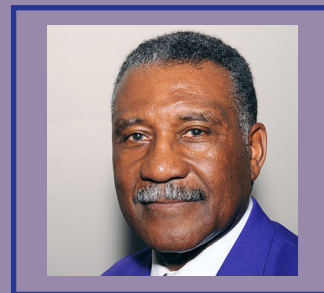
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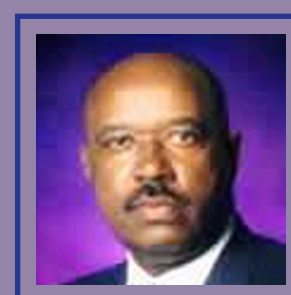
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**Dr. George H. Grace**  
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FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS

Dear Brothers,

During the recent district meeting cycle, I witnessed the impact of your service and the influence you have in your respective communities. You and your chapters continually exhibit the characteristics of what Omega men have always been, leaders.

We have been hard at work expanding Omega's global footprint by chartering Chi Mu Nu chapter in Shanghai, China and most recently, Beta Nu Nu chapter in Tijuana, Mexico. In each instance, Omega continues to lead the Divine Nine as the first Black Greek-Lettered Organization in each country. Both chapters are already hard at work servicing their communities and are led by brothers enthused in the true Omega spirit. I am particularly grateful for 13th District Representative, Brother Trevor V. Hodge, and his leadership team for their steadfast commitment to making Omega truly an international organization. Due to their diligence, Omega now boasts active chapters in 14 countries around the globe.

In September 2019, Omega will host its first Omega Day at the United States Capitol, spearheaded by International Social Action Chairman, Brother Sedrick M. Spencer. This two-day summit will provide the opportunity to meet with members of Congress to advocate for issues pertinent to our community.

This Oracle features the cover photo of Founders Cooper and Love as photographed by the late Brother John H. Williams, International Photographer Emeritus, and will highlight his capturing of Omega's history for over three decades as the first official photographer.

As we focus on our history and extraordinary accomplishments, let us remember that there is still much work to be done. Our Founders entrusted us with this rich brotherhood. Let's continue to shine her light upon those who need us now more than ever and for generations to come.

May the Supreme Basileus of the Universe richly bless you and your families.

In Friendship,

**Brother David E. Marion, Ph.D.**  
41st Grand Basileus  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



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FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRST VICE GRAND BASILEUS

Greetings Brothers,

I trust that life is serving you well and I want you to know that the leadership of our beloved fraternity is grateful for the support and trust that you have shown in us since the 82nd Grand Conclave in New Orleans.

The date for Brother Dr. Moses C. Norman, Sr. Leadership Conference (MCNS LC) is rapidly approaching. We are excited about what the Fraternity has planned for the July 9th through 14th event in Atlantic City, NJ. Our Fraternity was chartered by three undergraduates and a faculty member to inspire men of strong will and determination to guide our communities to do great deeds for all.

We also thank each of you for purchasing Ads for our souvenir booklet. Your contribution is deeply appreciated and enables us to continue to “give back” to you so that you can continue to “give back” in the form to service to our communities. Again brothers, thank you for registering for the MCNS LC and for procuring an Ad.

We have a robust agenda prepared for you that will allow us to update you on the latest matters of mutual concern and that will enable you to fellowship with the leadership to our respective Chapters and Districts.

With input from you, several leadership workshops have been planned to increase your effectiveness in working with your Chapters. These workshops will focus on several important subject matters including training for: Legal Counselors, Keeper of Records and Seal, Managing Relations between 501 (c) 3 organizations and 501 (c) 7, Omega Protocol, Violence Prevention and Political Awareness.

Finally, we know you and your various Chapters and Districts will be much stronger after attending these important sessions. We encourage you to fellowship while you are attending the MCNS LC and share what you are doing in your various communities to boost Omega Strong!

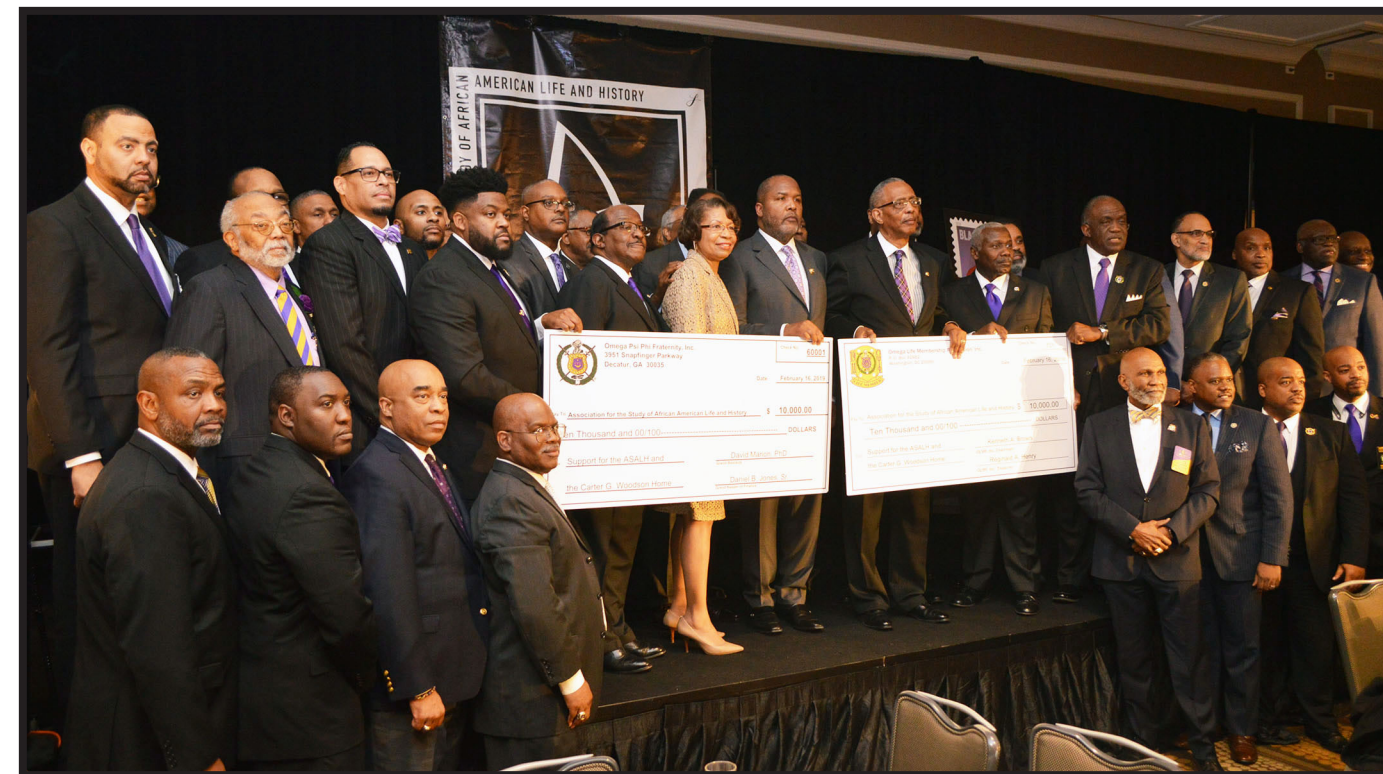
Again, thank you for your service to Omega and we look forward to seeing you in Atlantic City!

Yours in Friendship,

Ricky L. Lewis, 35th First Vice Grand Basileus

# Omega Preserve Our History

## The Fraternity Donates to ASALH and the Smithsonian



**B**rother Dr. David E. Marion, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's 41st Grand Basileus is joined by Brother Kenneth Brown, Chairman of Omega Life Foundation (center) in presenting two \$10,000 checks to ASALH. The Fraternity donated \$10,000 and the Foundation also donated \$10,000. Sylvia Y. Cyrus, Executive Director of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) also joined Dr. Marion on stage at the ASALH luncheon in February 2019.

Several Omega men including past Grand Basilei Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., and Brother Dr. Andrew A. Ray attended the event in Washington, D.C. Dr. Marion, the 41st Grand Basileus presented another check for \$135,000 to the Smithsonian's Museum of African American History and Culture completing Omega's pledge of contributing \$1 million dollars to the museum.



*“When John patiently raised his camera to take a picture of us, his love for us flew into our hearts immortalizing our souls. ”*

*The Fraternity's First Official Photographer*

**BRO. JOHN H. WILLIAMS**

*Story by Brother Dr. Milbert O. Brown, Jr.  
International Editor of The Oracle*

## Omega's Beloved Photographic Historian

# JOHN

John was our prince. He was the personification of golden grace. The essence of his enthusiasm warmed our spirit. John was a simple man, and the clumsiness of formal titles was not important to him. It was not necessary to refer to him as Mister, or even Brother, he would say 'just call me John.'

In later years, John's lengthy gray hair and beard made him favor Frederick Douglass. His walk of sophisticated smoothness mirrored the fictional character, James Bond. Unlike John, Ian Fleming's 007 creation, Bond was a secret service agent who used several tools. John was always accompanied by one tool and friend- a camera.

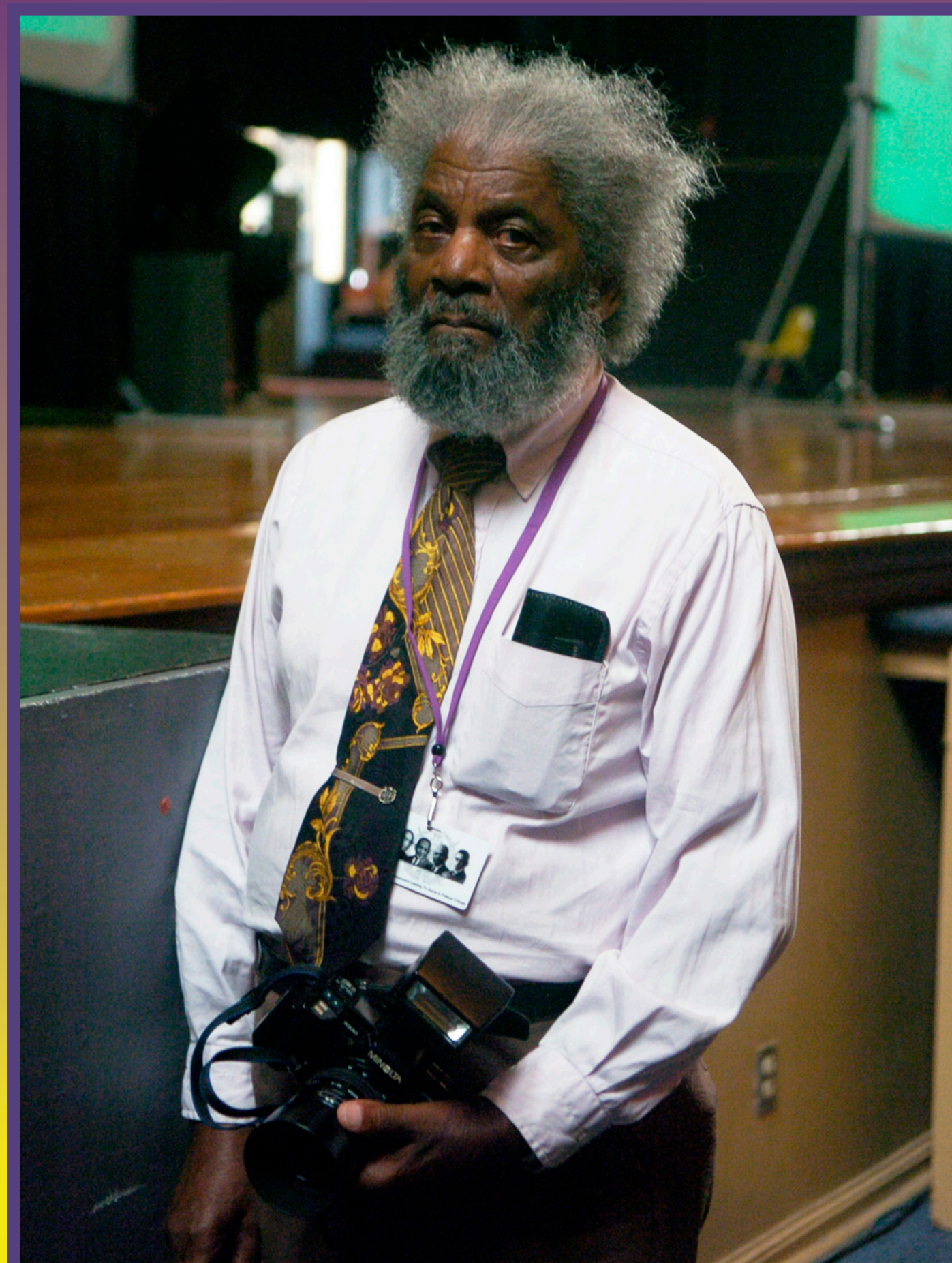
John Herman Williams love for photography began when his sister won a Kodak Brownie camera at school from selling a large amount of planting seeds. She discarded the camera giving the prize to her eight-year-old brother, John. Right away, he began taking pictures of the family.

At Brother Williams' 90th birthday celebration in 2008, John recalled how disappointed his sister was when she received the unwanted camera. Irritated by the prize, his sister said 'I don't want that thing-it's worthless.' As Williams' smile moved across his face, he remembered how the treasured present from his older sister altered his destiny 82-years earlier.



During Williams' celebration held at Detroit's Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Omega men from throughout the country viewed pictures from Williams' three-decade collection of Omega history.

Williams grew up in a small town, Monroe, North Carolina. He was the third child born to John and Emma Williams on October 16, 1918. John's father worked as a boilermaker on the railway, with his wife, Emma, at home caring for the couple's six children. John enrolled in Shaw University where he played basketball and majored in social studies. His education was interrupted when he was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II.





Bro. John Williams (left) with Bro. Reginald L. Braddock (right) in between a painting depicting Williams' career in photography.

During his Army years, John purchased his first 35mm camera, an Argus C3. While serving, Williams used his weapon of choice, a camera to document the life and culture of Black soldiers overseas and stateside.

After the Army, Williams returned to Shaw University graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1947. Later he moved to Detroit and began working as a photographer for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. To increase his formal education in photography, he studied at Wayne State University and Eastman Kodak Company.

During graduate studies at Wayne State University, Williams was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Nu Sigma Chapter in 1955. Almost immediately, Brother Williams did what he has done so well throughout his life—photographing priceless historical moments of Omega events.

“At first I was just running around taking pictures,” laughed Williams. Judge Marion W. Garnett, the 29th Grand Basileus noticed how Brother Williams would display his Omega photographs during Grand Conclaves and at 10th District Meetings.

After checking the Fraternity records, Garnett noted that there had never been an official photographer. In 1973, without reservations, Brother John H. Williams was appointed as the first Official Photographer for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. When John patiently raised his camera to take a picture of Omega men and events his love flew into their hearts immortalizing their souls. Brother Williams’ imagery granted Omega men an invitation to be a part of Omega Psi Phi’s preeminent history.

“John was the master. He would quietly talk about photography. I was just glad to have him near. I got a lot of information from him,” said Brother Reginald Braddock. In 2002, Braddock started assisting Williams as a volunteer photographer during the 72nd Grand Conclave in Charlotte, NC.

As the 21st century unfolded, Braddock was the first Omega photographer on the national level to start using digital cameras. It should be noted that John Williams was a photographic traditionalist. He still used film and printed his photographs in the basement darkroom of his Detroit home. John never made the

leap into the digital photography age.

After 33 years of service as the Fraternity’s Official Photographer, Brother Williams retired from his post in 2006. He was later named as Omega’s “International Photographer Emeritus.” Brother Braddock was appointed as the Omega Psi Phi’s second Official Photographer in 2006. Braddock, a professional engineer was always around photography because of his step-father’s interest. “When I started out with John, I was near retirement. I had a photography business on the side, but I wanted to learn more about photography” said Bro. Braddock.

One piece of advice that Williams gave to Braddock was the establishment of a team of photographers. “You can’t cover the entire conclave without help,” commented Brother Williams. The first photography team that began in 2006 was Brothers Galvin Crisp, Wayne Pollard, and James Witherspoon. Brother Braddock retired from his duties as the Fraternity’s Official Photographer in 2014. He was also the first recipient of the Fraternity’s John H. Williams Photography Award.

After the 2014 Conclave, Brother James Witherspoon was appointed as Omega’s third official photographer and the Director of Photography for the International Headquarters and *The Oracle* Magazine. Witherspoon added two additional assistant photographers, Brothers Richard D. Nichols and Jayson Jones to the team of Brothers Crisp and Pollard. In 2019, Brother Witherspoon became the first official Omega photographer to travel internationally with the Grand Basileus to China and Mexico.



In the 1994 “Pictorial Chronicle of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,” Brother Williams photographs were prominently featured. Today, some of Brother Williams’ photographic work is housed at the John H. Williams Museum located at Omega Psi Phi Fraternity’s International Headquarters in Georgia. At 100 years-old, our beloved friend, Brother John Herman Williams joined Omega Chapter on Saturday, February 23, 2019. His work in documenting the history of Omega Psi Phi

PHOTOS: Previous page, One of John’s old cameras, Williams covering the 2006 Grand Conclave in Little Rock, Ark. TOP: The Fraternity’s first three official head photographers Brothers Witherspoon, Braddock and Williams. Bro. Williams with Brothers in Detroit (2008).

Fraternity, Inc. with photographs will never be forgotten.

“When John patiently raised his camera to take a picture of us, his love for us flew into our hearts immortalizing our souls.”

Written by Bro. Dr. Milbert O. Brown, Jr., International Editor of *The Oracle*





**2019 UNDERGRADUATE**

**SUMMIT**

**PICTURE ESSAY BY  
BRO. JAMES WITHERSPOON**

**IHQ AND ORACLE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**



**PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
IHO AND ORACLE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY  
BROTHER JAMES WITHERSPOON**



## OMEGA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY

### RECOGNIZING THE WORK BY BROTHER WOODSON AND ASALH

The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., attended the 93rd Annual Black History Luncheon hosted by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Each year the Fraternity supports ASALH and recognizes the work done by the late Brother Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known as the father of Black History Month. The event was held in Washington, D. C., in February 2019.

This year's theme at the ASALH luncheon was "Black Migrations." The Master of Ceremonies was WUSA 9 television anchor and Omega Brother Darren Haynes. The program kick-off included a formal greeting from ASALH president Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. Dr. Brooks was followed by an in-depth speech on this year's Black History Month theme by Dr. Tiffany M. Gill from the



PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE: Brother Dr. Andrew A. Ray, the 39th Grand Basileus (left), and Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., the 40th Grand Basileus (center) is joined by the Fraternity's 41st Grand Basileus Brother Dr. David E. Marion (on right) at the ASALH Luncheon.

University of Delaware.

Also included was a panel discussion featuring speakers that addressed the history of Black Migrations and its connection to society today. The panelists included Dr. Gloria J. Browne-Marshall, professor of Constitutional Law at John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Dr. G. Derek Musgrove, associate professor of History at University of Maryland Baltimore County, and Kojo Nnamdi, host of "The Kojo Nnamdi Show" and "The Politics Hour" on WAMU 88.5. Dr. Jelani Cobb, an Ira A. Lipman professor of journalism at Columbia University, served as the moderator of the discussion.

Brother Kenneth Brown, Chairman of the Omega Life Foundation, presented a \$10,000 check to ASALH from the Foundation. The 41st Grand Basileus, Brother Dr. David Marion was joined by two former Grand Basileus, Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., the 40th Grand Basileus and Brother Dr. Andrew A. Ray, the 39th Grand Basileus.

ASALH is a part of African American history and as Brother Dr. Woodson often said our history is "a negligible factor" in American and world history. While he labored with a singularity of purpose, Woodson did not work alone. His co-workers at the Association were many, ranging from college presidents and government officials, to celebrated poets and philosophers, to everyday folks in rural hamlets. To explore the history of ASALH is to glimpse at people's struggles and achievements. To bring that history to life in one's imagination is to walk with giants. Omega's Dr. Carter G. Woodson established ASALH in 1915 to promote, research, and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to all.



Under Woodson's pioneering leadership, the Association created research and publication outlets for Black scholars with the establishment of *the Journal of Negro History* (1916) and the *Negro History Bulletin* (1937), which garners a popular public appeal.

In 1926, Dr. Woodson initiated the celebration of Negro History Week, which corresponded with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, this celebration was expanded to include the entire month of February, and today Black History Month garners support throughout the country as people of all ethnic and social backgrounds discuss the Black experience. ASALH views the promotion of Black History Month as one of the most important components of advancing Dr. Woodson's legacy.

Photographs by  
Brother James Witherspoon, IHQ/Oracle- Director of Photography

Story by  
Brother Delray Brown, Alpha Omega Chapter Reporter and  
Editor of the "Ques In Action News"



## MINISTER FARRAKHAN IS AN OMEGA MAN

**M**inister Louis Farrakhan became a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., on February 2, 2019. His initial membership process began 60-years ago as an undergraduate student at Winston Salem Teachers College. He attended Winston Salem on a track and field scholarship.

Farrakhan was born Louis Eugene Walcott in 1933 in New York City. The family later moved to Boston, where a talented Louis began playing the violin at five-years-old. Louis toured with the Boston College Orchestra at the age of 12. Louis started his professional music career in the 1950s as a singer nicknamed "The Charmer" or "Calypso Gene." Louis gave up a successful musical career to follow the teachings of Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam (NOI). In the 1980s, Louis Farrakhan became the leader of the Nation of Islam.



*Minister Louis Farrakhan shares stories with his Omega Brothers at Omega Psi Phi's International Headquarters in Decatur, GA.*

*Photographs by Brother James Witherspoon, the International Photographer for IHQ/Oracle Magazine*

## NBA HALL OF FAMER RECEIVE OMEGA'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

# THE FRATERNITY HONORS O'NEAL

**S**haquille O'Neal has been a fierce, overpowering and dominating presence on and off the basketball court. O'Neal's accomplishments on the hardwood are legendary: four-time NBA champion; 2015 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductee; 15-time NBA All Star; NBA Most Valuable Player recipient and NBA Rookie of the Year.

Yet, off the court, O'Neal has earned a Ph.D. and has used his influence and has donated countless dollars and time to efforts that benefit and uplift his community. The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Feed the Children are among them.

For those reasons and many others, O'Neal received the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The ceremony took place on December 29, 2018 at the Omega World Center in Decatur, GA.

Brother O'Neal has partnered with the Fraternity on a number of community endeavors, most notably 'Feed the Children,' which provides nutritious meals and other services to worthy families in our community. "Shaq has never wavered or hesitated to come to the aid of others in need, often without seeing the attention afforded to someone of his celebrity status," said Dr. David Marion, the Fraternity's 41st Grand Basileus. For the past 24 years, O'Neal has sponsored "Shaq-A-Claus," which was launched by his mother and has delivered thousands of toys, clothing and educational tools to children and families in need during

the Christmas holidays. His relationship with the Boys and Girls Club of America dates back to his days growing up in New Jersey. During his playing days, O' Neal called himself "the Big Aristotle." Sports journalists who covered the NBA great gave O'Neal several nicknames including

"Shaq," "The Diesel," "Shaq Fu" and "The Big Daddy."

In addition, O'Neal finished his stellar NBA career with several statistical achievements including being seventh all-time in points scored, fifth in field goals, 13th in rebounds and seventh in block shots.

O' Neal was initiated into the Fraternity on December 7, 1995, through Chi Tau Chapter in Orlando, Florida. Brother O'Neal is a Life Member of the Fraternity. Since the end of his playing days, O'Neal is currently an in-studio commentator for Inside the NBA on TNT. In addition, O'Neal has released four

rap albums and he has appeared in numerous films and television shows. "Community service has always been at the core of everything he does," said Mark Stevens, chairman of Omega Psi Phi's International Sports and Entertainment Committee.

**Words from Brother Dr. David E. Marion, the 41st Grand Basileus. Photograph by Brother James Witherspoon, IHQ/Oracle Magazine.**



## University Honors Former President

**G**amma Pi Chapter based in the Second District is one of the most diverse chapters in the Fraternity. The Maryland chapter enjoys the makeup of Brothers from different generations and from many walks of professional life. One of the pioneers in education is Brother Luther Burse, Sr., PhD. In May 2018, he received a lifetime achievement for his service and commitment in higher education. His former school, Fort Valley State University in Georgia presented Brother Dr. Burse with the unveiling of a fountain in his honor.

Bro. Dr. Burse served as the fifth president at Fort Valley from 1983 to 1988. The new edifice is located in the middle of the main campus. Students, alumni, friends and supporters, along with faculty and staff were invited to visit the "Future Fountain" that now stands forever in Bro. Dr. Burse's honor.



**Bro. Dr. Luther Burse**

Prior to coming to Fort Valley, Dr. Burse served as interim president at Cheyney University. Fort Valley is affectionately called "The Fountain City", hence the "fountain" on campus and of course, the annual Fountain City Classic Football "war" between Fort Valley State and nearby Albany State University.

Bro. Dr. Burse is one of a handful of 60-year Omega Psi Phi members in Gamma Pi Chapter. He has received numerous awards for his service to the Fraternity (including the Second District Founders Award) and for his contributions to higher education and especially in the support of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

In Gamma Pi, Brother Burse is known for his smooth demeanor and his sage advice about Omega, education and about life in general, and for neither looking nor acting his age, as he is in his early 80s.

With pride among the Brothers, he always lets it be known loudly that he crossed The Burning Sands at "Psi Psi" Chapter in the Bluegrass State in 1955, before many Gamma Pi members were even born.

## Donations For Brother Norman Fund

**Atlanta, Georgia** – The Beta Psi 1923 Foundation announced the donation of \$100,000 to Clark Atlanta University (CAU)'s Dr. Moses C. Norman, Sr. Endowment Fund. The Foundation Chairman, Bro. Bill Diggs and board members made the formal presentation to CAU President Dr. Ronald A. Johnson during halftime of the university's 2018 Homecoming football game at Panther Stadium as thousands of CAU students, faculty, and alumni witnessed this joyous occasion. The endowment is being established in honor of Clark alumnus, the late

Bro. Dr. Moses C. Norman, Sr. Dr. Norman was a retired dean of Clark Atlanta University's School of Education, former area superintendent in Atlanta Public Schools and the 33rd Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

As an undergraduate student, Bro. Dr. Norman became a member of the Fraternity through Beta Psi Chapter in 1954. "He loved his calling, developing and nurturing leaders in the field of education; and he not only loved his students, but he modeled for us all the role of a servant leader in the higher

education environment," said Dr. Johnson.

The gift was made possible through the hard work and generosity of the members of the Beta Psi 1923 Foundation in partnership with the Beta Psi Chapter's 95th Anniversary Alumni Committee.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was also a major contributor towards the formation of the endowment fund. During the Fraternity's 80th Grand Conclave the Fraternity's support of a \$10,000 check was a key donation for the funding of the foundation.

## A Case For Investment Clubs

**A**light was started when a few Omega Men came together to form a bond outside of Omega. Through their friendship, the men invested over \$500,000. They accomplished this amazing milestone by investing as little as \$50 per month over a 25-year period while paying out over \$125K to individual Brothers.

Six Omega Men located in Huntsville, Alabama, were inspired by a *Black Enterprise Magazine* article about eleven Black women who formed a very successful investment club in 1993. From the article, they learned about the Better Investing Organization ([www.betterinvesting.org](http://www.betterinvesting.org)) which was a training and teaching resource for anyone wanting to start an investment club.

While attending Better Investing (BI) workshops throughout the local area, one of the most powerful and truly influential meetings was from a multi-million-dollar club located in Decatur, Alabama. In meetings, the group learned that the investment clubs that survived understood the ups and downs of the stock market.

The Brothers decided to limit membership to Omega men who were financially active in the local graduate chapter (Xi Omicron) and the chapter's 501(c)(3) entity, Omega Men of North Alabama (OMNA).

By selecting financially active members, the group ensured that they had time for fellowship outside of the investment club. The selection of key Omega members resulted in the formation of the Omega Select Investment Club.

The Omega Select Investment Club was founded on November 8, 1993.

Omega Select Investment Club was setup as a partnership with a maximum number of 15 partners. The group used the Better Investing (BI) website resources, which provided samples of Partnership Agreements, tools to manage the club assets with standardized accounting records and forms to file each partner's individual tax returns. The BI also has online training on how to pick stocks and many other investment resources. Another critical accounting tool recommended by BI is "Club Accounting" from [www.iclubcentral.com](http://www.iclubcentral.com) to track the assets, contributions, and share distributions of the Club.

The Omega Select Investment Club is not an affiliate of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in any way. Also, the Omega Select Investment Club is not another social club or outlet. Only the business of investing is discussed and each member is required to be financial with Omega at all levels. In their 25th year, Omega Select reached a major milestone of \$500K in November 2018 and will reach \$1M within the next eight years.

Investment clubs are an excellent way to encourage and maintain financial membership in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. They are a less stressful and less taxing method to achieve financial independence. Investment clubs allow members to "ease" into investing while learning and without

falling prey to brokers whose primary goal is to grow their income before yours. Whether Brothers start their own club or join an existing one, one can find that being a member of an Investment Club can be a wealth building opportunities. The opportunity can result in keep families strong, connected, and offer a tangible enlightening journey to financial strength and independence.

The group offered a recommendation and potential historic observation. They suggested that if Omega Men in all graduate chapters were committed to starting and sustaining an investment club, it would reflect positively upon the Fraternity.

The group also had the financial strength and independence to give freely and consistently to the local as well as the global community. Also, financial strength within a group can impact reclamation efforts and lasting friendships.

Investment clubs can also help create revenue for Brothers wanting to become financially independent outside of their 401K, develop and more truly realize our motto with other Omegas. Subsequently, investment clubs allow Omega men to start making a difference in the companies that we patronize and most assuredly invest monies.

## OMEGA'S NATIONAL RAFFLE

On December 5, 2018, Brother Gregory Strong presented Ann Marie Langford with a new 2018 BMW 320 I car. Langford won the car as part of Omega's national raffle. The raffle was an international fundraiser sponsored by the Fraternity's International Economic Development and Marketing Committee.

Brother Sylvester Wilkins, the chairman of the committee said that "the Economic Development and Marketing Committee helps to change people's lives, and provides revenue for the Fraternity." Wilkins also noted that the raffle funds support St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Langford, a deputy circuit court clerk for the Lowndes County Courthouse in Lowndes County, MS purchased her winning ticket for \$10.00 from Bro. Strong.

Over 4,000 tickets were sold. The car was worth \$36,000. Second prize was \$10,000, and third prize was a 65-inch flat screen TV.

*PHOTO BELOW --Ann Marie Langford with her new car.*



## Don't Forget Your Spine

HEALTH NEWS BY BRO. DR. BRYAN COX

Spinal health is imperative for our well-being. The spine, in part, protects one of, if not the most important organ in the entire body, the central nervous system (CNS). The spine consists of 33 vertebrae classified in 5 groups (cervical, thoracic, lumbar, sacrum and coccyx).

Most brothers don't realize the importance of our spines. Spinal misalignments are most commonly known to cause pain at the neck, back, chest, shoulder, arms, hips and legs. However, lesser known symptoms may occur such as headache, dizziness, numbness and tingling of the arms and legs, and impotence.

The 3 T's of destruction have the potential for irreversible damage to our spines and our overall health. The 3 T's of destruction are Trauma, Toxins, and our Thoughts.

•**Trauma** to the spine may arise from the birthing process, sitting/sleeping/lifting items improperly, accidents, sitting for long periods of the day and exercising improperly.

•**Toxins** can affect the spine and the nervous system specifically. Some of the problems caused by toxins include headaches, dizziness, cancers, addictions and hypertension. Some toxins that affect the body are additives that are placed in foods and drinks for taste, color, etc.

Also, improper use of prescription and non-prescription medications, alcoholic beverages, tobacco and illicit drugs cause detrimental effects on the entire body.

•**Thoughts and our general mental health** affect our approach to health-seeking and health-destructive behaviors. Research has proven that our mental health can positively or negatively affect our physical health, family lives, our occupations and abilities to uplift our communities.

The nervous system is so powerful that not protecting the vertebrae could affect our performance athletically, mentally, or in just being able to accomplish our everyday chores and activities such as typing, walking, washing dishes, and picking up objects.

We should all take preventive measures to protect our spine and have regular examinations by healthcare providers to check for spinal misalignments before problems arise.

As parents and leaders in our communities, brothers must set the example and educate others about living healthier, appropriate sitting and sleeping positions, lifting techniques, and eating healthier, realizing that spinal health is crucial to overall health. Health is wealth and many do not value it until we no longer have it.

*Brother Dr. Bryan Cox  
International Medical and Health  
Initiatives Committee -  
13th District*

FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE AND MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE

## HBCU YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT

As Alabama State University concluded its commencement ceremony, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee emerged on campus to help prepare the next generation of leaders. Joining the international committee at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Youth Leadership Conference was Project Friendship, Inc., Gamma Sigma, Sigma Phi, and Omega Iota Iota Chapters.

The inaugural conference was held in Alabama State's Abernathy Building as male youth and parents from across the State of Alabama received hands-on life skill indoctrinations. The conference was also designed to enhance male youth development, promote positive citizenship, inspire youth to be leaders and empower families with best practices. Dr. Quinton Ross, President of Alabama State University gave the future college students techniques on how to excel in the classroom and in their communities. Dr. Ross' engaging conversations with parents encouraged families to maximize the use of available community outreach resources that will lead to their sons being future leaders and positive future fathers.

Notable community leaders, judges, law enforcement officers, educators, counselors, clergy and activist provided their expertise during the conference. Cedric Leonard, Investigator, Shelby County District Attorney, COMPACT 2020 facilitated the conversations on Youth Relation with Law Enforcement.

Judge J.R. Gaines gave youth and parents an insight on judicial matters that will help combat negative behavior when interacting with law enforcement. Lieutenant John Mackey, Montgomery Police Department and Lloria James, Deputy District Attorney, Montgomery County provided instructions on being respectful to police. Also, Officers Collier Johnson and Keith Backmon of the Atlanta Police Department provided advice for youth to return home safely, after experiencing interactions with police officers.

Student distrust in the police ranged from parents threatening to call the police for disciplinary infractions to observing family members being arrested. The fatherhood "A Father's Anger" session facilitated by Tony Garrett, Executive Director, Central Alabama Crime Stoppers was a dialogue with fathers that saw tension, anxiety and frustration unveiled during the discussions.

Fathers' passion to be in their children lives were expressed by the dads throughout the "24-Hour Dad and For the Children Sake" sessions. Mother sessions, "Single Mother Challenges and Both Parents Matter" saw moms communicating their need for assistance while uplifting their sons.

Judge Monet Gaines, District Judge 15th Circuit Court; Judge Calvin Williams, Montgomery Family Court; Donna Spear, Alabama Department of Human Resources and Rod Dunlap, Author/Educator captivated the mothers by educating them on parental rights and family advocacy resources that can lend support. Ken Fair, Operations Director of Lowndes County Public Schools; Virgil Ford, Attorney and Chris Johns, Director of the Counseling Center at Alabama State University provided insight on legal challenges fathers face as non-resident or single parents.

Several members of the SPARKS, Sigma Phi Chapter youth mentees, gave testimonies about how being in the mentoring program advanced their lives by opening up opportunities for them to interact and receive advice from professional men. Students were encouraged to seek membership in their local Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., male youth mentoring program (Project Manhood). The youth conference is the first of two semi-annual initiatives that will be duplicated on HBCU campuses around the country.

*Report prepared by  
Brother S. Earl Wilson, Chairman of the  
Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee*

**BROTHER ROBINSON RECOGNIZED FOR HIS DEDICATION**

# AN OMEGA RECEIVES COMMUNITY AWARD

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Brother Kyle Robinson was selected by the University of Cincinnati's College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS) for the Spirit of Community Award.

Bro. Robinson and other award recipients were recognized at the all-university recognition ceremony hosted by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development in April.

Every year, UC colleg honors one student who exemplifies



a high standard of contribution to student life, both within their college and the greater campus community. The Spirit of Community Award recognizes students who have stood out in their contributions to build a stronger community.

Robinson, who received his bachelor's degree in computer engineering (with minors in mathematics and computer science) in spring 2018 was honored for his dedicated service to CEAS, the Cincinnati community, and the communities surrounding his co-op sites.

Furthermore, Robinson has volunteered countless hours through the National Society of Black Engineers and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Robinson sees the roles of engineer and community leader in a similar light—in both, he strives to improve the world around them by making new connections. "I chose to major in computer engineering because we are living in a digital age where computer programs permeate every aspect of life," he said. "The field offers limitless opportunities—through collaborative work and individual effort—for true creativity and innovation and most importantly, making a positive difference within the world."

Brother Robinson's experiences in community engagement informs his work. Following his graduation, Bro. Robinson relocated to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

at GE's Edison Engineering Development Program.

"Good leaders must establish that they are trustworthy to the community and to fellow leaders. Trust facilitates productive discussions and desired social change," said Bro. Robinson. He also added that "as a leader, you need the ability to envision the future and set sustainable goals by developing your own critical thinking skills and involving the younger generations." Robiinson said he look "forward to giving back to the University of Cincinnati and continuously striving, personally and professionally in efforts to make the world a better place."



*In October 2018, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Brother Keith Key was crowned as the Homecoming King of Ohio University. Bro. Key was initiated through Sigma Psi Chapter at Ohio University. Key, an Ohio football player, majors in Business Management, but was medically disqualified due to an injury. "I used this [injury] as an opportunity to increase my involvement with the university becoming the Treasurer of both the Black Student Union and the National Panhellenic Council (NPHC) and serving as Sigma Psi's Basileus for the second year.*

# KAPPA CHAPTER LEADERS ON CAMPUS

On November 4, 2018, Kappa Chapter (Syracuse University) welcomed in four

new Omega men. They are Brothers Jordan Rose, Dante Harris, Tahshea Hollington and Josiah Kabemba. The newly initiated Brothers had their probate show in Grant Auditorium on November 13th.

**PHOTOGRAPH ON RIGHT**-New chapter members on the front row.



During the months of September and October, 2018, the Brothers of Kappa Chapter visited Nottingham High School to assist seniors with their college applications. The chapter conducts workshops for students applying to college and universities. The application process is one of the first reasons why some high school graduating seniors end up not attending college. Serving as volunteers, the Kappa Chapter Omega men help students brainstorm the essay portion of the application.

The Brothers provided pizza and water to the students who attended the workshop. The event also provided students with information about tuition free scholarship available to students graduating from a Syracuse City School District. The "Say Yes to Education Syracuse" Program provides underprivileged youth an opportunity to attend Syracuse University tuition-free.

On September 27th, Kappa Chapter led by Brother David Gilstrap partnered with the Office of Health Promotion to discuss mental health awareness. The discussion was followed by a presentation that

explained different causes of stress and different ways people relieve stress. Also, in the presentation, Brother Gilstrap and other representatives gave a list of healthier alternatives and resources on campus that are designed to help students practice better self-care methods when they feel overwhelmed with schoolwork or life itself.

Brothers of Kappa Chapter partnered with Helping Hounds, a local dog shelter and rescue center in Syracuse. The Brothers began this special effort on September 24th to provide stress relief for students. Helping Hounds also raised funds to get more dogs.

On September 26th, the Brothers of Kappa Chapter joined the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) in hosting Brian Banks, former NFL Player and current activist, as a guest speaker. Banks' story is one of overcoming adversity even in the bleakest of situations and keeping a positive outlook on life. The Brothers believed the students of Syracuse University would be very intrigued by Banks' story.

Banks' testimony not only shed light on the false rape accusations he endured, but he also highlighted that although this incident happened to him, the #MeToo movement should not be discredited. Bank also said that the movement should be supported even further and the public must hold our justice system more accountable.

# Omegas Welcomed Back To Kent State University

## Psi Gamma Celebrates 50<sup>TH</sup>



Story and Photographs by Bro. Myron E. Reed,  
Oracle Magazine Contributing Writer

The Brothers of Psi Gamma Chapter convened on the campus of Kent State University in April 2019 for their 50th Jubilee Celebration. During this joyous occasion Psi Gamma Brothers celebrated a half-century of service, friendship and leadership on the campus of Kent State University. Brother Phillip “Flip” Bass (1- 69 Psi Gamma,) was the committee chair.

As described by Brother Michael Brown (5-70 Psi Gamma,) “A cross-section of unifying ‘hearts and minds’ merged into one historic gathering at historic Kent State University, not only to look back at the peace protests, the quest for civil rights, and the Brothers that have

*transitioned to Omega Chapter along our 50-year journey in remembrance; but to look forward to the ‘blessed tie that binds’ us together...in Spirit, Truth, and Love!”*

Several Omega dignitaries were on hand to witness, and participate in the celebration including Brothers Ricky Lewis, First Vice Grand Basileus; Daniel B. Jones Sr., Grand Keeper of Finance; past Second District Representative, Benjamin Jeffers; Bobby Robinson, Fourth District Representative; Lamar Cole, First Vice Fourth District Representative. and Michael Brown (5-70 Psi Gamma,) the 12th District Chaplain.

Psi Gamma’s charter was originally established and presented in April 1969 under the leadership of Brother Dr. Floydolph Anderson who was the District Representative at that time.

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Psi Gamma Brothers spanning its five-decade history were in attendance during the recent celebratory weekend. Of special note were the Brothers of the ‘Devine-9’ (“the first Ques at K.S.U.”, initiated through Zeta Omega, Cleveland’s Graduate Chapter in March-1968); and the ‘Defiant-9’, which was Psi Gamma’s charter line (a.k.a. “The Blood Line”), and the first line to ‘cross’ at Psi Gamma in May-1969.

Brothers from those historic lines were appropriately bookended by the ‘Durable-5’ line whose initiation ceremony was conducted on April 5, 2019, during the 50th Jubilee Celebration weekend. Other highlights of the Psi Gamma Jubilee included a golf outing, meet & greet and state of the chapter. The State of the Fraternity address was presented by Brother Ricky Lewis, Omega Psi Phi’s First Vice Grand Basileus.

The Jubilee Banquet Program was held on the evening of Saturday, April 6th. Brother Lewis read the name of every Brother that crossed the Burning Sands and was initiated through Psi Gamma Chapter.

The Jubilee Celebration ended with a ‘Spiritual Revival’ held on Sunday morning. The service was led by Brothers Elder Calvin Moore and Michael Brown with the closing benediction by Brother Lewis.

Brother Ricky Lewis and Brother Steve Harvey met with officials from Kent State University’s Office of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion. As a direct result of that meeting, Lewis and Harvey along with a contingent of Omega Men partnered with the university and the result was eight African American males received full four-year scholarships and will attend Kent State University beginning in Fall 2019.



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## OMEGA ALUMNI MENTORS YOUNG BROTHER

**B**rother Bakari Levy is a young man who processed into the Fraternity through the Eta Gamma Chapter at Central State University (CSU) in Wilberforce, OH. His journey into Omega via Central State is an interesting template that other Brothers who work for two-year community colleges should consider replicating. Bro. Levy was a product of an articulation agreement orchestrated between CSU and Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, NY by Bro. Dr. Harry K. Good, III. (Eta Gamma, 1967). Dr. Good served as a professor and mentor to Levy. Already familiar with HBCU's, he was in conversation with Bro. Good to learn about the benefits of attending Central State and seeking admittance into our beloved Fraternity. His responsibility to the growth and development of the Fraternity locally and worldwide was also discussed with Dr. Good. Good also noted that Bakari eagerly embraced the challenge to attend Central State University.

The articulation agreement essentially brokered the acceptance of 60 credits by Central State University from Kingsborough Community College. After several years of Q & A sessions between Brother Good, Levy decided to attend Central State University.

At CSU, Levy majored in Math and Computer Science. Currently, Bro. Levy teaches math at the elementary school level in New York City. Brother Levy is now studying for the law school entrance examination.



Brother Dr. Good (right) said " I can't emphasize the importance the role that mentoring young Brothers into the Fraternity plays in undergirding the Cardinal Principles.- Brother Bakari Levy (on left) recently graduated from Central State University.

## A Life of Leadership

**A**s a leader on the Purdue football team and in Omega Psi Phi, Brother D. J. Knox was constantly in the limelight. He knew that he needed to set a good example whether he was putting in the extra effort at football workouts or living out Omega's ritual in his daily life.

While visiting his aunt in college, Knox met Omega Brothers, and witnessed a part of himself in the members. His uncle and high school football coaches from Creekside High School in Fairburn, GA, were Omega men as well and had a positive influence on his decision to join the brotherhood of Omega Psi Phi.

Knox said, "My proudest moment was when I scored a touchdown, and showed my Fraternity sign to

*the crowd and took a knee for my father, who had a stroke a week earlier and was unable to attend that game. That was a special moment because it incorporated all of my support systems: the football team, my Fraternity, and my family."*

Knox witnessed many similarities between the football team and his Fraternity. His favorite part of being a football player and an Omega was "seeing a group of guys together to achieve a goal. "You need to give your last for your brothers, care about your brothers, and live selflessly," added Brother Knox. Omega's Brother Knox graduated in fall 2018, and plans to continue his involvement with Omega as a member of the alumni chapter.

*Story courtesy from Purdue University's Alumni Association*

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## Tau Iota And Gamma Chapters

**O**mega Psi Phi

Fraternity's Tau Iota Chapter held their annual Celebration of Fatherhood Cookout on June 9th. The event was located at the Pond House in Keney Park. Omega Brothers were joined by their families and mentorship program participants for the day-long affair packed with food, music and games. Tau Iota Graduate Chapter is based in Hartford, CT.



Brother Lawrence Harris and Bro. Arthur Davenport from the TNT line received their 40-Year Omega pins at the Grand Conclave. Although many members of TNT were present at the Conclave, they wanted to

have a special reunion in Boston, and with Bro. Vernell Baker who was unable to attend the Conclave due to health issues.

One of Gamma Chapter's mantras is "Continuing Our Legacy of Leadership." Gamma Chapter Brothers follow in the footsteps of Gamma Chapter Heroes, the late Honorable Brother Judge Herbert Tucker (Gamma '36), the 50th Grand Basileus; former First District Representative and Grand Keeper of Finance, Brother Clifton Moore, Sr. (Gamma '50).

The chapter was formally introduced at the 69th Eighth District Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. After electing chapter positions and publishing the bylaws, the chapter began to service the Ft. Leonard Wood community. Some of the chapter's long-term plans include partnering with the local NAACP chapter, churches and other organizations in establishing a mentorship program.

## 1978 Gamma Line Holds Reunion

Members from the Notorious Twelve (T.N.T.) returned to Boston from all around the country to celebrate their 40th Year Anniversary in August 2018. TNT was a Gamma Chapter line which was comprised of young men from several Boston universities including Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern University, and Tufts University. The group were known as an extremely close-knit line. TNT was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity on April 9, 1978 in Boston, MA.

Seven of the 12 line brothers were together at the New Orleans Grand Conclave in July 2018. Gamma Chapter's Bro. Gary Hawkins (Gamma '71), hosted a Conclave fraternization "set-out." The venue was on a golf course.

*Story by  
Brother Keith Mathews, Gamma Chapter 1978*

*The Oracle - Winter 2019*

Chapter's Alumni Association Presents

## Pi CHAPTER'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On October 28, 2018, the Pi Chapter Alumni Association held their 95th Anniversary Dinner Celebration at Morgan State University. Greetings were given Brother Salaudin Bin-Yusif, the 95th Anniversary Committee Chair. Don Terry Veal, the Chief of Staff to Morgan State University's President welcomed guests to Morgan State. He noted that Omega Psi Phi was the first Black fraternity to come to Maryland. The invocation was rendered by Reverend Brother Dr. Charles Fletcher. Presentations highlighting the State of Pi Chapter during each decade were given by Brothers initiated in each decade.

The 41st Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion acknowledged Pi Chapter's 95th Anniversary. He pledged a fraternal donation to Morgan State during the upcoming fiscal year.

Brothers Dr. Walter Gill, Dr. Michael B. Bowie and Dr. Charles Fletcher were recipients of The Robert L. Gill Scholarly Service Award. U.S. Army's Major General R. Scott Dingle received the George McKinney Leadership Award. Brother Thomas Kelson was the recipient of the Brother Judge Linwood G. Koger Lifetime Achievement Award.

Major General R. Scott Dingle was the keynote speaker. The theme of his address was "*Pi Chapter Sets the Pace and Don't Lose your Bearing.*" He highlighted the great history and legacy of Brothers initiated through Pi Chapter. In addition, he asked the question "Are you setting the pace and upholding the ideals of Omega?"

PHOTOGRAPH: Omega's Major General R. Scott Dingle

Brother Dingle said "We are to be the best in everything we do, and if you don't you have lost your bearing. Stay focused--don't quit and get it done."

**PI OMEGA CHAPTER** --Celebrated their 97th years of service to the Greater Baltimore area on November 17, 2018. The Invocation for the event was given by Pi Omega Chaplain, Bro. Aaron Von Moore. Bro. Allen Taylor, the chapter's Basileus welcomed guests and introduced Bro. Michael Freeman as Master of Ceremonies. Bro. Joseph McNeill presented a *Tribute to Our Founders*. The Founders Stand-Ins were Brothers Jon White, Kenneth Henry, Clifton Sherrod and Ryan Robinson. Second District's Director of Public Relations, Bro. Zanes Cypress, Jr. provided a rendering on the "*Meaning of Brotherhood*" and Reverend Bro. Dr. Ron Williams administered spiritual uplift for the event.

Reflections on the impact of Pi Omega's honored Brothers Walter G. Amprey and George K. McKinney was given by Brothers T. Russell Hopewell and Lester Buster. Former Grand Keeper of Record and Seal, Kenneth Rodgers, the keynote speaker delivered a phenomenal speech highlighting the theme of the event, "*Omega Men: Effecting Positive Change in Communities Worldwide.*"



## Bro. Chapman Honored at Towson



During Towson University's Homecoming Weekend on November 3, 2018, Brother Dr. Julius Chapman, affectionately known as "Dean Chapman," was honored for his service at the university. Towson University officials and Brothers from Towson and supporting chapters were in attendance in presenting Dr. Chapman with a Commemorative Permanent Bench. The bench will be located outside the Media Center near his former office. Bro. Chapman is the first African American Affairs staff member at Towson to receive this honor.

During the late 60's and 70's Dr. Chapman held the position as the Dean of Minority Affairs. He was in charge of increasing the minority enrollment and

and graduation rate of minority students to meet Federal and State guidelines for the university. He personally served as a mentor to every African American and other minority students enrolled during his tenure at Towson State. He single-handedly aided the university in meeting its Federal and State requirements for minority enrollment.

The Bench Dedication Ceremony, an outpouring of love and appreciation was led by Towson Alum Mrs. Jewel Graves-Tucker. Towson University President Kim Schatzel also gave comments during the dedication. Omega Psi Phi's Iota Epsilon Chapter Alum Brother Jeff Perry opened the Bench Dedication Ceremony with a prayer. Graves-Tucker was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Chapman's stewardship also aided the diaspora of minority Towson Alum to become staff

members at the university. Several TSU African American alumni gave heartfelt testimonies of Dean Chapman's legacy including Iota Epsilon Chapter Alums, Ron Jones and Robert Washington. Dean Chapman is considered the "Father of Iota Epsilon Chapter" at Towson University.

In 1975, he was the Omega man who 12 interested young men asked for guidance in establishing an Omega chapter on campus. Through Bro. Chapman's mentorship, in 1976, Iota Epsilon Chapter was the first Divine Nine Men's fraternity to be chartered on campus. He became the first Iota Epsilon Undergraduate Chapter Advisor.

At the dedication, current Iota Epsilon Chapter Basileus, Michal Williams, spoke from the heart of Dean Chapman's impact on Iota Epsilon Chapter. Overwhelmed with the gesture, Dr. Chapman maintained his composure in thanking those assembled. After the ribbon cutting, Dean Chapman took his first seat on the bench with joy.

Brother Dr. Chapman was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1956 through Lambda Epsilon at Tuskegee institute, now University, and currently he is a member of Tau Pi Graduate Chapter in Howard County, MD.

Photograph above: **Brother Dr. Julius Chapman is on the far left.**



## Kappa Psi Provides Service To The Washington, D.C. Community

The Kappa Psi Chapter celebrated March as Women's History Month by volunteering during meal time at the Patricia Handy Place for Women in Washington, D.C. In March 2019, Brothers organized and served healthy meals to dozens of women and used the opportunity to learn more about their life's perspective.

Opened in 2016, the Patricia Handy Place for Women provides more than 200 beds for single women needing residence. The center also provides culture programming and social resources to the residents. "The passion of the women was chilling and moving." They have encountered many hardships, but have not allowed their spirit to be broken," said Brother Garrett James.

Also, in the March 2019, Kappa Psi Chapter joined the Comcast Newsmakers in commemorating the National Mentoring Month. The chapter recognizes the importance of being bridge builders in the community as they operate the

DC Rhinos Mentoring Program. Brother Brian Haley, DC Rhinos's Co-President was interviewed by Comcast's Yolanda Vazquez as Haley shared the news of the program.

"When I was young, I looked up to older guys because they were cool. They also gave me wisdom and pushed me to do better things," said Brother Haley. Kappa Psi Chapter issued a challenge to all chapters within Omega Psi Phi Fraternity to make mentoring a priority.

"Mentoring taught me how to learn from others, and to become open-minded," commented Brother Terrance James. Brother Kyle Garrison also added the "he is proud to serve during the National Mentoring Month. To me, mentoring is a pathway to my greatest potential."

*Story by Brother Garrett James,  
Editor to the Oracle  
Kappa Psi Chapter*

## Pi Lambda Lambda's Youth Mentoring Program

Prince William County, VA- In February 2019, Pi Lambda Lambda's Omega U's youth mentorship program hosted their Black History Program. The third annual program was held at Potomac Senior High School.

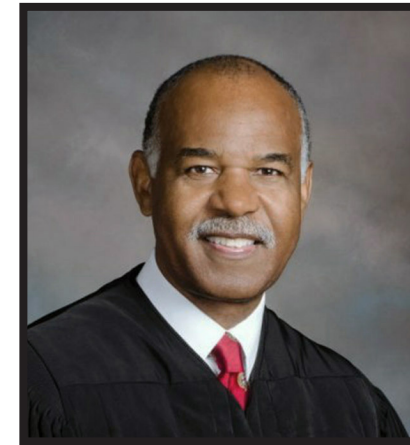
The event's guest speaker was Derrick Woods, the Mayor of Dumfries, VA who interacted and engaged the students with a wonderful conversation. Woods inspired the students by mentioning the importance of words on positive attitude, building a positive environment and staying committed to success.

Over 80 students in Omega U, 170 family and friends of the students, and Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter members attended the event. The program featured outstanding performances from the voices of the Blue Madrigals and dance routines from the Blue Diamonds of Potomac Senior High School. In addition, the student-led program recognized several award recipients. The awards included essay contest winners, outstanding student awards, a Father of the Year, and Citizen Outreach award.

Omega U awarded \$1500 to participants of the Essay Contest Award which featured four winners from the 180-student based program in Prince William County VA.

The Omega U Program's mission is to serve, support, and partner with the Prince William County Public Schools by offering a "Word Class Education" with afterschool and weekend mentoring initiatives. The program also includes STEM based programs, the Omega U Flight Drone Program, the Radio Controlled Race Car Program, Pre-College Initiative (PCI), Career Readiness, college field trips, and health and sports initiatives.

# Upsilon Nu's History Makers



Honorable Bro. Robert Gregory  
Upsilon Nu 1981

In recognition of Black History Month 2019, Upsilon Nu Chapter recognized the accomplishments of two of its members, the Honorable Brother John Charles Thomas and The Honorable Brother Roger Gregory. Brothers Thomas and Gregory were initiated into the Upsilon Nu Chapter in the 1980s.

**Brother John Charles Thomas** is a retired former Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court. Brother Thomas is the first African American to be appointed to this position. Thomas received his Bachelors and Law degrees from the University of Virginia.

Omega's Thomas was appointed to this position in 1983. Not only was he the first African American appointee to the Virginia Supreme Court, he was also the youngest at age 32. Bro. Thomas retired seven years later and became the first African



Honorable Bro. John C. Thomas  
Upsilon Nu 1980

American law partner at Hunton and Williams, one of the South's most prestigious Law Firms. Other accomplishments for Brother Thomas include the NAACP Lifetime Award, and he was named as a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport and Board of Visitors at William and Mary University.

**Brother Roger Gregory** currently serves as the Chief United States Circuit Judge of the United States, serving the 4th Circuit. Gregory, a native of Philadelphia Pennsylvania received his undergraduate education at Virginia State University in 1975 and his Law degree from the University of Michigan's Law School in 1978. In 1982 Brother Gregory served as an associate partner with Wilder and Gregory, a law firm with the Honorable Brother L. Douglas Wilder.

Brother Wilder would later become the first African American Governor since reconstruction. Omega Psi Phi's Gregory also served as Rector

at Virginia Commonwealth University and served on the Board of Visitors at Virginia State University.

Brother Gregory was nominated as the First African American to serve on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in 2000 by U.S. President Bill Clinton. Gregory was confirmed by President George W. Bush in 2001.

## Chapter Mentoring

Upsilon Nu's Omega Academy Mentoring Program introduced school-age children to careers in aviation. Brother Patrick Patrong and several chapter Omega men took the mentees to Richmond International Airport in February 2019. Brother Patrong, the chairman of the chapter's mentoring program commented that the program presents kids with a look at different types of careers in hopes of sparking their interest.

The mentees were the first group of students to tour the the Richmond Airport facility. The mentees got a chance to view a Black Hawk helicopter maneuver and land. They were also able to go aboard the helicopter.

The airport staff mentioned that the Black Hawk cost \$5.9 million to build and was named after the Native American war leader Black Hawk. During sessions the staff stressed to the kids the importance of school and the opportunities that can be available if they are prepared. The students asked them questions about how much flying does the staff do and how did they learned to fly.

West Virginia Chapter Returns To Service in the 4th District

## CHI ALPHA REACTIVATES CHAPTER

After an absence of over 30 years, Chi Alpha Chapter was reactivated in November 2018. The Fourth District Representative Brother Bobby Robinson presided over the chapter's installation ceremony with 13 active members.

The new officers included Bro. Ronald Walker, Basileus; Bro. Richard Smith, Vice Basileus; Bro. Leon Parker, Keeper of Records and Seal; Bro. H. Derrick Wells, Keeper of Finance, and Bro. Bennie Jenkins, Public Relations and Chapter Reporter. Chi Alpha was chartered on October 1, 1939.

Other area chapter members met with Brother Robinson to discuss the procedures and requirements needed to reactivate their chapters. Before their chapter reactivation, Chi Alpha and Zeta Sigma alumni members descended on the campuses of both Bluefield State College and Concord University for homecoming events in October 2018.

Bluefield State College originally known as the Bluefield Colored Institute, the college was founded in 1895 as a "high graded school" for African American youth in the nearby area. The college was one of the first Historically Black Colleges (HCBUs) to become a predominantly white institution. The college was opened as the Bluefield Colored Institute after the expansion of the Morrill Act in 1890 to provide funding for African American colleges from the sale of public lands.



## G KF Speaks at Xi Iota Iota's Achievement Week Banquet

Xi Iota Iota held its 27th Achievement Week Banquet, November 17, 2018 at the Piqua Country Club in Piqua Ohio. The Grand Keeper of Finance, Brother Daniel B. Jones, Sr., delivered the address at the Achievement Week Scholarship Banquet.

Bro. Jones stated in his address, "We can no longer stand by. We can no longer remain detached and disenfranchised. We must register. We must mobilize. We must understand the facts. We must understand how the proposed laws impact us and the community and we must vote." The event also celebrated the 107th anniversary of the Fraternity and was attended

by mayors, several school superintendents and other local dignitaries, as well as area Fraternity members.

"I believe that local businesses and political figures have their eye on this chapter. They want leaders! Both are invested in the community. Your breaking bread with us this evening shows us your level of commitment, and I commend you for it," added Jones, the Grand Keeper of Finance.

"When this chapter decides to do something positive in the community, the effects are felt all over the world. You can look in the chapter's souvenir book to see how far and wide their reach is," said Brother Jones.

## Delta Alpha Initiates New Members

Guided by Membership Selection Process co-chairmen Brothers Michael Dulan and Malonis Thompson, Delta Alpha Chapter initiated six new Brothers into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity on September 22, 2018. The ceremony was held at the late Brother Colonel Charles Young's home in Xenia, Ohio. There were approximately 30 Brothers in attendance. The neophytes' included Brothers Keisonn Pate, Drew Goodall, Kevin Turpin, Bukari Miles, Romeo Reese, and Richard Moore. Delta Alpha is a graduate chapter based in Dayton, OH.

On Founder's Day November 17, 2018, Delta Alpha Chapter hosted its annual Achievement Week Banquet at Sinclair Community College in Dayton. Past District Representative Brother Jesse Junius served as the event's emcee. Brother Dr. Ronald L. Jackson II, President of the National Communication Association, was the keynote speaker for the Banquet. He captivated the audience and provided important insights on the topic "Omega Men: Affecting Positive Change in Communities Worldwide." Brother Jackson was also recognized as the chapter's 2018 Omega Man of the Year.

Delta Alpha Chapter award winners included Bro. Kelvin Bryant. He received the *Superior Service Award*. Brother Anthony Whitmore was recognized as the *2018 Citizen of the Year* for his economic and community development consultation services both locally and nationally.

Also in attendance was Bro. Jesse Gooding, former president of the Dayton Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and member of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Bro. Basileus Robert Wilson presented Brother Gooding with his 65-year membership pin on behalf of the International Headquarters.

During the banquet, the chapter presented a \$500 award to John Foster, Walter E. Stebbins High School, winner of the 2018 Essay Contest. The chapter also provided \$3,000 in college scholarships to six students attending Central State University, University of Chicago, University of Dayton, and Sinclair Community College.



Delta Alpha Chapter's new Omega men include Brothers Keisonn Pate, Drew Goodall, Kevin Turpin, Bukari Miles, Romeo Reese, and Richard Moore. (Delta Alpha Chapter's Official Photograph).

## Black Boys Learn to Dress For Success

# CHAPTERS TEACH GROOMING TIPS



Psi Pi Chapter's Manhood Academy joined Queen City College in sponsoring a community outreach and mentoring initiative. The October 2018 event was titled "Barbering & Styling" in the Clarkville, TN. The community activity included a neck and bowties training session for young boys provided by Omega mentors. The training was coordinated by Brother Clifford Greer. Other Omega members that participated in the chapter activity included Brother John C. Howard, Brother Brian Hutchenson, Brother Joseph Chatham, III, Brother Tariq Muhammad, Brother Ayo Ale-Finks, and Brother Reginald T. Bailey.

The boys also received grooming instruction as Omega Brothers provided information on how to properly improve one's appearance-an important key to success. Students from Queen City College provided barbering and styling for the young boys

In February 2019, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Epsilon Pi Chapter participated in a student intervention session titled, *Straight Talk*. The Memphis, TN based chapter spoke to school-age boys about the importance of dressing for success. During the session, students were asked to explain what dressing for success means to them.

The Omega men also discussed the pros and cons of dressing properly at school. Brothers also added that an outward appearance establishes a good first impression. At the end of the session, the Brothers presented each student with a royal blue and orange striped necktie. After receiving their new ties that represent their school colors, the students were provided a special necktie lesson from the Omega men from Epsilon Phi Chapter.

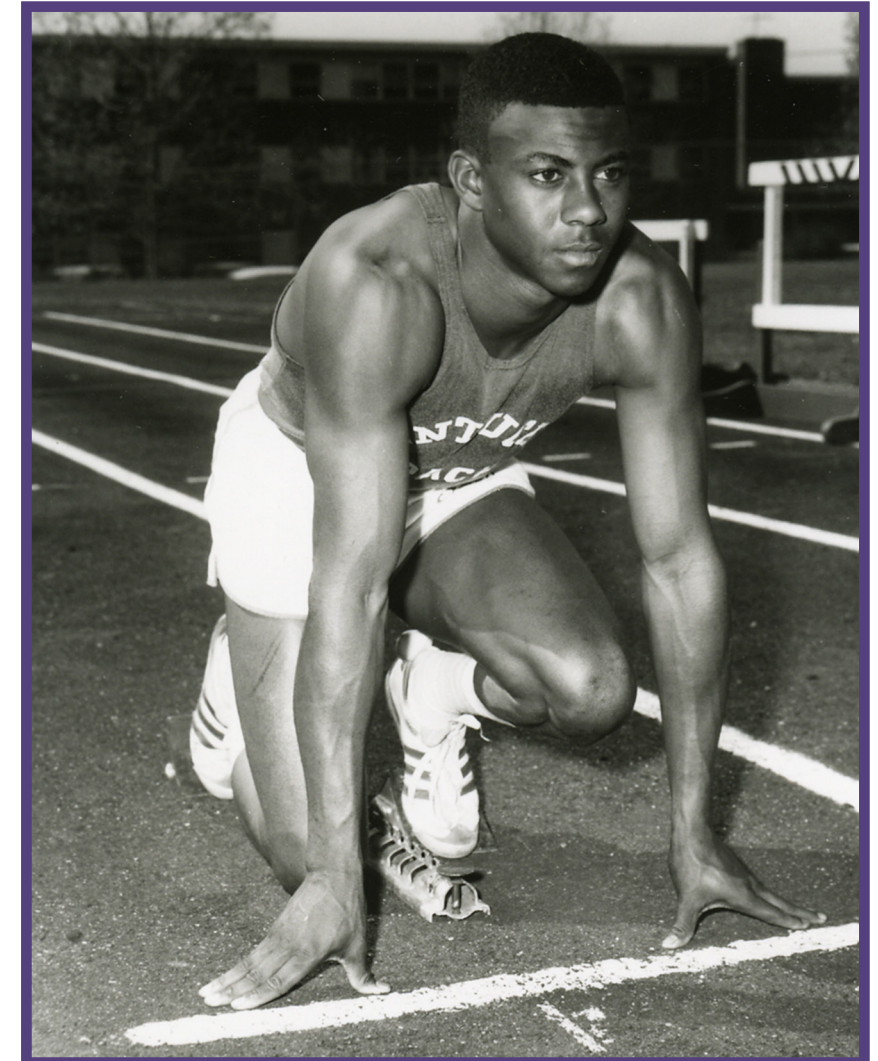
# Track & Field Invitational Renamed

*Bro. Jim Green, Kentucky's first Black Graduate is Honored*

Omega's Jim Green, an All-American at the University of Kentucky in Track and Field was honored in January 2019. Brother Green was also the first African American athlete to graduate from the University of Kentucky. Green graduated from Kentucky in 1971. The Kentucky National Track and Field Invitational recently renamed the premier two-day annual indoor track event as the Jim Green Track and Field Invitational.

Brother Green, a member of Theta Omega Chapter, attended the renaming ceremony at the University of Kentucky's Nutter Field in Lexington, KY. He was the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Champion from 1968 to 1971. Green was also the first African-American student-athlete at Kentucky and in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) to win NCAA and SEC Championships.

According to the UK sports website, Green was a two-time NCAA champion, winning the indoor 60-yard dash in 1968 and 1971. He also earned All-America honors six times and won eight SEC individual events, including the indoor 60-yard dash (1968, 1971), outdoor 100-yard dash (1968, 1970, 1971), and outdoor 220-yard dash (1968, 1970, 1971). Brother Green qualified for the Olympic Games, but a hamstring injury during the summer of 1968 prevented him from competing in 1968 Summer



Brother Green was inducted into the University of Kentucky's Sports Hall of Fame in 2007. He was also inducted into the Mason and Dixon Hall of Fame.

Green said he attended the University of Kentucky because it "was the chance to run track, and at the same time open up doors for others. I felt like if I can make some headway and gains for other folks, why not take that challenge." Omega's Green, a celebrated world-class sprinter achieved against a backdrop of civil rights strife as he fought to overcome the poison of Jim Crow laws on

*Photo credit courtesy from UK's Sports Media Relations Department*

southern athletic fields.

Today, Jim Green continues his efforts to open doors for others. Each year, Theta Omega Chapter and its 501c3 charity conducts the Jim Green Golf Tournament.

Proceeds from the event provide scholarship funding for Theta Omega Chapter programs. The funding also supports African American middle and high school male students.



## Mu Alpha's Bridge Builder Program

For the past eight years, Mu Alpha Chapter partnered with Julian Mitchell Math and Science Elementary School in downtown Charleston, S. C. The Bridge-BUILDER Program is one of Mu Alpha's mandated chapter initiatives. The main goal of the Bridge Builder Program is to establish a mentorship between members of Mu Alpha Chapter and 5th grade boys at Mitchell Elementary School.

Twice a month on Thursday evening ten Mu Alpha Chapter Brothers meet with ten Mitchell students for structured activities. The activities are designed to encourage and support high academic achievement while encouraging positive and healthy social skills. Mu Alpha members work with the school's administration in all areas in order to help scholars achieve educational and social goals.

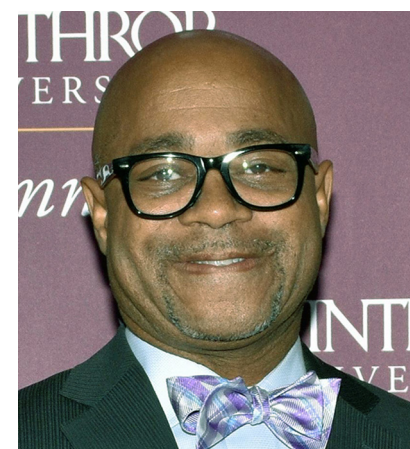
The Bridge Builder Program also plays an integral role with the school's annual Holiday Market. The holiday event provides students with an opportunity to purchase gifts for their family members using "skake bucks." The skake buck funds are earned by students based on their achievement within the

program. Each student is provided two gifts for their parents and or other family members. Brother Reginald L. Terry's duties include serving as the chapter's Behavior Management Specialist and chairman of the Bridge Builder Program. Brother Terry also said that one of the main ingredients for the program to be successful is the interest of the young participants.

Several of the student scholars said that because of their relationship with their mentors they have raised their grades. The work of the Bridge Builder Program does not stop at the end of the school year. Every summer Mu Alpha Chapter and the Bridge Builder Program send deserving young men to the 6th District Boys to Summer Camp for a week in North Carolina, to continue to develop as young men.

Over the past four years Mu Alpha Chapter's Bridge Builder Program has been able to increase the number of boys it sends to the summer camp. One of the primary fundraisers for the the camp is the Annual 5K Run and Walk. The event is held each May in Charleston's historical downtown area.

## Kappa Alpha's Bro. Alridge Honored



Brother Dr. Derrick Alridge received Winthrop University's Alumni Professional Achievement Award on November 17, 2018. Brother Alridge was initiated into Omega through Psi Kappa Chapter in 1983. He is now a member of Kappa Alpha Chapter in Rock Hill, SC. Bro. Alridge received his B.A. and Master's degrees from Winthrop College in 1987, and 1992. He later earned his Ph. D from Pennsylvania State University in 1997.

Bro. Dr. Alridge was honored with the Alumni Professional Achievement Award for his outstanding accomplishments in examining African-American education and history. The award recognizes a Winthrop graduate who has made significant contributions to his/her professional field while exemplifying high moral and business ethics.

Currently, Bro. Dr. Alridge is a professor in the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia (UVA). He also is the Director of UVA's Center on Race and Public Education in the South. Alridge is the founder and director of Teachers in the

Movement, an oral history project that examines the contribution of teachers during the civil rights movement. Additionally, Alridge

has conducted research on major contributors to the African-American experience over the past century.



## Sixth District Omegas Donate Items to Hurricane Victims

On January 5, 2019 several Omega men from a variety of Sixth District Chapters donated furniture to hurricane victims. The families were from the Trenton, NC area. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., along with Feed the Children transported the donated furniture from Oklahoma to a local warehouse in Trenton. Feed the Children is an organization with the mission

of ending childhood hunger.

Bro. Victor L. Brinton, the 37th Sixth District Representative and Bro. Melvin Mitchell, the 41st Sixth District Representative coordinated the furniture donation effort. During the five-hour donation session over 25 families received a bedroom suite and a chair. Bro. Mitchell said that each family left the warehouse with a smile, and Omega left an everlasting impact in Trenton.



**In July 2018**-A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO DR. DAVID MARION FOR HIS OUTSTANDING RECORD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING SERVICE AND AS THE FIRST MISSISSIPPIAN ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL SEAT OF GRAND BASILEUS OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

## Chapter Alumni Raise Funds

The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Gamma Psi want to honor their school, Talladega College by donating \$100,000. The Omega alumni from the chapter plan to deliver a ceremonial check to Talladega College on Founders Day weekend in 2023. Gamma Psi Chapter was founded in 1923 in the State of Alabama.

The Brothers plan to give Talladega College \$50,000 in 2021, and another \$50,000 by 2023. "We are asking Brothers to contact their line Brothers and former chapter members to help this effort," said Brother Norman Campbell, the chair of the Gamma Psi Centennial Fund.

Brother Campbell also added that Omega men and the public can go to the Facebook page called Gamma Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Centennial Fund to obtain more information. Several former chapter brothers have made a financial donation. Campbell also noted that if 100 Brothers donate \$1,000 over the next six years, this would amount to \$100,000.

The Gamma Psi Centennial Fund committee also plans to produce a History and Souvenir booklet featuring Gamma Psi Chapter's First 100 Years. Brother Campbell is also asking chapter Brothers to send in stories and photographs featuring Gamma Psi activities and Brothers,

to the attention of Brother Reuben Sparks. "We are looking for information from every line and significant events of brothers on the campus," said Brother Sparks.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Brother Norman Campbell, Chair of the Gamma Psi Centennial Fund at: [normanpcampbell@hotmail.com](mailto:normanpcampbell@hotmail.com)

Send stories and photographs to Brother Reuben Sparks at: [reuben.sparks9@gmail.com](mailto:reuben.sparks9@gmail.com) Also title the email subject line "Gamma Psi"

For questions about donations contact Brother Seddrick Hill, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Talladega College at [shill@talladega.edu](mailto:shill@talladega.edu) or contact his

## Georgia Chapters Provide Aid To Their Communities

Zeta Mu Nu joined the Department of Family Services in educating the public to an initiative signed by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal. The initiative called the Fatherhood Program, was created to help Black men hit by work layoffs. The program also provides provisions to help non-custodial male parents remain active in their children's life. The Fatherhood Program provides education, training, and job placement for men who have child support issues.

During last fall, the chapter also hosted a class for men interested in the Fatherhood Program. The class was held at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Stockbridge, GA. The church is pastored by Brother Terrance Gattis, a member of Zeta Mu Nu Chapter.

Lambda Iota Chapter joined an elementary school, Dimon Steam Academy in establishing a program to halt school illiteracy and prison incarceration. The Columbus, GA based chapter's goal is to have Omega Brothers read to male students beginning in their first years of school. The program provides a one-hour reading session for male students from kindergarten to the third grade. The chapter donated \$500 to purchase books for the program.

Mu Phi Chapter provided home repairs for single mothers during last year's holiday season. The chapter is based in Savannah, GA. Salimah Johnson was one of the mothers who got her house renovated. "It feels so h better in the home now. They did a wonderful job," said Johnson. She also commented that the Mu Phi's repair work was amazing.

Brother Edward Gresham, the chapter's chairman of the repair program said the project was started about 10- years ago. "People go through things all year and sometimes around the holidays, they're not able to meet the needs of home repair," said Bro. Gresham.

Chi Gamma Gamma Chapter joined with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Marietta Roswell Alumnae Chapter in visiting women during last year's holiday season at the Extension facility. The chapter is based in Cobb County, GA. The Extension is a comprehensive residential recovery program that supports homeless men and women who suffer from drug and alcohol abuse.



Brother Lamus McComb of Theta Tau Chapter assists an young lady in registering to vote. On January 21, 2019 Theta Tau Chapter conducted a Voter Registration Drive during their 17th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast and Youth Participation Day. The event was held at the Anniston City Meeting Center in Anniston, Alabama.

## Chi Omega Chapter

The Tallahassee, Florida chapter, Chi Omega continues to impact the community during the holiday season. Each year the chapter asks consumers to become Angels for needy kids during their annual Angel Tree Initiative with the Salvation Army. The chapter's holiday social action event helps kids with their Christmas wish list.

The chapter also sponsors the Inspire Group Inc. The Inspire Group is an all-boys group home in the Tallahassee area. Over 15 young boys are residents at the home. The chapter donates over \$1,000 for gifts yearly. Chi Omega Chapter also received support for the Omega Lamplighters. The Lamplighters collected gifts and clothes that were donated to the group home.

Many of the boys in the group home are away from their families, so the residents greatly appreciate the attention they receive from the Omega men of Chi Omega Chapter during the holiday season.

# The Grand Attends 8th District Meeting



Omega Psi Phi's 41st Grand Basileus Dr. David E. Marion speaks to the Brothers at their 8th District Meeting.

The 70th Eighth District Conference was held in Denver, CO in April 2019. The Fraternity's Grand Basileus Brother Dr. David E. Marion congratulated the newly elected 8th District Representative Brother Osuman Issaka. The three-day conference featured plenary sessions, a Memorial Service, Talent Hunt Contest, Founders Banquet and the Patton Undergraduate Luncheon.



Upsilon Omega Graduate Chapter in St. Louis, Mo., partnered with the St. Louis American Red Cross during the chapter's annual Charles R. Drew Blood Drive. The December 2018 event exceeded expectation as several Omega men also donated blood. Brother Anthony Mitchell (right) donates blood during the holiday season.

# Chi Phi Celebrates Community Uplift

The Chapter's Social Action Committee chaired by Brother Jason Bulter launched their quarterly Adopt-A-Spot activity in November 2018. The Denver Solid Waste Management's "Keep Denver Beautiful" team established the Adopt-A-Spot program to provide organizations a method to enhance Denver neighborhoods by cleaning up in designated spots. Chi Pi Chapter's spot was Downing Street, the street where Bro. Clarence F. Holmes, our sixth Grand Basileus lived.

Also, during Achievement Week, the chapter held a family feed event with the Epworth Foundation. The foundation is a

charitable non-profit foundation operating under the auspices of Epworth United Methodist Church since 2005. The Feed a Family Event continues the legacy of "Daddy" Bruce Randolph and his Annual Thanksgiving Basket Program. Daddy Bruce opened Daddy Bruce's Bar-B-Q in 1963 located on the corner of Gilpin Street and East 34th Avenue in Denver.

Not long after, during the late 1960s his Thanksgiving tradition was born. Using his own time and money he took a truck full of ribs to City Park and started feeding the hungry. Through this act of kindness, he fed 200 people.

Today, Denver Feed-A-Family Event touches thousands of lives every year. This year about 6,500 food baskets were distributed in the community, feeding more than 18,000 people. The event provides meals to families on site and or delivers Thanksgiving baskets to families in need.

Chi Phi Chapter and the Omega Leadership Academy setup the conveyor belt that allows the volunteers to efficiently package Thanksgiving baskets. Boxes are filled with all the items to make a Thanksgiving meal (turkey, yams, corn bread mix, condensed milk). The chapter was instrumental in assembling boxes for the event. The chapter also assembled six pallets of boxes which contained over 1,000 boxes.

Story by Bro. Eric S. Hamilton

# Brother Pruitt Selected Chair

Chi Pi Chapter's Brother Jacob Pruitt was recently appointed as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Committee. Bro. Pruitt is the first African American in the Chamber's 125-year history to hold the position. Pruitt is the Vice President, Head of Relationship Management, and the General Manager for T. Rowe Price's Colorado Springs campus. Omega's Pruitt graduated from Tennessee State University and Stanford University. Pruitt, a United State Marine Corps veteran was initiated through Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter.





In March, Omega men from throughout Texas joined together for the Omega Capital Day in Austin, TX.

## The Dream of Becoming An Omega Man

Joining a fraternity is not what most 81-year old men would think about, but Adell Mills is not exactly like most seasoned men. A few years ago, the senior Mills had a conversation with his son, Brother Randell G. Mills (Gamma Epsilon, 1984). During Adell Mills' 80th birthday, Bro. Mills asked his father did he have any regrets. Adell quickly told his son, 'I regret not being able to pledge Omega Psi Phi in college.'

In 1956, a younger Adell Mills enrolled in Texas College in Tyler, TX on a football scholarship. The Omega and all the other fraternities wanted to recruit him because of his star status on the school's football

team. Mills was most impressed with the men of Omega. He called his father and said he needed \$300. His father arrived on campus a week later with the money, but he refused to give it to Adell when he told his dad he needed the funds to pledge Omega Psi Phi. His dad insisted that any extra monies were to be used for school only.

Adell grew up on a farm in Nacogdoches, TX, and was the 2nd born of ten children. His father emphasized hard work, and his mother highlighted church activity and education. All 10 children completed high school and six of them graduated from college.

Mills graduated and later married his college sweetheart, Jeri, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The Mills family moved to Berkeley, California with Adell Mills working at the University of California's Radiation Laboratory. He later became a staff member at Jarvis Christian College in Texas, but moved again to the Atlanta area. He worked at Emory University and Clark Atlanta University. He retired from Morehouse College's School of Medicine as a chief research investigator.

**An Omega Profile continues on next page**

## Epsilon Alpha Commits to Community Service

The temperature continued to drop as the ground absorbed three days of unwelcomed precipitation. The damp soil did not discourage Omega men of Epsilon Alpha Chapter efforts in cleaning up trash along Highway FM 1187 in Burleson, TX. In late 2018, the chapter gathered over 40 bags of debris from their assigned five-mile highway area. Each year, Epsilon Alpha Brothers participate in the Adopt-A-Highway Program. The Texas Department of Transportation sponsors the program to help keep the state's highway roadsides clean and attractive.

"The Adopt-A-Highway Program was something that we knew could turn into a great chapter tradition. Every adopted mile in Texas equals savings, and the more the state saves, hopefully more funds for education will be available," said Brother Clarence Brooks. In exchange for cleaning adopted areas four-times a year, volunteer organizations receive a sign of recognition posted at beginning of each end of the adopted area noted Bro. Brooks.

On November 14, 2018, the afternoon had barely turned into evening as Michelle Jenkins stood waiting in line at the Sycamore Community and Family Services Center for her Thanksgiving meal. Johnson, a proud resident of Fort Worth, TX commented the Omega men help the community's single mothers and their children. "I have two sons and want to expose them to positive Black males," smiled Johnson.

The goal of Epsilon Alpha Chapter is to help aid the Fort Worth community by providing Thanksgiving meals for over 100 families. The chapter's Thanksgiving event was designed to benefit the homeless and low-income families in the area. The chapter worked in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department of Fort Worth in providing meals and other needed services.

**Story by Brother Clarence Brooks, Epsilon Alpha Chapter**



Omega men from Epsilon Alpha collect trash from the roadside during the chapter's Adopt-A-Highway Program.

## An Omega Profile continues

After retirement, Adell and his wife, Jeri moved back to Nacogdoches, TX. He sat at home enjoying what most would consider a successful life. Then something happened. Adell Mills' dream of becoming an Omega man was in the works.

Adell's son, Bro. Randell Mills contacted his cousin, Bro. Henry Hammons, Founder of Eta Theta Chapter. The two Omega family members called Bro. G.W. Neal, the advisor of Eta Kappa Kappa Chapter at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. Next thing, Adell had started the process of becoming an



Omega man with a group of young men his grandson's age. The group of interested men immediately referred to Adell as "Old School," a name he proudly embraced. Adell wanted to step, but his younger line brothers said 'Old School just watch us.'

Brother Randell Mills and Brother Henry Hammons were joined by the Ninth District Representative Brother Patrick Smith at Adell Mills' initiation ceremony. During the ceremony, Adell, an 81-year-old man heard the voice of his son in one ear, and his cousin in the other ear.

After an over 40-year wait, through a journey of perseverance, Adell Mills completed one of his dreams—a bucket list achievement. Brother Adell Mills became an Omega man on March 22, 2018 through Eta Kappa Kappa Chapter.

## A Fraternity and Nu Omega Legend Joins Omega Chapter Bro. John H. Williams



In 2018, Nu Omega Chapter (Detroit, MI) celebrated Brother John Williams' 100th Birthday on October 26th. Bro. Williams was presented an award by then Tenth District Representative Bro. Darryl L. Jones (left).

Our sweet prince-- John went home as heaven's gates swung open wide for a welcomed and honored celebration. During his 100 years on earth with us, John will be remembered by Omega as one who treated everyone with royalty. He had a golden smile and a passion for capturing pictures of Omega's historical moments. At conclaves and

district meetings, Bro. Williams was always accompanied with his friend named "my camera." One of Brother Williams' most famous pictures is a photograph of Omega's last two Omega Founders Dr. Oscar J. Cooper and Bishop Edgar A. Love featured on this issues cover.

*Detailed cover story in front section*

## Chapter Provides Mental Health Programming

Omicron Beta, an undergraduate chapter organized its first annual programming initiative addressing mental health awareness entitled, "Brother, You're On My Mind." The chapter's November 16, 2018 event is a mental health initiative modeled after the Fraternity's program.

The event was held on the campus of Central Michigan University. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc in partnership with the National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities (NIMHD) is a national program that attacks the stigma on mental health and depression.

This is implemented to change the national dialogue regarding the issue among African American men. The mission for this program initiative is to educate not only members of Omega, but family members, peers, and other community members that deal with the challenges of mental health. A goal that was emphasized during the program was to communicate the importance of seeking help when coping with mental health issues and to encourage affected individuals to get information from their health care providers and others in order to obtain appropriate treatment.

Brothers Emmanuel Glass (Basileus); Miles Newton (Vice Basileus); Floyd Beard (KRS) and Christopher Sanders all contributed in the coordinating for this event. The event consisted of a presentation that gave attendees a brief snapshot of the statistical breakdown, showing evidence of the problem of depression and suicide is in the African American community.



## Bro. F. Stephens Awarded "Omega Man of the Year"

On November 10, 2018, Alpha Chi Chapter's Founders Day Banquet was held at Lake Etta Banquet Hall in Gary, Indiana. Brother Alex Carter served as the chapter's banquet chairman. Bro. Carter presented a detailed narrative history of Omega's Founders. Joshua Horton, a student at Gary's Westside Leadership Academy was presented a plaque by the chapter as the first-place winner of the essay contest.

Brother Foster Stephens made a presentation and scholarship donation on behalf of the Gary Educational Development Foundation (GEDF) from the Alpha Chi Chapter. The scholarships are used to help students of the Gary Community School Corporation attend the colleges of their choice.

Later that evening Brother Stephens was awarded as Alpha Chi Chapter's *Omega Man of the Year*. Stephens was initiated into Omega through Zeta Phi in 1969, and is still very active as a member of Alpha Chi Chapter. Brother Dr. Milbert O. Brown, Jr., was the Founders Day Banquet's featured keynote speaker. Brother Brown, a native of Gary, Indiana is the Fraternity's International Editor of *The Oracle Magazine*.

## OMICRON ALPHA ALPHA PROMOTES HEALTH DISCUSSION

Omicron Alpha Alpha (OAA) participated in a discussion about health titled "Get in touch with your health" recently at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, MI. Internal Medicine specialist Dr. Robert Ferguson discussed with the group causes, treatments, and preventions of the many illnesses that impact black men including prostate cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

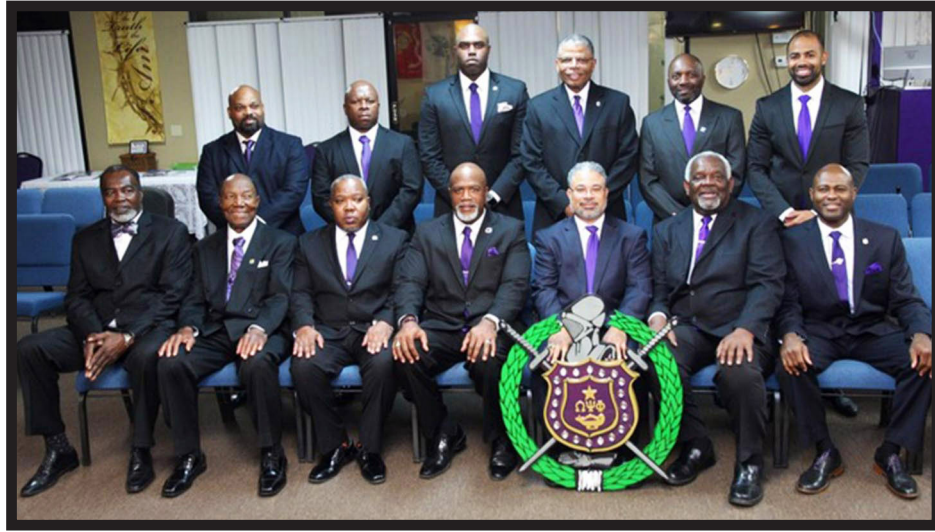
The two-hour session, sponsored by OAA Chapter, was informative and drew overwhelming participation and questions from those attending. The purpose of the session was for Brothers to better understand how to control and combat those deadly diseases that affect black men. OAA Basileus, Brother Art McClellan recommended the session after some members of the Brotherhood became concerned after learning of unexpected illnesses and deaths of Brothers.

"We know that certain illnesses and diseases affect black men harder and more often than they do other groups," explained Brother McClellan. He also added, "it's important as men, fathers, and leaders, we do a better job in maintaining good health for ourselves, our families and educating the community about the diseases."

The National Institute of Health (NIH) reports diabetes is 60% more common in Blacks than in whites. Blacks are up to 2.5 times more likely to suffer a limb amputation and up to 5.6 times more likely to suffer kidney disease than other people with diabetes. Despite lower tobacco use, Black men are 50% more likely to get lung cancer than other groups. And even though cancer treatment is equally successful for all races, Black men have a 40% higher cancer death rate than white men. NIH reports that if you have high blood pressure, your heart must work harder to pump blood, causing a strain on your heart, damage to blood vessels, and will increase your risk of a heart attack, eye problems, kidney problems and stroke.

*Story by Brother Willie Payne*

# New District Chapters



**O**n November 15, 2018 the Omega Mu Nu Chapter was founded. The new chapter based in Lake Elsinore, CA., will provide service within the surrounding areas of western and southwestern areas inside Riverside County. The chapter's inception was spearheaded by Brothers Nick Thompson, Charles Moore, Dr. Alondo Campbell, who as active members of the Pi Rho Chapter discussed plans to create another chapter within the massive Southern California region.

They were joined by 12 other Omega Men to charter Omega Mu Nu Chapter. The 15 Omega men had individually and collectively embraced the principles of Omega. The establishment of the new chapter will bring services to an area without

an organized chapter of Omega men.

The charter members of Omega Mu Nu include Brothers Michael Dorsey, Harold Hutchinson, Dr. Mel Palmer, Nick Thompson, Jonathan Smith, Chuck Moore, Dr. AC Campbell, Vance Jackson Sr., James Noble, Todd Martin, Maurice Smith, Vance Jackson Jr., James Williams, Sylvester House, and DeWitte Mandley

The new chapter members are enthusiastic about creating long-term partnerships with community groups and other Omega chapters. The chapter is also interested in promoting self-sustaining efforts that will increase scholarship and school performance among students within the new chapter's service area. The members of Omega Mu Nu

Chapter will also improve community relations and cultivate strong friendships within the chapter as a priority. Charter members have made commitments in preparing every member to serve as a leader within and outside of our Fraternity.

## Northern Nevada Gets New Chapter

**O**mega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. is proud to announce a new chapter in the northern Nevada area, Alpha Nu Nu Chapter. The chartering ceremony was held on December 16, 2018 in Reno, NV. Presiding over the chartering ceremony was Brother Dennis Martinez, the 12th District Representative of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Alpha Nu Nu Chapter's members include Brothers

*Michael J. Smith, Basileus*  
*Joseph Simmons, Jr., Vice-Basileus*  
*Alvin P. Bolton, Keeper of Records and Seal*  
*Vince Harris, Chaplain and Keeper of Finance*  
*Thomas King, Jr., Keeper of Peace*  
*Matthew Williams Jr., Editor to the Oracle*

*Brett B. Butts*  
*William C. Webb*  
*Caesar Andrews*  
*W.M. Dillon*  
*George Bell*



Part of Xi Gamma Gamma Chapter's social action activities included feeding the homeless in Oceanside, California.

## Phoenix Symphony Honors Omega's Brother Alex Laing as Clarinetist

**T**he Phoenix Symphony presented a celebration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's music featuring principal clarinetist and Omega's Alex Laing. The performance was held at the Symphony Hall on January 5, 2019 in Phoenix, AZ.

Bro. Laing took center stage and performed a Concerto in A Major for the clarinet and the orchestra. For approximately 30 minutes, the audience was focused on Laing's flawless performance. He presented three movements from Mozart's Concerto. Upon the conclusion of his performance, he received an extended standing ovation that resulted in three curtain calls. Laing said the Symphony rarely feature a particular instrumental artist. Omega men from Phi Iota and Alpha Theta chapters attended Brother Laing's performance.

Brother Laing is an accomplished instrumental artist with numerous achievements and awards having been recently recognized with a Sphinx Medal of Excellence and he was named as one of Musical America's Professionals of the Year for 2017. As a sought after speaker and guest faculty member, Brother Laing is a graduate of Northwestern University, where he was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through Psi Sigma Chapter.

Brother Laing also received his master's degree in Orchestral Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, an artist's diploma from the Sweelinck Conservatorium Amsterdam and a certificate in nonprofit management from Arizona State's Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation.

## 40th Anniversary Arctic Ques

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA-** In September 2018, Gamma Alpha Alpha Chapter celebrated their 40th year anniversary. Three of the six chapter charter members including Brother Lewis Sears, Brother Jerry Cheatom and Brother Rocky Sharper attended the event.

Basileus Brother Nathaniel Rivers and the "Arctic Ques" organized an array of festivities that included a comedy show and an awards banquet. Notable attendees included the 12th District Representative Dennis Martinez. Brother Martinez served as the Awards Banquet's keynote speaker. Also, attending the event was Brother John Howard, the Fraternity's Assistant Executive Director; the First Vice District Representative Kwame Dow; Area Representative Brother Davis and Brother Tim Walter, former 12th District Marshal. The 12th District Representative Brother Martinez recognized the chapter for its leadership and community activism in the 12th District. The award recipients included:

Brother Marcus Wilson for the Omega Man of the Year Award

Brother Nathaniel Rivers, Superior Service Award

Brother Franklin Harris, Founders Award

Brother Donyel Williams for Colonel Charles Young Award

Citizen of the Year Award to Mrs. Ramona Rivers.

Special recognition to chartered members in attendance included Brother Lewis Sears, Brother Rocky Sharper and Brother Jerry Cheatom.

Omega's Supreme Council Attends the Chartering of New Chapter

# CHI MU NU, NEWEST CHAPTER IN CHINA



In keeping with the vision of our noble Founders and recognizing the Fraternity's intent to enhance our footprint globally, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly announced the chartering of the Fraternity's newest international China based, Chi Mu Nu Chapter.

After more than 18 months of planning, 11 men were found worthy to proudly carry the mantle of Omega. This group of committed Brothers upheld the principles of Omega and have been instruments of service throughout the community of Shanghai, China.

The 41st Grand Basileus, Brother Dr. David E. Marion and members of Omega's Supreme Council were also accompanied by a delegation of Omega men that represented a cross-section of the Fraternity. The historic chartering ceremony was held on December 1, 2018. The charter weekend focused on community service, as Omega sought to continue making an impact on the community in Shanghai.

Photographs by Bro. James Witherspoon, IHQ and Oracle International Photographer



## Rev. Dr. King Remembered by Omega Chapters Worldwide Omegas Celebrate MLK Day



Lambda Xi's Brigadier General David Wison (center) served as the chapter's guest speaker for their Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program. The event was held at Camp Humphries in Seoul, Korea. Also in the photograph is Bro. Richard Williams (2nd from the left).

On January 19, 2019, Sigma Gamma Gamma held their 2nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Banquet. The event was held at the Kadena Officers Club on Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. Bro. Kenric Stevenson served as the event's guest speaker. Stevenson is the executive officer for Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistic Group.

Germany's Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter held their Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lunch on January 14th. The event was held at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's Heaton Auditorium.

The special Dr. King luncheon was attended by over 100 military members, civilians and Omega men. Brother Dave Scott coordinated the event.

## Chapter in Africa Promotes Culture & History

Ghana's Tau Chi Chapter held a week-long festival that featured musical entertainment, dances, dinners, and history. Other activities included family day trips which showcased different parts of Ghanaian culture. The chapter provided historical information about Ghana and its relationship with Africans that arrived in America.

**Sankofa-** In 1619 twenty Africans were taken to the English colony of Jamestown, Virginia. This act started the legal practice of slavery. For 150 years Ghana, the former Gold Coast, was the center of the British slave trade. It is estimated that about 10 million slaves were imprisoned in the 40 plus fortresses on the coast of Ghana and eventually forcibly sent to America. Ghana, the first sub-Saharan African country to shake off colonial rule 61 years ago, has become the destination of choice for Black people looking for a spiritual home and an ancestral connection in Africa. The descendants of these slaves welcome all our Brothers and sisters back home.

**Akwaaba-** Ghana, from where some of our brothers and sisters passed into slavery invited its descendants in the diaspora to return home. The country has had a long history, from the days of its first president, Kwame Nkrumah, who encouraged the return of people of African descent to help with the continent's development and growth. In 2000, the country passed a law on the 'Right of Abode', which allows a person of African descent to apply and be granted the right to stay in Ghana indefinitely.



## **“WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES”**

**When we wear the gloves  
A brother has gone from our midst  
And sailed to golden shores.**

**When we wear the gloves  
A friend has passed the final test  
And walks through purple doors.**

**The circle has an empty place  
A voice will raise no more  
The song of fellowship and love  
Uplift forevermore**

**When we wear the gloves  
When we wear the gloves  
A light goes from this earthly life  
The visor closed again  
Yet all the heavens open wide  
To let a new star in**

**When we wear the gloves  
A brother leaves the chapter rolls  
And moves to other worlds  
For when we say our last goodbye  
He walks on streets of Pearls.**

**When we wear the gloves.**

**by Brother Dr. Carver A. Portlock**

### **Brother Andrew A. Allen, Sr.** *Director of Public Housing*

Brother Allen entered Omega Chapter on October 21, 2018. He was initiated into Omega Psi Phi through Rho Chapter on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University in Fall 1942. After serving in the U.S. Army during WWII, Allen returned to school graduating with a B.S. and Master's in Divinity from Smith. Later, he received a second Master's Degree from the University of Bridgeport. After graduation, Bro. Allen served as the Director of Public Housing and the Director of the Concentrated Employment Program. Bro. Allen was a long-time member of Pi Phi Chapter.

### **Brother Nathan Armstrong** *Diversity Officer*

Brother Armstrong entered Omega Chapter on July 27, 2018. He was initiated through Tau Sigma (University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) in 1958. He graduated from the school with a Bachelor's Degree. He later received his MBA from Roosevelt University, a MS degree from Governors State University, and a law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. In 1960s he served in the U.S. Army. He retired from Amoco Oil Company as a Diversity Officer. Brother Armstrong, a Life Member was active with Chicago's Sigma Omega Chapter. Two of his sons Joel (Alpha Mu) and Courtney (Sigma Omega) are also members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

### **Brother Richard L. Barfield, Jr.** *Educator*

Brother Barfield entered Omega Chapter recently. He received his B.S. degree from East Carolina University majoring in Health & Physical Education. He joined Omega Phi Fraternity Inc. through Upsilon Zeta Chapter in 1983. He later joined Iota Iota Chapter in Raleigh, NC. Brother Barfield was an educator for 30 years in the Wake Co. School System. After retiring, he worked for the City of Raleigh's Athletics Department.

### **Brother Richard "Ricky" Buster** *Public Servant*

Brother Buster entered Omega Chapter on October 1, 2018. He was initiated into Omega Psi Phi through Chi Kappa Chapter in 1986. Brother Buster attended Hampton University, but later graduated from Morgan State University with degrees in Business and Information Systems. He also earned a Master's in Forensic Science from Stevenson University. Brother Buster served in the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Army Reserves. He retired from the military as a Warrent Officer. In addition, Brother Richard "Ricky" Buster was the first African American sworn in as a firefighter in Baltimore County, Maryland. He also served the public as a police officer for Fredericksburg, Dumfries and Quantico Police Departements in Virginia.

### **Brother Kenneth L. Carter** *Educator*

Brother Carter entered Omega Chapter recently. The Marietta, GA native was an advocate for physical fitness early in life. He began his formal fitness development in high school where he participated in basketball, football, track and boxing. He received the State Featherweight Golden Glove Championship while in high school. He received his B.S. Degree from Lincoln University; M.A. Degree from Indiana University; Specialist Degree from Jacksonville State and a B.A. Degree from Atlanta University. Bro. Carter served in the United States Marine Corps for three years. While serving, he was the on the football and boxing teams. Bro. Kenneth Carter was initiated through Eta Sigma (Lincoln University in Missouri) in 1958. He was an active charter member of Chi Gamma Gamma Chapter.

### **Brother Billy Davis** *Dentist*

Brother Gibbs entered Omega Chapter recently. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Kappa Epsilon Chapter (St. Augustine College) in 1951. Brother Davis was a member of our Fraternity for almost 67 years, and remained financial and active with Pi Omega Graduate Chapter in Baltimore MD for over 50 years of his Omega Life. He was a Que-Mentor, and he assisted with countless civic and mandated programs throughout his work in our Fraternity. It was always a sincere pleasure to see Billy D. at chapter meetings.

Just as his commitment to scholastic and professional achievements, so was his determination and commitment to service, brotherhood and friendship for over 65 years. Davis completed his undergraduate degree at St. Augustine College. He later received his Master's Organic Chemistry from Howard University, and his Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1958 from Howard University.

### **Brother Fred D. Garrett, Sr.** *An Omega Man*

Brother Fred D. Garrett, Sr., 93, of Greenville, NC entered Omega Chapter on November 8, 2018. Brother Garrett was initiated December 4, 1949 into Xi Psi Chapter at South Carolina State College. He later joined Phi Alpha Chapter where he served Omega until March 1974. On March 9, 1974, he and 22 other men of Omega chartered Mu Pi Chapter in Greenville, SC. Brother Garrett served on several committees in Mu Pi and was a faithful member until his death. He was very instrumental in the purchasing of the chapter Fraternity House in Greenville. Brother Garrett served Omega for 69 years. Brother Garrett graduated from South Carolina State College. He also served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He was later employed at Clemson University as an Agricultural Agent. Following his career at Clemson, he became a partner and owner of Watkins, Garrett and Woods Mortuary.

### **Brother Keele M. Goodwin**

*An Omega Man*

Brother Goodwin was initiated into Omega on December 11, 2011 through Epsilon Gamma Gamma Chapter. He entered Omega Chapter on August 23, 2018. Brother Goodwin graduated from the Citadel with a Bachelor's Degree in Business, and later a MBA. Bro. Goodwin's professional career consisted of more than 10 years of service in banking. He also served as the Greenwood County Auditor. He was the first African American to hold that position in Greenwood County. He had a passion for serving his community by working on numerous civic and community organizations including: Past President of the Lions Club of Abbeville, Trustee of the Little River Baptist Center, Board Member of Sexual Trauma and Counseling Center, and Epsilon Gamma Gamma's Talent Hunt, Budget and Finance Committees. He also served as the chapter's Keeper of Finance.

### **Brother Ernest Hall**

*Educator*

Brother Ernest "E.D." Hall entered Omega Chapter on January 25, 2019. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Elizabeth City State University in 1973 and was awarded a Master of Arts in Education Administration from East Carolina University in 1979. He was initiated at Elizabeth City State University's Lambda Gamma Chapter in 1970. Brother Hall was a charter member of Beta Beta Beta Chapter in 1980. He retired from the Johnston County School system in 2009, with his last appointment as the Assistant Superintendent of Information Services. He served the Fraternity for more than 45 years. He was Beta Beta Beta Chapter's Basileus, Sixth District Keeper of Records and Seal, Sixth District Event Planner, and Assistant Grand Keeper of Records and Seal. He was also the Sixth District's *Omega Man of the Year* in 2016.

### **Brother Hansel Hall**

*Government Administrator*

Brother Hall was born March 12, 1927 in Gary, Indiana to Alfred and Grace Hall. He joined the Air Force in 1951, serving in Korea and achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He received a bachelor's degree in business from Indiana University in 1953 and years later earned a law degree from Blackstone School of Law. Hall was one of the pioneers shaping anti-discrimination policies in Minnesota, implementing the then-new civil rights laws for federal agencies ranging from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **Brother James E. Miller, Jr.**

*An Omega Man*

Brother Miller entered Omega Chapter recently. He was initiated into Omega through Eta Sigma Chapter (Lincoln University) on April 6 1963. Brother graduated from Lincoln in 1965, and later earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from Atlanta University. During his long and active membership in Omega, Brother Miller worked very hard, and he conceived numerous innovative ideas. Moreover, his leadership and mentorship to the fraternity was unparalleled.

### **Brother John C. Rhames, Sr.**

*Educator*

Brother Rhames entered Omega Chapter on October 4, 2018. He was initiated into Omega through Tau Pi Chapter in 1976. He was a member of new chapter's second line, the "Magnificent Six." He served in the the U.S. Air Force for four years. He enrolled at the Community College of Baltimore where he discovered his career path and graduated in 1971 with an Associate Degree in Recreational Leadership. In 1973 he earned his Bachelor degree in Urban Recreation from the University of Baltimore. He later received a Master of Science in 1978. Brother Rhames professional career of over forty years began as a professor and coach at Baltimore Community College. His accolades were Coach of the Year in 1974; Region 20 Red Devil Coach of the Year in 1980; NAACP All Star Coach Award in 1990, and many other prestigious awards. He received seven community service awards including the Baltimore Citizen Citation in 1980 and the Mayor of Baltimore Merit Award in 2000.

### **Brother Jason V. Russell**

*An Omega Man*

Brother Russell was initiated at Eta Omega Chapter in 2010. Russell graduated from Morehouse College with a Bachelor's in Corporate Finance. His father, Brother Verner Russell was earlier initiated through Eta Sigma Chapter, and he shared in his son's initiation into Omega. Shortly after his initiation, Brother Jason Russell joined the Social Committee. He also represented Eta Omega on the Planning Committee for the 2011 Metro-Gala, where all the Atlanta Graduate Chapters celebrated the Fraternity's 100th Year Centennial. Bro. Russell served as the chapter's Vice Basileus, and in 2014, he was voted Eta Omega Chapter's "*Omega Man of the Year*." When Bro. Russell received the prestigious chapter award, his father, Bro. Vernel Russell was in attendance.

### **Brother Haywood Stephney**

*Deputy Director of Health*

Brother Stephney entered Omega Chapter on November 11, 2018. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Tougaloo College where he majored in Biology with minors in chemistry and mathematics. While an undergraduate, he was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through Rho Epsilon Chapter on April 18, 1970. Upon graduation, he returned home and was active in Iota Omicron Chapter in Clarksdale, MS. He later moved to New York. In 1972, he joined the New York City Department of Health, where he was employed for over 40 years. With advanced studies in disease control from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA. earning a specialty in epidemiology, he obtained the position of Disease Intervention Specialist. During his career at the New York City Health Department, Stephney held positions as Deputy Director of in the Department of Immunization, Contracts Manager for the Bureau of Maternity, Infant and Reproductive Health. Brother Stephney joined Beta Alpha Alpha Chapter in White Plains, NY. He served several terms as Keeper of Records and Seal, Keeper of Finance, Membership Selection Process Chair, Board member of the Beta Alpha Alpha Foundation, as well as Vice Basileus. He was the current Basileus of Beta Alpha Alpha Chapter before his transition to Omega Chapter.

### **Brother Theodore Washington**

*U.S. Army*

Brother Washington entered Omega Chapter on November 11, 2018. He attended South Carolina State University, and later earned his BS degree from Cameron University. Brother Washington was a founding member of Theta Rho Chapter in West Germany. In the Army, Washington was part of the 101st, 1st and 82nd Airborne Divisions. He received two Bronze Medals, a Silver Star and a Purple Heart. After returning to the states, Bro. Washington joined Mu Alpha Chapter and proudly served for over 40 years. The chapter awarded him several awards including the Dedicated Brother of the Year Award.

### **Brother John Henry Williams, Jr.**

*Former Sixth District Representative*

Brother Williams was raised in Greenville, SC. After high school graduation, he served in the U.S. Air Force for eight years. Bro. Williams received an Associate Degree from Greenville Technical College, and later earned a B.S.

Brother Williams was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Mu Pi Chapter. Williams, a Life Member was elected as 34th Sixth District Representative, First Vice District Representative, Basileus and Vice Basileus of Mu Pi Chapter. Williams also received the *Omega Man of the Year Award*. He also served as the Dean of Education and Keeper of Records and Seal.

Bro. Williams held other positions within the Fraternity including a member of the Talent Hunt Committee; Keeper of Properties; Chairman of the Mardi Gras, Chairman of Audit Committee, Chairman of Achievement Week Observance. When Bro. Williams officially retired, he founded the Retired Ques Breakfast Club.

He continued to work for Omega by becoming part of the Recommendations Committee; Regional Membership Selection Team, Area District Representative; Regional Membership Intake Chairman; District Regional Membership Intake Chairman; Sixth District Nominating Committee and Chairman of District Regional Membership Selection Process. Bro. Williams was employed by General Electric Turbine and was promoted as the first Black Plant Manager in 1979.

### **Brother Judson Wood**

*Educator*

Brother Wood entered Omega Chapter recently. He was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. through the Pi Omega Chapter in 1971. Brother Wood graduated from Coppin State in 1958 with a degree in Education. In 1968, he received his Masters of Education, with a concentration in School Administration from Towson State College.

He was employed as a teacher. His outstanding work, and performance yielded to a promotion as a principal at four different schools. Wood completed his educational career as the first Ombudsman for the Baltimore City Public School system. Brother Wood, a Life Member remained financial and active with Pi Omega Graduate Chapter for all of his Omega Life. As a member of Pi Omega Chapter, Brother Wood served on every committee including duties as a District Marshal, KRS, Fund Raising Chair, Member at Large, Vice Basileus and Basileus.

Brother Wood was honored as the chapter's 1984 *Omega Man of the Year* for his outstanding work to secure the chapter's Fraternity Center. His work within the chapter left a legacy in Pi Omega's great history. Wood organized the Omega Housing Board, Inc., which orchestrated the signing of a \$1 purchase contract to secure Pi Omega's Fraternity Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
International Headquarters  
3951 Snapfinger Pkwy  
Decatur, GA 30035



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