Noah’s Curse And Early America’s Rationale For Slavery

Grand Officers Address To The Brotherhood

What Black History Means To Me By Brother Dwight Fryer

BROTHER ANTHONY C. “TONY” HILL, SR. POST MODERN VISIONARY FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA
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Tony Hill, the name he is best known by, is serving in the Florida Senate, after first being elected in November 2002, and subsequently re-elected, without opposition, in 2004. His district encompasses portions of Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Putman and Volusia Counties. He currently serves as Senate Democratic Floor Leader, Chair of the Joint Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Vice Chair of the Community Affairs Committee, Vice Chair of the Military Affairs and Domestic Security Committee, and on several other committees.

Prior to being elected to the Florida Senate, Hill was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1992 and subsequently re-elected, unopposed, for three consecutive terms.
Why Birmingham?

It is not a coincidence that our Fraternity’s 75th biennial International Grand Conclave takes place this month in the historic state of Alabama.

History vividly reminds us that Alabama was a vital battleground in our people’s journey and struggle towards justice and equality.

Montgomery is where Rosa Parks, an unassuming seamstress, was arrested on the afternoon of Dec. 1, 1955, after she refused to give her bus seat to a white passenger. While at the time, it may have appeared that Parks’ actions were inconsequential. However, it was later revealed that it was part of deliberate and resolute effort to challenge the forces of racism and segregation.

Her gallant act of defiance is credited with starting the modern civil-rights movement. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. would soon pick up the leadership torch to galvanize efforts that eventually led to integration of the city’s bus system and laid the foundation for other civil rights efforts.

Years later, Alabama would serve a cornerstone in securing voting rights for thousands of our people. Seeking to bring forth their demands for equality to Gov. George Wallace, civil rights workers organized a march from Selma-to-Montgomery.

What started as a march on a pleasant Sunday afternoon quickly turned to bloodshed when Wallace ordered the marchers beaten. Marchers were confronted by steel-helmeted troopers and mounted sheriff’s deputies swinging billy clubs and firing tear gas. That incident later became known as “Bloody Sunday.”

Two weeks after the violence at the bridge stopped the first march, King and other notables led a second march. This one was authorized by a federal judge and protected by thousands of federal troops all the way to Montgomery.

The events, including Ku Klux Klan violence against the march, galvanized Congress to pass the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The law lowered voting barriers to black people across the South.

If we were to fast-forward to the present day, we find ourselves at another historic crossroads. We have been blessed with the opportunity to elect U.S. Sen. Barack Obama our next president.

Just as Rosa Parks made an incredible, unselfish yet courageous decision to stand up for what is right, we too, have a unique opportunity to make the decision that will have an impact for many generations to come. We must choose to be on the right side of history.

During the next week or so, thousands of Omega men will gather here in Birmingham to handle the business of our Fraternity, perform community services, awards thousands in scholarship, but most importantly, continue to fulfill the unyielding and unifying dream of our beloved Founders, which humbly remains to make a difference in the lives of Black People.

Your Friend and Brother,
Warren G. Lee, Jr.
38th Grand Basileus
From The Desk Of The Managing Editor:
Brother Troy Moore
Omega's Clarion Call Editorial Board Policies

Omega's Clarion Call is one of three official publications of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Like its predecessor, this publication is charged with providing a quality magazine which is representative of the high standards of the organization and contains substantive and informative materials for its readers.

Editorial Board Policies And Procedures

All chapter articles must be submitted directly to the District Director of Public Relations before the deadline dates. This will allow for editing by the District Director of Public Relations prior to submission to the International Editor. **All articles will be submitted by the DDPR's by email only to clarioncall@oppf.org.** A maximum of three articles per chapter will be allowed per publication / edition.

All articles must be reviewed for grammatical perfection, correct spelling, and proper tense and syntax. They must also be reviewed for acceptable composition and form, relevance and journalistic style. The articles should address who, what, when, where, and how. They should not exceed one page and they should be single spaced only. Photos should have captions which will properly identify the persons and the event or they will not be used.

The Omega's Clarion Call Editorial Board reserves the right to reject any article or to make any editorial changes deemed appropriate.

OCC Delivery

In order to insure that a copy of OCC is received, Brothers must have a deliverable address. The “My Page” section of the Fraternity's official website will allow an instant update of your address. Go on line to www.oppf.org to make any needed changes. Brothers should also check with their local post offices to verify if there are any pending address forwarding requests, mail holding requests or address change requests on file.

Brother Troy Moore
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Omega Partners

The Friendship Foundation:
The Friendship Foundation Inc. (FFI) professionally manages Omega World Center. The staff of property management professionals has been recognized for its outstanding customer service. The facilities are available for Awards Ceremonies, Business Meetings, Classes, Seminars & Forums and Weddings & Receptions.

Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc.:
The Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc. was established in 1984. It was chartered to aid organizations involved in charitable, educational, scholastic and scientific pursuits. It has supported a number of Uplift and Scholastic projects and initiatives started and endorsed by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Omega Charities, Inc.:
Omega Charities, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides educational and youth training for young men and community services for the needy throughout the United States.

Omega Development Corporation:
The preferred usage of the Omega Development Corporation is to be Omega’s primary non-profit entity that partners with other various organizations for the purposes providing good will to humanity.

Omega Federal Credit Union:
With the potential to have more than 100,000 members, Omega Federal Credit Union has opened many financial avenues for the Fraternity's members, families and employees. Working with an excellent team of dedicated Board Members and Committees, we now have a competitive, financially secure credit union. Brothers are encouraged to join, save, borrow and take advantage of all the services available. Omega Federal Credit Union will continue to increase its services and welcomes new ideas, input and suggestions to make this credit union the finest in the world at servicing the needs of the Brotherhood.
Mankind had failed and rebelled against God. The world was judged as evil, vile and forsaken. The King of kings was broken hearted and mankind no longer stood in His favor. But there was one. There was one who was found to be worthy in His eyes. Genesis 9 describes one of the most dramatic moments in human history.

**Noah, the Ark and the Curse fast track 101:** Noah lands the ark, plants a vineyard, gets drunk off its wine, lays around naked in his tent and is seen by his son Ham who reports it to his two brothers. Noah sobered up knowing that Ham did in fact see him naked and curses his grandson, Canaan, who was not even there at the time of the indiscretion.

**The Anatomy of Noah’s Curse on Canaan, son of Ham and grandson of Noah:** The name Ham has been believed throughout the ages to be related to the ancient Hebrew word meaning black, brown or dark as well as another word meaning hot, which has been interpreted to imply that which has been scorched by the sun. This notion is no longer accepted by modern scholars.

The curse went down like this, “...And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it upon both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father’s nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, he said, ‘Cursed be Canaan; a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers...’” He also said, “Blessed by the Lord my God be Shem; and let Canaan be his slave. God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; and let Canaan be his slave.”

So where is the relationship between this and the justification for enslaving the Black race? Well, after researching this sensitive subject myself, I decided to adhere to the warnings of many authors to not misinterpret or twist the Bible’s meanings and references to this issue for political ends. Because by the time I had gotten half way through what I thought this would be about, I realized that I was not adhering to the warnings about this subject and had formulated an opinion and was prepared to challenge everything that I once thought of Noah. I further concluded that I should allow others who have thoroughly and legitimately completed researched to speak to the issue. I will concede and allow those who are better qualified to explain things by quoting them and giving credit where it is due. The following source material has been taken from Torah Commentary: Genesis, by Nahum M. Sarna, Jewish Publication Society (1989); Noah’s Curse, by Stephen R. Haynes, Oxford University Press (2002) and The Curse of Ham, by David M. Goldenberg, Princeton University Press (2003): “...Thus many of the Jewish rabbis and the early Christian fathers linked Ham’s descendents with dark skin, the mark of Noah’s curse. We have statements to this effect from Origen (c. 185-254), Augustine (354-430) and Ambrose of Milan (339-397.) The curse of Canaan, which probably referred to the Middle Eastern political situation in the 10th Century BC, was now interpreted by some as a perpetual curse on Ham’s descendants.

It wasn’t just Christians and Jews who interpreted matters this way. By the late 600s and early 700s, Muslim conquests in Africa brought an increasing number of Black African slaves into the Near East. Islamic literature as early as 650 AD includes a few explicit references (such as Wahd ibn Munabbih and Ka’b al Akhbar) saying that God changed Ham’s color and the color of his descendents because of Noah’s curse. These are the first texts explicitly linking slavery and blackness.

By the mid 700s, we find Christians, Jewish and Muslim writers commenting and sermonizing that Noah’s curse on Ham was twofold: slavery and black skin. To emphasize, the Bible never says that black-skinned people are descended from Ham, nor that black skin is a curse or a debasement. On the contrary, in the Bible, black Africans are described as military powerful, tall and good looking, similar to images in Greco-Roman culture. There is no indication whatsoever of a negative view of black-skinned people. In fact, there is one episode (Numbers 12:1) that can be interpreted as God punishing Aaron and Miriam for being prejudiced against...
the dark-skinned Kushites. No mater –if your goal is to twist the Bible to suit your political agenda, the actual text can be ignored.

We now jump a thousand years to the age of colonization, when these concepts were formalized and broadly accepted. The enslaved black African peoples were physically different from the Europeans doing the enslaving. In the 1500s, beginning in Spain and Portugal, physical status (like race) was linked to social status and the slave stereotype was established. The stereotype went beyond mere slavery. Ham was also a symbol of sexual transgression (based on interpretations that his offense against Noah was somehow sexual and that he was sexually loose in the Ark). Not only were Blacks destined to be enslaved, they were connected with sexual depravity.

There is no clear date when what Stephen Haynes calls ‘the fateful conjunction of slavery and race in Western readings of Noah’s prophecy’ occurred. The process was gradual. As sermons and speeches re-interpreted the Biblical text, the curse of Ham became the ultimate justification for slavery. It explained why there were different races, and why the Black races were slaves. David Goldenberg writes:

Perhaps the clearest and most succinct expression of this belief are the words of the Dominican Fray Francisco de la Cruz, who reported to the Inquisition in 1575 that, ‘the Blacks are justly captives by just sentence of God for the sins of their fathers, and that in sith thereof God gave them that color.

By the late 1600s, the curse of Ham was well entrenched as divine sanction for slavery. In colonial America, the belief that Ham was Black, and that Noah’s curse was race-related, was widely subscribed to in both the North and South.

By the 1830s, when the American anti-slavery movement had become a political force, slavery advocates had evolved an elaborate, systematic defense of slavery, arguing from scripture. Haynes writes, ‘Noah’s curse was a stock weapon in the arsenal of slavery’s apologists, and reference to Genesis 9 appeared prominently in their publications.’ For example, J.J. Flourney, writing in 1838, says, ‘the Blacks were originally designed to vassalage by the Patriarch Noah.’ Even many Blacks accepted this as their God-ordained state.

The literal meaning of the Biblical text was left far behind. This wasn’t the first time, and won’t be the last, that the Bible has been twisted to support beliefs that are completely incompatible with the original intent.

Belief in the curse of Ham didn’t stop with the abolition of slavery. Throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, the notion that the lowly status of Black people was divinely ordained was repeated in sermons and speeches. Noah’s curse re-emerged virulently in the 1950s and 1960s, when Southern White Christians used it to justify racial segregation in the face of the Civil Rights movement. Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia read the text of the Noah story and curse into the Congressional Record as part of a filibuster against the Civil Rights Act of 1964, saying, ‘Noah saw fit to discriminate against Ham’s descendents.’

A 1969 study of Lutheran Sunday school lessons and other educational materials found an implied justification of Black slavery and segregation. James Baldwin, in The Fire Next Time (1964) wrote, ‘I knew, according to many Christians, I was a descendent of Ham who had been cursed, and I was therefore pre-destined to be a slave.’

Following passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, one might think that Ham’s curse was at last put to rest. Alas, no. Haynes writes: ‘Because a majority of Americans now share the vision of an integrated society it is tempting to regard Noah’s curse as discredited and irrelevant. Yet the stereotypes and myths that once animated racial readings of Genesis continue to operate on the American imagination.’

As recently as October 17, 2004, Louis Farrakhan, an anti-White and anti-Semitic extremist, mentioned the Hamitic curse in a rant blaming the Jews for mistreatment of Blacks. What do we conclude from all this? The Bible is a complex set of texts, including poetry, allegory, parable, and folktale, written over a long period of time. It has spawned a great deal of mythology not found in the actual text.

The Bible is very consistent in deploring and limiting slavery. While slavery is not condemned outright—that would have been very difficult for a people in antiquity—slaves must be set free in the seventh year, slaves can not be mistreated, etc. The Bible was not written with modern sensibilities, but it was advanced for its time.

Using the Bible to justify enslaving Black people is taking a sentence out of context and horribly distorting the tone and thrust of the rest of the text. That doesn’t stop racists from doing it. In short: “The devil quotes Scripture for his own purposes...”
Black History Month, held in February each year, celebrates the contributions and history of persons of African descent in the United States. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, often credited with founding this commemoration, believed in making “the world sees the Negro as a participant rather than as a lay figure in history.” He organized the first National Negro Week in 1926 during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. That event has evolved into today’s month long celebration of African American History.

This period includes studies of the history of African Americans during the early European exploration of the Americas, the beginnings of African slavery, the slave trade, the antebellum and post-bellum, and civil rights periods of this country. Also, examinations of inventions and contributions by African Americans occur. For example, did you know that the term the “Real McCoy” is believed to be a reference to Elijah McCoy who invented a very reliable and automatic lubricator for oiling steam engines in 1872? Every person using a personal computer to access disk drives, scanners, speakers, etc. can thank Mark Dean and his co-inventor for creating a microcomputer system with bus control means for peripheral processing devices. History is a great teacher and an interesting way to look at paradigms and icons from a different point of view. The banjo, today considered a staple in bluegrass and country music, originated in Africa and until the 1800s was considered to be an instrument only played by Blacks.

During December 2007, my wife and I visited Nashville for a basketball tournament that featured my alma mater, The University of Memphis. While there, we took two hours to visit the re-opening ceremony of Fort Negley. This important historic site was a strategic location in the Civil War battle for Nashville, which Union forces won in February 1862. Also, a great deal of the construction to fortify the fort and the Nashville area was completed by the
more than 2,000 soldiers and civilians of African American descent recruited and impressed into service by the northern army. By the end of the war in 1865, Union forces owed over $85,000 to freedmen and the former loyal masters of slaves used in this work.

On the Fort Negley site on the day of our visit was a historic African American Union army regiment from nearby Murfreesboro. It was great to see men of African descent proudly and accurately display the blue uniforms of the Union army. We enjoyed standing around their open camp fire and sampling the white beans with ham and beef stew from the big black pots hung there. We discussed how things used to be and reflected on how far our society has come.

Mr. Michael E. Crutcher, Sr. was also present and did an outstanding job reenacting the presence of Frederick Douglass—his physical appearance and manner was remarkably similar to the great orator, leader, and freedom fighter. It was a special day and a wonderful time to reflect on the many important contributions that African Americans have made in the building of the United States. We should all slow down and remember what it means to be a part of this country and the contributions that all our ancestors have made.

A person that does not know history risks the repetition of past mistakes while not including triumphs worthy of frequent repetition. In our brief space here, I can only introduce you to a few kernels on African American History and why it is an important course of study for all, not just persons of color. Celebrate Black History every month and include it in your regular historical studies in all disciplines.

Brother Dwight Fryer is an ordained Christian minister and an international marketing manager at a global transportation company based in Memphis, a graduate of the University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University, a board member of Porter-Leath Children’s Center and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. His first novel The Legend of Quito Road earned him a position among the five finalists for Outstanding Literary Work from a Debut Author at the 38th NAACP Image Awards in February 2007. His second book, The Knees of Gullah Island arrived in stores in March 2008. Omega’s Clarion Call welcomes Brother Fryer as an ongoing staff writer for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Brother State Senator Tony Hill, the name he is best known by, is serving in the Florida Senate, after first being elected in November 2002, and subsequently re-elected, without opposition, in 2004. His district encompasses portions of Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Putman and Volusia Counties. He currently serves as Senate Democratic Floor Leader, Chair of the Joint Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Vice Chair of the Community Affairs Committee, Vice Chair of the Military Affairs and Domestic Security Committee and on several other committees.

Prior to being elected to the Florida Senate, Brother State Senator Hill was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1992 and subsequently re-elected, unopposed, for three consecutive terms.

He is former chair of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators’ Labor Round Table, the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators and the Duval, Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns County Legislative Delegations. During the 2004 election he served as Florida’s Statewide Co-Chair for the Minimum Wage Initiative (Amendment 5), which successfully raised Florida’s minimum wage.

In January of 2000, then Representative Hill’s 24 hour protest and sit-in, along with his then colleague, State Senator Meek, now Congressman Meek, in Florida’s Lt. Governor’s Office to oppose the Governor’s refusal to talk with them about his Executive Order to eliminate Affirmative Action policies in state contracting and university admissions, led to the historic “March on Tallahassee”.

After leaving the Florida House in 2000, due to term limits, he continued his leadership activities: co-chaired the Florida Coalition to Reduce Class Size, resulting in Florida Constitutional Amendment 9, requiring smaller class sizes, which he continued to champion, successfully, after being elected to the Florida Senate. He co-chaired the ‘Arrive-With-Five Campaign’, a statewide tour which galvanized Florida’s voters to take five additional voters to the polls with them, helping to increase Florida’s African-American voter turnout during the 2000 Presidential Election. Brother State Senator Hill represented Florida as one of the 25 members of the Electoral College during the 2000 Presidential Election, making him one of only two representatives from Jacksonville, FL.

In October of 2007, Brother State Senator Hill, in conjunction with Enterprise Florida, lead a trade delegation to South Africa and Namibia, visiting Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bela Bela, Cape Town, East London and Windhoek, in continuation of Florida’s effort to expand business and cultural partnerships in Southern Africa.

Brother State Senator Hill is Co-Founder of Florida’s Black Male College Explorers program, initiated to encourage At-Risk Black Males to remain in high school and continue on to college, resulting in over $6 Million being allocated for the programs in the state’s four (4) Historically Black Colleges and Universities since its inception. He is a conscious advocate for Prostate Cancer examinations,
and sponsored legislation creating Florida’s African-American Task Force on Prostate Cancer. He is an appointed member of the Florida Home Ownership Promotes the Economy (HOPE) Task Force, established by Florida’s Governor to address Florida’s escalating foreclosure rate and its impact on Florida’s economy. He initiated legislation during the 2008 Legislative Session resulting in Florida’s Apology for Slavery, making Florida the 5th state in the country to formally issue apologies for Slavery. And sponsored legislation which designates “Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky” as Florida’s Official Anthem, and designates the song “Old Folks at Home”, revised lyrics (deleting reference to “darkeys” and replacing the imitation Black English Vernacular with modern English), as Florida’s State Song.

He was instrumental in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.’s partnership with Feed The Children, and the 2nd Annual Omega/Feed The Children joint partnership will take place during the 75th Grand Conclave. He is the National Co-Chair of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc./Historically Black Colleges & Universities Loan Forgiveness Program, created to encourage Black Males to enter the field of Education. He is the Co-Founder of Omega’s Political Action Summits, initiated in Florida, and now held annually during Legislative Sessions in other state capitals and on the federal level. He serves as Omega’s Liaison with Essence Cares -National Mentoring Program- for our most vulnerable youth, which he introduced to the Fraternity.

He is a key supporter in Florida for the Obama Campaign, and was designated by the Sun-Sentinel Newspaper as one of the five(5) key people in Florida who Obama needs to help him win Florida during the 2008 National Election, the only African-American designated, citing him as, “A Kindred spirit and savvy politician with an organizer’s roots.” He is a Pledged Party Leader & Elected Officials Delegate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

Top Honors: AFL-CIO’s Florida Labor Hall of Fame Inductee - presented A. Philip Randolph Award - youngest inductee - first African-American; former Secretary-Treasurer of Florida AFL-CIO; Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus - Florida AFL-CIO.

Top Awards: NAACP Adam Clayton Powell Civil Rights Award; Rainbow/PUSH Coalition Freedom Fighter Award; Florida Democratic Party’s Ron H. Brown Award; A. Phillip Randolph Achievement Award; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists’ Cleveland Robinson Award; Chairman-Emeritus - Labor & Management Committee - National Black Caucus of State Legislators; Lincoln-Douglass Emancipation Proclamation Association’s Eartha M. M. White Service Award; National AFL-CIO’s Government Service Award - first labor member in Florida honored; Sierra Club Environmental Legislator of the Year; two time winner of the NAACP’s Morris Milton Award; National One Church One Child Humanitarian Of The Millennium- 2008, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Citizen of the Year.

Brother State Senator Hill began his labor career as a Longshoreman with ILA, Local 1408, Jacksonville. He is currently a Community Organizer with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

Memberships: Florida Conference of Black State Legislators; National Black Caucus of State Legislators (Regional Vice Chair); Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (Executive Board Member); A. Philip Randolph Institute; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Theta Phi Chapter, Life Member.

He is a graduate of Jean Ribault Senior High School, Jacksonville, FL; attended Lincoln University in Lincoln, Pennsylvania; graduated from National Labor College in Silver Spring, Maryland, B. A. Degree in Labor Studies; received Honorary Doctorate from Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, FL. He served in the U. S. Army, 1977-1983 in Baumholder, West Germany and received two honorable discharges.

Brother State Senator Tony Hill is the middle child of Mrs. Cordelia & Mr. Ernest (deceased) Hill, Sr., is married, the proud father of four children, five grandchildren and has been a member of the Greater Macedonia Baptist Church in Jacksonville, FL for over thirty years, where he serves as a Sunday School Teacher.
While on the Internet, I frequently come across various chapter websites and other Omega related sites. Even though most sites contain volumes of interesting information, I must admit that I am often shocked and sometimes disappointed with the amount of inaccurate information that is posted.

For instance, Hank Aaron is not an Omega, nor is Earl Monroe or Carl T. Rowan, not Benjamin O. Davis Sr. nor is his son. Just the other day, I read on a chapter website that former football standouts, Paul Warfield, Erric Rhett, Jamal Anderson and William Floyd were Omega’s. Not so!

Even though these gentlemen may have participated in various parts of the initiation process, there are no corresponding membership numbers for these guys. In fact, I am led to believe that Mr. Rowan was a Kappa. When I read the chapter sites referencing the exploits of William DeHart Hubbard, a former University of Michigan trackster and Omega Man, I see conflicting information. Various sites claim that he was the first African American to represent the United States in the Olympics. That is false. I also read that he was the first African American to win a medal in the Olympics. Wrong again. Brother Hubbard was the first African American to win an individual Gold Medal in the Olympic games. Speaking of the Olympics, let’s not forget Brother Roger Kingdom, a two time Olympic Gold Medalist in the hurdles and a current and active member of Iota Phi Chapter in Pittsburgh, PA.

Did you know that four Omegas were high school classmates? Yes. Brothers William Hastie, Charles Drew, Mercer Cook and Sterling Brown all were classmates at Dunbar in Washington DC at the same time. Brother W. Allison Davis also attended Dunbar around the same time. Brothers Drew and Davis are just two of the eight Omegas that have been commemorated on U.S. stamps. We all should know about Brother Brown being an accomplished poet and Brother Drew’s successful research with blood plasma or that of the many firsts achieved by Brother Hastie, the distinction of being the first Governor of the Virgin Islands is one. But what about Brother Davis? He proved that many standardized tests were discriminatory towards minorities and is considered the first African American to be tenured and teach at a White university, The University of Chicago in 1942.

The names “Shaq”, “Air Jordan” and Vince Carter among others roll off of our lips when we talk about basketball players who are Omegas, but we need to start talking about Brother Nevil Shedd. Does that name sound familiar? For those of you in my age range, you probably remember the all Black starting 5 Texas Western Miners, (now called UTEP) “waxing” the University of Kentucky to win the NCAA Championship. Those of you a little younger may be more familiar with the movie, “Glory Road.” Brother Shedd played an integral part on that team, and is currently a member of Psi Alpha Chapter in San Antonio, TX.

Then there is Brother Clarence “Big House” Gaines, one of the winningest college basketball coaches and a member of the college basketball Hall of Fame. He guided the first predominately Black college (Winston-Salem) to an NCAA title.

And to round out this group of basketball luminaries, there is Brother E.B. Henderson, who, because of his work in the early 1900’s, is affectionately known as the “Father of Black Basketball” and is a candidate for induction into the College Basketball Hall of Fame.

To continue speaking of movies, not only does Denzel portray an Omega, Brother Melvin Tolson in the great debaters, he played another Omega Brother, Brother
Coach Herman Boone, in “Remember the Titans.” Brother Boone is active in the Third District.

When asked about the “Gold Boots” that many Brothers wear, I often hear the response that it is in “honor” of Brother Col. Young’s dusty boots. That must be the “oil” talking. If you visit the Omega-Williams Historical Museum and view the military exhibit, you will realize that Brother Young was not only the highest ranking African American in the active military at that time, but he was all “spit and polish” and never allowed himself to have dusty boots. Not even when he was stationed in the Philippines or Africa.

Even now, Omega boasts the highest-ranking African American in the military, 4 star General Brother William “Kip” Ward. He is in command of the Africa Command or AFRICOM and is featured in the museum along with many of our Brothers that are currently serving in theaters of operation around the world.

Yes we do have the most astronauts out of the Pan-Hellenic organizations, but Guion Bluford is not one of them. Brother Robert Lawrence was the first African American to enter the program but perished during a training accident. Included in this number are Brother Ronald McNair, who also gave his life in the Challenger explosion, Brother Maj. Gen. (ret) Charles Bolden, active with Rho Beta Beta Chapter in Houston, TX and Brother Fred Gregory who also happens to be a relative of Brother Charles Drew.

Other hi-lites include Brother Admiral Manson Brown of Sigma Iota Chapter in Oakland, CA, receiving his 2nd star last month and Brother Dr. A. Hildrus Poindexter, receiving the Bronze Star during WW II while serving as a major in the Pacific. He was decorated for providing treatment that combated Malaria; therefore, putting the Marines back on their feet and on to ultimate victory in the theatre.

There are hundreds of pictures, books and artifacts displayed in the Museum. One of Brother Dr. Just’s microscopes is there, along with his college diploma, Founder Coleman’s high school diploma is displayed, along with many original first edition books written and often signed by many of our noteworthy members.

There is even one of the rare first edition Dreer books with the purple cover without the supplement on display, and the original blueprints of the Founders Howard monument is there for your review.

To the best of our knowledge, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is the only Greek letter organization, Black or White, that has an approximately 3000 square foot museum dedicated solely to its historical artifacts.

There are still many items and donations that need to be cataloged and properly preserved for display so the museum committee is working on a “traveling” exhibit that can be used for your District Meetings/Conferences along with a web site for virtual tour opportunities.

While in Birmingham, AL, take the time to go to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and view the exhibit the museum committee has prepared. It is entitled “Omegas in the Civil Rights Struggle.” Some of the stories are amazing and show the courage Omega Men displayed. Please visit the museum when your travels take you to IHQ. It is located in the basement. Stay informed about our members and our history. Enjoy the museum and the artifacts and continue to give us your continued support.

Please remember when providing information. Contact the museum committee members and make sure your information is accurate.

Finally, please exercise discretion when you allow your “stuff” to be viewed on YouTube. You never know who is editing and forwarding your material. Once you spend some time in the museum you will never again want to do anything to embarrass the Fraternity or do anything to tarnish the reputation or accomplishments of those that have gone before you.

Yours in Friendship and Fraternity,

Brother Carl A. Blunt
1st Vice Grand Basileus
Brothers, I am indeed honored to serve you as Grand Counselor. With humbleness and heartfelt appreciation, I say "Thank you for your support!"

I have performed all of the duties as required by the constitution including providing counsel and advice to the Grand Basileus and the Supreme Council. We have reviewed all of the contracts for the Grand Conclave and continue to monitor our risk from around the country.

The position of the Grand Counselor is also important because I serve as the Fraternity’s chief lawyer. I have had to work with district counselors to insure that Omega’s rules and regulations are being consistently upheld. As I traveled the country with the other Grand Officers, I had the opportunity to meet many of you. I stressed that we, as a Fraternity, need to always be mindful of “managing our risk.” All Omega events need to have an event check list executed by the appropriate chapter officers. All Omega events held in which the general public is either invited or asked to purchase a ticket to attend (that either serve or sell alcohol) should have municipal law enforcement officers present.

Additionally, I am encouraging our leadership to move forward with a review of our Bylaws, Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures. We can not allow inconsistent application of our rules and procedures. That is why I am advocating that we take a closer look at our structure to determine if we are fulfilling the blueprint that was laid out by our founders. This review should be done by a small group of Brothers or by an independent outside management firm.

The following are a highlight of the accomplishments realized during my tenure as Grand Counselor of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.:

1. MAPP (Member Accident Program);
2. Coordinated the Corporate Governance Training;
3. New Supreme Counsel Code of Conduct;
4. Created a Counselor’s Handbook;
5. Lead efforts to secure our brands by registering 12 new Omega marks e.g. “Q Psi Phi”, “1911”, “Omega Psi Phi Grand Conclave”, Da Bruz”, “Quette”, “Que”;
6. Managed several investigations and
7. Resolved several lawsuits

Again, thank you for your support. Without you, it could not have been done. May we always continue to love one another, pray for one another and lift one another as we continue our journey. . . Long live the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity!

Fraternally Yours,
Brother Michael R.D. Adams
Grand Counselor
Brother Charles A. Bruce
Grand Keeper Of Records And Seal

Brother Charles A. Bruce was elected to serve the Fraternity as Grand Keeper of Records and Seal in 2006 at the 74th Grand Conclave in Little Rock, Arkansas. Brother Bruce was asked to reflect upon his time as GKRS and offer some comments for this article. Excerpts from his comments are presented here.

The Office of the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal is responsible for the management of the overall administrative processes of the Fraternity and for the maintenance and security of the Fraternity’s records and archives. (And, by the way, there really is a “Seal.” It is a reverse-cast press of the Fraternity escutcheon that I use, in special cases, to emboss documents to identify them as official Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. credentials.)

In the hierarchy of the Fraternity, the GKRS holds the #4 position. As such, it is only a rare circumstance where the GKRS chairs a meeting or performs in a lead role. So, the GKRS is routinely in a service mode, providing support and serving as a resource to the Grand Basileus or any other presiding Member. The job requires a lot of focused attention to a proceeding and the ability to extract, document and record decisions and action items from a discussion or Meeting.

As the GKRS, I have tried to move the Fraternity forward in several ways:

**Posting the Supreme Council Minutes on the Fraternity Web Page**
This has provided quick and easy access for the entire financial Membership to view the official records of our formal business meeting proceedings. It is my intent to establish the Fraternity’s website as the place to go for official and factual information about Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.’s business.

**Establishing a Fraternity Communication Protocol**
Having worked in global enterprises for over 35 years (goodness!!), I have come to understand the value of seamless communication. By developing, implementing and deploying this same capability for the Fraternity, we have enhanced our ability to communicate to the Membership, in particular, to those in leadership positions. It has been a source of frustration that this superb capability is not utilized to the maximum but, we are chipping away at that reluctance and making substantial strides forward.
Enhancing the Lock Box System

Hands down, this is the key to our administrative efficiency and monetary security. As I mentioned, I have an extensive background in worldwide business. My employer, a multi billion dollar manufacturing company, insists that our divisions establish electronic transfer of data and funds between our suppliers, our customers and us. The obvious efficiencies are there (at a minimum, the avoidance of duplicating data entry) and, likewise, the reduced opportunity for misplacement of funds and payment documents. It is the natural next step away from cash transactions. No one questions anymore why we don’t accept cash. But, we still encounter some reluctance to move to an electronic environment for financial transactions between the Chapters and our Headquarters. Surprisingly, on an individual basis, more and more, Members do their transactions with IHQ using credit cards. It is the Chapters where we are having the strong resistance. This is in spite of the fact that even the typical Chapter checks can be used as an electronic payment vehicle. It is frustrating but I am neither dismayed nor discouraged. I think it goes back to what I learned growing up. The simple things have already been accomplished.

Implementing the My Page Capability on the Fraternity Website

The My Page element of the Fraternity website Members Only section is a very, very big deal. We have never had anything even close to this capability for the Members and the leadership teams at the Chapter, District and International level. It is a portal into the Membership database that is open and available to every financial Member. I use it almost every day to access information, compile a report or as a resource to answer some Member’s question. And no, My Page was not my creation; I served as an advisory resource to help define its scope and to test out its functionality. But, again, from my business background, I know that providing this kind of informational access is key to the intended growth and prosperity of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

This term as GKRS has been a great opportunity for me. I have had a chance to meet more Omegas in these two years than in my previous 37 years in the Fraternity. Now sure, some of those meetings have been, let me say, “interesting” (as in that ancient Chinese curse, “May you live in interesting times”) but I wouldn’t trade any of those encounters for anything except for more time to be spent with my family. I knew there would be sacrifices (and indeed my family has supported me in this) and I welcome the challenge.

I am proud to have served Omega in a variety of positions at every level and indeed as the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal. I can only hope that my love for and earnest devotion to the Fraternity is recognized by the Membership. Even if not, my dedication to Omega will not be diminished because…I Love Omega.
Welcome To The Finance Department

My Brothers we welcome you to the Finance Department page of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Website. Brothers first of all we are proud to be a part of a team that has three looks and one focus and is prepared to make a difference in the lives of Black People. As we remain strong in our faith, take care of our families and friends, we will do all that we can to make our great fraternity continue to be the very best.

The Finance Department staff is being lead at the present time by Veronica Bailey, a 30 year finance professional who is doing an outstanding job. She is being assisted by Nichelle Hodge, accounts payable clerk who has been with us for one month, and appears to have a great deal of potential. Rosh Saju is our part-time accounts receivable clerk that brings forth experience and continuity. We are interviewing temporary support staff and may add one or two part-time temporary employees to work during peak times.

The Finance Department team believes that finance is the heartbeat of the fraternity and for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. to make a difference in the lives of Black People; we must be efficient, professional, and dedicated to providing the best possible service. We also must make the proper decisions to protect our assets and maximize the earnings potential of our assets. Through working with the Fiscal Management Committee, Investment Committee, Ways and Means Committee, and sub committees we are sure to both protect our assets and maximize our earnings potential.

We will use our page to keep you informed of any developments in the finance department including staff changes, policy changes, announcements, and updates regarding financial matters.

Fraternally,
Antonio Knox
Grand Keeper of Finance
1st Vice Grand Basileus
“...Both the government and the governed are subject to the law. Under the principle of the rule of law, no government official, no single private citizen, no single group of people can claim privilege above the law. Rather, rules are set forth in advance, are widely known, and are applied impartially to rulers and ruled alike. The rule of law is essential to limited government, for in a limited government everyone, including all people in positions of authority, must obey the laws. The rule of law, however, means more than having laws or passing legislation; neither is it merely the use of laws to rule a civil society. The “rule of law” opposes arbitrary and capricious “rule of men.” Thus, the rule of law is essential to ordered liberty and prevents individuals from deciding for themselves what the law is and how and when the law is to be enforced...”

The Lincoln Legal Papers Curriculum
Brother State Senator Bobby Singleton serves the 24th District of Alabama with his relentless effort to mandate community, economic, environmental, financial, and youth development improvements. He is from Greensboro, AL and is the owner of Black Belt Technologies, L.L.C.

Brother State Senator Bobby Singleton was elected to the Alabama Senate, January 25, 2005, to fill the unexpired term of former Senator Charles Steele, who resigned. He was elected to his first full term, November 7, 2006. He serves as the Chair of Tourism and Marketing Committee, Deputy Chair of Finance and Taxation - General Fund Committee, Vice Chair of Banking and Insurance Committee, Chairman of The Alabama Legislative Black Caucus, and is the Economic Development Chairman of the West Alabama Rural Action Commission (WARAC) for Region 2.

He formerly served in the Alabama House of Representatives, 2002 until his election to the Senate. In 2007, Senator Singleton was appointed by Governor Bob Riley as the WARAC Economic Development Committee Chairman. He also was appointed by Lt. Governor Jim Folsom to the Alabama Emergency Communication District Long-Range Study Commission (E-911) Committee where he serves as chairman under the Administrative Sub-Committee.

Brother State Senator Singleton received his B.S. degree from Alabama State University and his J.D. from Miles Law School. He is a Democrat and a member of Greenleaf Missionary Baptist Church in Greensboro. His hobbies include hunting, travel and fishing.

Committees:
- Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- Banking and Insurance
- Confirmations
- Economic Expansion and Trade
- Finance and Taxation, General Fund
- Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability
- Industrial Development and Recruitment
- Judiciary
- Tourism and Marketing
Some attorneys are born into the right families and the right social circles. They attend the right schools, and their careers become a series of wide open doors with huge retainers waiting on the other side. Other attorneys scrape and struggle for every lump of cubic zirconia, looking for an enchanted door that will open just enough to slip a pauper’s boot in.

The story of St. Petersburg attorney Brother Darryl Rouson, who in 1981 was the first African-American assistant state attorney in Pinellas County and is now president of the St. Petersburg chapter of the NAACP, combines elements of both. And when he finally found the right door, he exploded noisily through it.

Newspaper stories in 2002 often featured the exploits of the senior partner in the law office of Rouson & Dudley, P.A. He represented troubled former baseball star Darryl Strawberry when the former Yankees star was accused of violating his parole by getting thrown out of a drug treatment center. And incoming Florida State Attorney General Charlie Crist put Brother Darryl Rouson on his official transition team.

As head of the NAACP, he made headlines by demanding a “fair share agreement” for African-American and other minority contractors on the $41 million rebuilding of Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg. And when the city announced in December that a new cruise ship would be docking in the municipal port, Rouson wasted no time calling for minority representation on the ship’s board of directors. Of course, that call was made on the heels of one of his biggest successes: pushing the parent company of the St. Petersburg Times to honor a long-standing commitment to diversifying its own board.

Born in New Orleans, raised in St. Petersburg and a graduate of Xavier University and the University of Florida Spessard Holland Law Center, it is difficult to imagine Darryl Ervin Rouson ever doing anything quietly. When he came back to St. Petersburg in 1998 after an absence of more than a decade - during which he was in and out of treatment centers, worked as a counselor himself and also did a stint in Chicago with Cook County Government) - Brother Rouson studied the legal landscape.

“I asked myself, ‘What is it about me that distinguishes me from the rest? How can I impress upon people that I care about their problems and legal matters?’”

For a man whose mantra comes from the title of Wall Street lawyer Reginald F. Lewis’ 1994 posthumous autobiography, Why Should White Guys Have All the Fun?, it didn’t take Brother Rouson long to settle on high visibility as a way of hitting the ground running.

He concluded that few black lawyers in St. Petersburg immerse
themselves in hard community issues and problems. “It also occurred
that I could make my weakness, addiction, a strength. If I chose to keep
it secret, it could be used against me,” Rouson says. “I think it’s always
going to be a part of who I am. I’m no longer ashamed or embarrassed.
My journey is what made me who I am today, in all its ugliness and
beauty.”

Brother Rouson’s biggest nemesis remains the one he sees in the mirror
every morning. He has caused himself more damaged over the last two
decades than any one client or community leader could ever single-
handedly cause.

Brother Rouson, who has been clean since March 17, 1998, is now an
aggressive anti-drug crusader, one who wears his rehabilitation as a
badge of merit. He makes no effort to hide this ugly part of his past. The
walls of his office lobby include a St. Petersburg Times story in which
he was photographed in one of the crack houses where he once bought
cocaine and got high. There is also a profile from Recovery magazine
(January 2002): “Rebel with a Cause: Darryl Rouson.”

State Rep. Frank Peterman (District 55) is an old friend and fraternity
brother of Rouson’s. “Darryl is on a mission,” according to Peterman.
“He’s been wanting to make up for a time earlier in his life. He’s running
fast to get to higher levels that he believes God has taken him to. He’s
redeeming the time.” The question any reasonable person might draw
from reading about the never sedentary life of Darryl Rouson is this: How
does addiction, bankruptcy and community leadership play in the daily
struggle of running a Tampa Bay area law firm? And what kind of lawyer
is Darryl Rouson?

Let’s look at the second question first.
David Demers is chief judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit in Pinellas County.
He saw Rouson in action, pre-addiction and three marriages ago.

“When he was a state attorney, he was a phenomenal trial attorney,”
according to Demers. “He represented the state and did a great job. He
certainly wasn’t bombastic. He was an advocate in the finest sense of
the word, an effective cross-examiner. He had all the skills that a good
litigator should have.”

More recently, attorney George Rahdert has seen Brother Rouson in
action on his behalf. “He’s a highly principled individual, on a personal
level as well as on a professional level,” Rahdert says. “He’s a guy you
can really trust with your friendship. I’ll also testify that he’s a very good
lawyer. I’ve hired him to represent me, personally, and he’s done a very
good job. What gets lost in all the hoopla is he’s a very skilled lawyer.”

As for the way Rouson conducts his business and whether or not he is
reliable, Rahdert offers his unconditional endorsement.

“I think I’m a pretty good judge of legal skills,” he says. “The times he has
represented me, I’ve been very pleased with his ability and outcome. If
there’s a perception in the community that he should be avoided because
of his past, I think it’s a misperception. He’s really gifted.”
Brother Royce West  
Texas State Senator, District 23

Brother State Senator West was installed as State Senator, District 23 (Dallas County), in January 1993 after winning the election for the Senate seat in November 1992. He has represented the 23rd Senatorial District in the 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th and 80th Legislative Sessions. Texas Monthly Magazine recently named him as one of the 25 most powerful people in Texas politics. Throughout his legislative tenure, the magazine named him as one of the “Ten Best Legislators in Texas” and twice gave him an “Honorable Mention”. The Associated Press named him as one of the “key players of the 2005 Legislature” in its “Movers and Shakers” list.

On April 17, 2006, Brother State Senator West was sworn in by his fellow state senators to serve as President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate until January 2007. As President Pro Tempore, he was second in the line of succession to be Governor of Texas, and assumed the top leadership position whenever Governor Rick Perry and Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst were out of the state.

In addition to his senatorial responsibilities, Brother State Senator West is a managing partner in the law firm of West & Associates L.L.P. He is married to Carol R. West, CPA, father to seven children and is an active deacon serving the congregation at Good Street Baptist Church. One of his sons recently graduated from The University of Houston law school as well as two other sons in college and a third son that will enter college in the fall of 2008.

It is no wonder that he champions the cause of education and that his top priority is to ensure that all young people have an opportunity to achieve a quality education that will help in preparing them for the future.

Brother State Senator West’s key initiatives over his legislative career have included creating college admission opportunities for all students. He is a guardian and co-author of the Texas Top 10 Percent Law that guarantees admission to any Texas high school student who graduates in the top 10 percent of their respective high school.

He has and continues to play a lead role in the creation of the University of North Texas at Dallas. The campus first opened in 2000 in a temporary facility and now has a permanent location at Wheatland and Houston School Road in Southern Dallas. The new campus that opened in 2007 now has an enrollment of nearly 1,600 students and is on its way to gaining full university status just in time for the spring 2008 graduates of Mountain View College. He also envisions the creation of a Downtown Dallas – School of Law in connection with the University of North Texas at Dallas, in addition to a School of Pharmacy.

Brother State Senator West led the way in creating the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M University. It offers the nation’s only doctoral program in Juvenile Justice. The program is now in
He as helped to bring millions of dollars in programming funds through Community Youth Development programs to the “75216” ZIP Code in District 23. In 1999, he was successful in expanding the program to include the “75217” ZIP Code. This program funds a collaborative effort between the private, public and civic sectors within the “75216” and “75217” communities to reduce juvenile crime.

For the past 14 years, Brother State Senator West has sponsored the Dr. Emmett J. Conrad Leadership Program. The program has provided more than 1,000 college students from Texas Senate District 23 with paid employment in their respective fields of study. In 1996, he established a Student Advisory Committee (SAC) to obtain the perspectives of students on legislative issues and to expose them to volunteer opportunities in the community.

In 2005, he had the inspiration for what is now the “It’s About Our Community” Program. Its goal is to promote achievement and citizenship in students. A component of It’s About Our Community is a summer job program for high school sophomore and junior students.

Brother State Senator West attended public schools in Dallas, TX and Wilmer-Hutchins, TX. He graduated from Wilmer-Hutchins High School and received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Sociology from the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). While attending UTA, he was elected by fellow students as the first African-American President of the Student Body. In 1979, he earned his law degree from the University of Houston and became licensed as an attorney and counselor-at-law.

From 1979 - 1984, he was an Assistant District Attorney for the Dallas County District Attorney’s Office. Three of those years were spent as the Chief Felony Prosecutor for Dallas County and was the first African-American to hold this position. He was the Democratic Nominee for District Attorney in 1986 and is a mentor to current Dallas District Attorney and David W. Carter High School graduate, Craig Watkins.

He is Chairman of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee and is a member of the Texas State Senate’s Committees on Education, Finance, Health and Human Services, the Higher Education Subcommittee and the Joint Select Committee on Operation and Management of the Texas Youth Commission. He also serves on the Education Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) and the standing committee on Communications, Financial Services and Interstate Commerce of the National Conference of State Legislature (NCSL). In April 2005, Governor Rick Perry appointed him to the Education Commission of the States.

In addition to his interests in education, criminal and juvenile justice, Brother State Senator West is also an advocate for minority-owned businesses. He closely monitors Texas’ Historically Underutilized Business Program and was instrumental in bringing the Black Enterprise/General Motors Entrepreneurs Conference to Dallas, TX from 2004 - 2006. He developed the “Doing Business Texas Style”- Spot Bid Contract Fair that has secured millions of dollars in contract opportunities from state agencies, colleges and universities targeting Texas’ minority-owned businesses.
Brother State Senator
Gary Siplin

Brother State Senator Gary Siplin was born on October 21, 1954 in Orlando, Florida where he lived with his loving mother, Aretha Mae Dawson and his 3 siblings.

He graduated from Jones High School, Orlando, Florida in 1973 and received his B.A. degree in Political Science from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1976. He later received a M.A. in Public & International Affairs from the University of Pittsburg, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1977. He received his Juris Doctorate from Duquesne (Du-Kane) University, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1981 and Honorary Doctorate from City College, Orlando, Florida in 2003.


Brother State Senator Siplin was elected to the Florida House of Representative, District 39 Orlando, Florida in 2000 – 2002, Florida State Senate, District 19, and Orlando, Florida making him the First Black State Senator elected from Central Florida in 2002 to the present.

He and his wife, Victoria are proud parents of two sons, Joshua and Jacob, and Gary Jr. and Angelica from his previous marriage. They are members of the New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida.
On November 16th, 2006, the House Democratic Caucus unanimously elected Brother Congressman James E. Clyburn of South Carolina Majority Whip for the 110th Congress. This was a historic day for House Democrats, having just won back the majority for the first time in twelve years. It was also historic for Brother Clyburn, who became the first South Carolinian and the second African American to ascend to the third ranking position in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In accepting his new role, Brother Congressman Clyburn shared with his colleagues a story from his childhood that told much about the environment from which he came and about the man he has become. When he was about 12 or 13 years old, he stopped by his mother’s beauty shop after school in his hometown of Sumter, South Carolina. A client of his mother’s asked young James what he wanted to be when he grew up. He responded by expressing his dreams of wanting to be in politics and government. He was quickly rebuked by the woman, who admonished him never to utter those words again. She was not intending to throw cold water on young James’ dreams. She genuinely felt that such expressions could bring danger to him and his family in the segregated South. That night, his mother told young James to ignore the client’s warning and encouraged him to hold fast to his dreams.

It took a long road and 66 years for him to reach the pinnacle of those dreams. His humble beginnings as the eldest son of an activist fundamentalist minister and an independent civic minded beautician grounded him securely in family, faith and public service. He later graduated from Mather Academy in Camden, South Carolina, and became a student leader at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg. Growing up knowing many of the families involved in the desegregation case Briggs v. Elliott -- which later became part of the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case -- Brother Clyburn was active in the civil rights movement.

He was elected president of his NAACP youth chapter when he was 12 years old, participated in many marches and demonstrations, and was chosen as the star witness in a 1960Orangeburg civil disobedience case defended by the legendary Matthew Perry. That case developed from the arrest of 388 college students -- two of whom were Jim and Emily England of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, whom he met during that incarceration. He was later jailed during a 1961 march on the South Carolina State Capitol in Columbia that resulted in the landmark breach of the peace case Edwards v South Carolina.
Brother Clyburn and his wife Emily have been married since June 24, 1961. They began their personal and professional lives together in Charleston, South Carolina, he as a history teacher and she as a librarian in the public school system. He later served as an employment counselor, and director of two youth and community development programs. In 1968, he became director of a migrant and seasonal farm workers program. The Clyburn’s are staunch supporters of their Alma Mater and have raised over $1.5 million for an Archives and History Endowment they have established at the school. South Carolina State University has named campus facilities in their honor. Sixteen other colleges and universities have awarded Brother Clyburn honorary degrees.

Brother Clyburn launched the pursuit of his dream in 1970 running for the South Carolina House of Representatives. He went to bed a 500-vote winner, and awoke a 500-vote loser. His pragmatic reaction as reported in the local newspaper, “I lost because I didn’t get enough votes,” caught the eye of the newly elected governor, John Carl West. He asked Brother Clyburn, whom he dubbed “Jim,” to join his administration. In accepting the post, Brother James E. Clyburn became the first African American advisor to a South Carolina governor since post Reconstruction.

After almost four years on his staff, Governor West appointed him South Carolina Human Affairs Commissioner. It was a position he would hold for almost 18 years serving four Governors -- two Democrats and two Republicans. The position thrust Brother Clyburn into the vortex of a number of controversies, which he handled deftly quickly earning him a reputation as a fair and firm mediator and consensus builder. But when he ran for South Carolina Secretary of State in 1978 and again in 1986, his lifelong dream continued to elude him.

But in 1992, Brother Clyburn resigned his position as Human Affairs Commissioner to devote fulltime in pursuit of his lifelong dream of serving in the United States Congress -- where no Black South Carolinian had served since 1897. This time, in a field of five Democratic primary candidates, Brother Clyburn won with 56 percent of the vote, avoiding a run-off. He easily won the general election for South Carolina’s Sixth Congressional District, and was sworn in as a member of the United States House of Representatives in January 1993.

Brother Congressman Clyburn began his steady climb on Capitol Hill winning election as co-President of his freshman class. Six years later, he was unanimously elected Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and to a seat on the coveted Appropriations Committee. In 2002, he was elected in a three-way race to serve as Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, and in January 2006, his peers unanimously elevated him to Chair of the Caucus.

In addition to serving as House Majority Whip, Brother Congressman Clyburn serves as leader of the House Democrat’s Faith Working Group. The Clyburns have three daughters, Mignon, Angela and Jennifer Clyburn Reed, a son-in-law, Walter Reed; and two grandchildren, Walter A Clyburn Reed and Sydney Alexis Reed.
The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Federal Credit Union continues to provide financial avenues for the fraternity's members, families and employees. With an excellent team of dedicated members of the Board, and Committees, we have a competitive, financially secure credit union. We encourage you to join, save, borrow, and take advantage of all the services available to you.
BETA KAPPA KAPPA CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
By Brother Yon Weaver

High Point, NC-The Brothers of Beta Kappa Kappa Kappa Chapter participated in the North Carolina Special Olympics. The event was held on Saturday, November 10, 2007 and Sunday, November 11, 2007. During the event, the Brothers worked the concession stand and provided lunches for the volunteers and staff. This is the second year Beta Kappa Kappa Chapter has participated with the North Carolina Special Olympics.

HABITAT PROJECT  
By Brother Yon Weaver

Through the High Point Habitat for Humanity, the Brothers were able to dedicate a Saturday toward this endeavor. The Chapter was also able to partner with Food Lion to donate a gift card to the family of the new home.

THANKSGIVING 2007  
By Brother Yon Weaver

High Point, NC-The Brothers of Beta Kappa Kappa Kappa Chapter sponsored four low-income families for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Chapter was able to provide turkeys to all of the families along with side items. The turkeys were donated through a partnership with Food Lion. The Brothers went to the homes of the four families and delivered the thanksgiving meals. The families were very appreciative of the kind endeavor by the Brothers of Beta Kappa Kappa Chapter.

HONORING LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND SCHOLARSHIP  
By Brothers Leo Varner and Richard Patterson

Galveston, TX (PN) – At the beginning of the 2007-2008 academic school year, Rho Nu Chapter implemented the “Alvin Stevenson Adopt-A-School Program” to honor Brother Alvin Stevenson in recognition of his fifty years of service to the Fraternity, his leadership in efforts to establish a graduate chapter in Galveston and his faithfulness in upholding the Cardinal Principle of Scholarship. This annual program consists of donating school supplies to an elementary school in the Galveston Independent School District (GISD), where Brother David O’Neal is President of the School Board of Trustees.
Brother Alvin Stevenson was initiated into the Omega on April 19, 1956 through Alpha Psi Chapter at Houston-Tillotson College in Austin, Texas. He graduated from Houston-Tillotson in 1958 with a B.S. degree in Biology and minor in Chemistry. After graduation, Brother Stevenson went on to the University of Texas Medical Branch where he attained a degree in Medical Technology. The Department of Pathology, Pathology Patient Services employed him as a clinical chemist and supervisor of the phlebotomy service. He later transferred to the UTMB Dialysis Center for several years, and then returned to the clinical labs until his retirement after 37 years of service. Mr. Stevenson also worked in the clinical labs at St. Mary’s Hospital for many years and as an educator in the Galveston, LaMarque, and Hitchcock Independent School Districts.

The Chapter will collect donations at the Rho Nu Chapter Family and Friends Picnic, which will be held on August 11, 2008. The picnic is free to all family and friends of Rho Nu Chapter, but school supply donations are suggested. The Chapter plans to continue to earmark $1,000.00 for the program in addition to the donations collected at the picnic.

**JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION WALK TO CURE DIABETES**

*By Brothers Tellis Fears and Darroll Love*

Monterey, CA- In support of Omega health initiatives, Omicron Nu Chapter, Seaside, California, participated in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation’s (JDRF) Walk to Cure Diabetes in Pacific Grove, California on October 14, 2007 along with one-half million other walkers across the country to reach a goal of raising $100 million.

Type 1, or juvenile diabetes, is a devastating disease that affects millions of people of which are a large and growing percentage of children.

There is some good news. For the first time, scientists are predicting that we CAN expect to see a cure well within our lifetime!

**EPSILON CHAPTER AND DELTA SIGMA THETA, INC. HOST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS FORUM**

Brooklyn, NY- On Tuesday, October 30, 2007, Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz and Deputy Borough President, Yvonne Graham, hosted the “Domestic Violence Awareness Forum,” which was sponsored by Epsilon Chapter and the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Distinguished guests included Terrie M. Williams, author and mental health advocate, Byron Hurt, gender violence prevention educator and filmmaker, Quentin Walcott, Director of CONNECT Training Institute, specializing in family violence, VOW: Voices of Women Organizing Project, a collective of domestic abuse survivors, Guy A. Fortt, actor, firefighter and domestic violence survivor, New York Assemblywoman Annette Robinson and Charles F. Coleman, Jr., attorney and community activist.

The gathering recognized Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. It is the goal of the event’s organizers to support battered men and women’s advocates within their community who are working to end violence against themselves and their children. Epsilon Chapter and the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. will continue to collectively address domestic violence in three phases to include Awareness, Action and Assessment.
THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS HOSTED BY THE BROTHERS OF ALPHA PHI CHAPTER
By Brother Rufus McGhee

Birmingham, Alabama – Alpha Phi Chapter (Graduate) conducted a Thanksgiving Blessings event in November of 2007. Thanks to the initiative and efforts of event chair, Brother Erskrayden Bradford, the Chapter donated Thanksgiving dinners to two (2) deserving families in the Smithfield area. Brothers Bradford, Chris Brooks, Larry Dancy, Clyde Baskin and Rufus McGhee delivered delicious meals prepared by Brother David Eason. Both families expressed their appreciation for remembering others with a needed blessing during the season.

2007 ADA WALK: MU NU CHAPTER CONTINUES EFFORTS
By Brother Troy K. Manigault, Chapter Reporter, Mu Nu Chapter

Montgomery County, MD-Mu Nu Chapter rallied along with several area chapters from the 2nd and 3rd Districts on October 26th to continue support for the essential fundraising efforts and support of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) diabetes awareness and research. Social Action Chairman, Brother Stacey Herring (Mu Nu Chapter, 2007, Montgomery County, MD), led this year’s event planning for the annual ADA Walk held in Washington, D.C.

The 2007 walk started as a cool and rainy morning, but the Brothers’ enthusiasm was not dampened. The day later provided a sunny and mild afternoon, wherein the Brothers completed the walk in high spirits. The Brothers gathered at a local D.C. restaurant location to break bread and fraternize, then parted company with full stomachs and full hearts, as well as renewed friendships and renewed commitments for a 2008 event return.

Representing Mu Nu at the walk were Brothers Bobby Jewett (Nu Beta Chapter, 1980, Marshall University), Troy Priest (Theta Epsilon Chapter, 1987, Brown University), Troy Manigault (Mu Nu Chapter, 1994), Anthony Proctor (Mu Nu Chapter, 2002), Jay Colbert (Mu Nu Chapter, 2007) and Herring.

Mu Nu Chapter was chartered May 23, 1970, in Rockville (Montgomery County), Maryland. Website: www.MuNuQues.org
PI OMEGA CHAPTER AND SUSAN G. KOMAN RACE FOR THE CURE.

BALTIMORE, MD- On 14 October 2020, the Brothers from Pi Omega Chapter braved early morning freezing 40-degree weather and slight rain to support the Susan G. Komen “Race for the Cure.” The Brothers tackled a variety of tasks that ranged from light rail station information booths to kiosks to assisting with parking and various other race related tasks. “This event always humbles me, seeing the survivors and supporters bridging the gap still fighting for a cure,” said Brother David Patterson, Pi Omega Social Action Chairman. Brothers arrived at 5am and remained on duty until the final person crossed the finish line. The race manager, Elaine Johnson, highly praised our willingness to do the “not so likeable tasks and personally asked that we come back next year.

The establishment of this race came from Nancy G. Brinker who promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement.

The Brothers of Pi Omega Chapter will continue to support the race for the cure annually in anticipation of a cure in the near future.

OMEGAS TAKE “GREAT STRIDES” FOR PROSTATE CANCER

Baltimore, MD- On Sunday, September 30, 2007, members of Pi Omega Chapter joined hundreds of Marylanders in the Great Strides for Prostate Cancer Walk. The 5K run and one mile walk started at 8 a.m. with approximately 800 participants and 80,000 people committed to donate. The goal was to raise money for prostate cancer research, increase awareness and screen for early signs or symptoms of cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, prostate cancer is least common among Asian men and most common among Black men. “As conscientious and uplifting men, we gathered to show our commitment and share in support of finding a cure,” said Satchel Doyle, member of Omega. The Men of Omega gathered for refreshments at the conclusion of the event.

TAU TAU CHAPTER HELD ITS 16TH ANNUAL MEALS ON WHEELS

Los Angeles, CA- On Thursday, November 22, 2007, The Mighty Tau Tau Chapter held its 16th Annual Meals on Wheels at the Bernice Watkins Vision Complex Center in Los Angeles. Each year the men of The Mighty Tau Tau Chapter participate in Meals on Wheels event. The first Annual Meals on Wheels marked the beginning of...
of The Mighty Tau Tau Chapter’s largest and longest-running holiday tradition. This is a community service event that serves over 300 of our lonely, homebound, convalescent and seniors who just need companionship.

This event would not be possible without the help of a small group of students, community and religious leaders and various volunteers who take leadership roles in the coordination of the dinner as well as all the cooking, serving, delivering of meals and cleaning-up.

The dinners handed out during the event included turkey, stuffing, vegetables, yams, dinner rolls, pie, milk and orange juice that are funded entirely by donations and sponsorships through the Bernice Watkins Vision Complex Center.

The Meals on Wheels event is just one of many community service events hosted by Tau Tau Chapter in an effort to transcend the ills that run rampant throughout the inner cities Los Angeles.

The men of Omega hear the need of this hidden and often forgotten population and vows to work diligently to honor our commitment to community service by strengthening individuals in the community as a whole; emotionally, spiritually, and economically.

KAPPA ALPHA ALPHA CHAPTER
CONDUCTS VOTER REGISTRATION IN LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

By Brother Clarence Pittman III

Dekalb County, Georgia- (March 2008) The Brothers of Kappa Alpha Alpha Chapter planned and coordinated voting registration at two separate high schools, which resulted in the registration over 280 students to vote in the upcoming National Presidential Election scheduled for November of 2008.

With the approval and coordination of Principal Dr.

The Brothers of Kappa Alpha Alpha Chapter Conduct Voters Registration Drive

Angela Pringle and Counselor Christopher Little, Kappa Alpha Alpha Chapter Brothers manned a couple of tables with voter registration applications at Stephenson High School as students walked in between lunch sessions and classroom breaks. Brothers and student council members provided guidance to all 17 1/2 and 18-year-olds who desired to vote and met eligibility requirements. At the end of the day, over 170 students had completed the registration procedures.

Two weeks later, voter’s registration planning led again by Kappa Alpha Alpha Chapter Brothers, Thomas Hill, Greg Davis and Dr. Calvin Horton, set up at Miller Grove High School. With the approval and coordination of Principal Dr. S. Carol Thedford, the Chapter registered over 110 students who completed the short form in between lunch sessions and classroom breaks.

Kappa Alpha Alpha Chapter Brothers generally agreed that this process appears to have been an exciting time for all participating high school students, as it was the first opportunity for many of them to vote.

CANTON QUES WALK AGAINST VIOLENCE EPSILON KAPPA KAPPA CHAPTER (#884)

Canton, MS - The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter participated in the Walk
Social Action

Against Violence & Peace Rally on March 22, 2008 in Canton, MS. This walk from Rose Bud Park to Nichols Middle School was in response to a string of violent acts occurring both in the community and at the local high school in which several people were seriously injured. The event was organized by the Minister’s Alliance of Madison County and the men of Rho Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. who solicited the support and participation of local churches, greek lettered organizations, and concerned citizens. The men of Omega answered the call for action by showing up in large numbers, participating in the walk, and attending the Peace Rally at Nichols Middle School. Participants at the rally heard speeches from Canton Mayor Fred Esco, Police Chief Wynn, and local clergy whose message was “we will no longer tolerate that type of violence here.” Bro. Alvin “AC” Carter of EKK Chapter stated “We felt it necessary to involve ourselves in this event as an organization because we realize that when one house falls, then we all fall. However, a group effort such as this rally shows that together we all can make a positive difference in our community, and take a stand for what’s right.”

RHO DELTA DELTA CHAPTER
TROY UNIVERSITY
By Brother George Thomas, Chapter Reporter

Troy, AL- Throughout the 2007-2008 academic school year, the Brothers of Rho Delta Delta Chapter have participated in various community service events as well as achieving high academic performance. The Chapter was awarded the highest GPA within the 7th District (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi) and Brother Frederick Turner was awarded the Omega Excellence scholarship from Omega Iota Iota Chapter from Montgomery, AL. The Chapter also received the following awards from Troy University: Order of Omega Fundraising Award, Order of Omega Campus Involvement Award, Order of Omega Academic Award, and the Dean’s Cup Award. The beginning of the fall 2007 school year started off in a positive way with the Al Lucas Golf Tournament and various community service projects with the Bethel Tutorial Program, Battle of 1911, Charles R. Drew Blood Drive, and a Voter Registration Drive.

Following the fall semester, the men of Omega were involved in various community and university activities such as Habitat for Humanity, Battle of 1911, EZCC Community Fun Day, and service at the Colley Center. To finish the year, the Brothers conducted activities with local
youth, featuring Community Empowerment Day with the Mu Alpha Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Field Day with Charles Henderson Elementary school. The Brothers of Rho Delta Delta Chapter are also happy to bring in to the fold of Omega seven worthy new members. To all Impact students, we would like to welcome you to TROY University and feel free to ask an Omega man for assistance since you are now a part of our TROY University family. Go TROJANS!!!!

“YOUTH MOTIVATION DAY” - CAREER DAY GETS A MAKE OVER

By Brother Marc Styles

East Point, GA- When Brothers Alonzo Upshur and Calleb Obumba, both educators at Miller Grove High School, began asking the Brothers of Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter about coming to the school for Youth Motivation Day on Friday, April 25, 2008, they received a lot of strange looks and questions. They quickly explained that this was a new name for what many still call Career Day at other schools, and with that they got several volunteers to show up. Having a mixture of military and civilian Brothers, the Chapter provided a wide and diverse group of speakers to motivate the students to aspire for higher goals while showing that Omega men can rally together for a common cause. Prior to going to the scheduled classrooms for the day, the principal, Dr. Selina Thedford, had the motivation speakers and students meet in the auditorium to listen to a brief presentation by Brother J. R. Henderson, the founder of The National Lighthouse Foundation. He encouraged the students to strive for big goals and to never let anybody tell them that something could not be done.

After the program ended, the Brothers were escorted to the media center and partnered up with senior members of the National Honor Society and the Belles of Miller Grove High School. We then proceeded to our assigned classrooms and discussed our careers and life in general with the students. Each classroom session was supposed to last about 15 minutes, but due the abundance of questions from the students they often ran over. To accommodate the schedules of the Brothers that could not come in the morning, an afternoon session was also planned. The Brothers truly made a visual impact with the students by showing up in force and giving of their time and talents to come and talk to them. The event was such a huge success that it covered the entire school day, which prompted some undecided seniors to remark that they now had some direction regarding choosing a good college, a career or a good path in life thanks to the men and women that spoke to them.

A JOINT HEALTH FAIR

By Brother Marc Styles

East Point, GA - It was truly a “Family Friendly” atmosphere at the Greenbrier Mall on Saturday, April 26, 2008 when the ladies of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Atlanta
Area Alumnae Chapter, and the men of the Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter hosted a Health Fair inside the mall. While the Deltas set up a variety of tables for the different testing stations, the Brothers set up a table for the Diabetes Association so that people could be tested for this deadly disease. “Since it is an election year we decided to set up a “Voters Registration” table as well, that way we could take care of two things at one time, said Chapter Basileus, Brother Reginald Sullivan. The Chapter also partnered with the American Red Cross to not only solicit others to stop by and donate blood, but to be donors as well.

“Being a Military” based chapter makes it hard for many Brothers to give blood because so many of us have been to foreign countries that the Centers for Disease Control deemed an unworthy status to specific U.S. Service Members,” said Chapter Chairman, Brother Derrick Gilbert. Despite that drawback, thanks to the hard work of the Brothers either donating blood themselves or asking patrons to stop by and donate blood, the Red Cross collected 30 pints of blood during the event. Thanks to the dedication of Brother Val Abernathy, over 50 people got tested for diabetes while walking around the mall. And not to be outdone, the Brothers working the Voters Registration table, 40 more potential voters were registered to vote in this upcoming Presidential election.

The younger Brothers of Alpha Nu Chapter have again demonstrated their main reason of having joined our illustrious Fraternity. The brothers of Alpha Nu Chapter have again put their time and talents to work. Brother Eric J Edwards and Wesley O McPherson have helped the men of Free And Accepted Masons, Doric Lodge No. 4 and teamed up with The local chapter of The Salvation Army in their Annual Bell-Ringing Fundraiser. The Brothers were stationed at Bridgeport’s Stop and Shop on Madison Avenue, where they greeted and met people who gave their treasures unselfishly for a worthy cause.

Omega has always teamed up with the Salvation Army for worthy causes. Some causes included National Relief Programs as well as the Boy’s Club and clothing drive to name a few. This effort was mandated by Connecticut’s Grand Master of all Price Hall Masons, GM Michael L. Ferguson, to donate their talent and time to help out in the Salvation Army’s efforts. After telling the Grand Master that our team’s bucket was heavier than the other Salvation Army’s bucket, the Grand Master expressed that it was the same for the other lodges too. This pleased the Brothers because it’s a clear message that young men can do well in fundraising, good works and being approachable/upright Black men.

I hope this article reaches every Brother in good spirit and I hope again that you will be inspired to lend you time and talents, unselfishly, to help out the less fortunate. Feel free to contact Brother Edwards, McPherson and Goodmond to help out on upcoming projects in 2008. Also, any Brother looking to become a Big Brother and know of any Soro who’d like to be a Big Sister in their state/city, please have them contact Brother Edwards at 203.543.7901.

Fraternally

SIGMA TAU CHAPTER RECEIVES STATE-WIDE RECOGNITION

By Brother Roscoe Jennings

El Paso, TX - Brothers of Sigma Tau Chapter, “The Border Ques”, were identified by the Texas Department of
Transportation (TxDOT), Adopt-A-Highway Program, as the El Paso area distinguished volunteer group. At the September 2007 luncheon held at the Towne Lake Hyatt in Austin, TX, Sigma Tau Chapter was selected from more than sixty El Paso Area participating organizations for its outstanding contributions to the program. Pictured with Brother Roscoe Jennings, who accepted the award, is Carol Compos who is the El Paso area Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator and Steve Simmons, P.E., TxDOT interim Executive Director.

The Luncheon’s guest speaker was State Representative Patrick Rose, House District 45. Representative Rose is a staunch supporter of the Adopt-A-Highway Program. He has been successful in passing legislation to lower medical malpractice insurance for doctors and for lower tax penalties for seniors.

The Adopt-A-Highway Program in Texas began in March of 1985. Today, Adopt-a-Highway programs are worldwide in Australia, Canada and Japan as well as all 50 states. Across the U.S. alone, 1 million volunteers clean up more than 200,000 miles of roadside each year. The Brothers of Sigma Tau Chapter are proud to be of service!

**NU GAMMA GAMMA CHAPTER IMPACTS COMMUNITY WITHIN A MATTER OF WEEKS**

OTTAWA - It hasn’t been terribly long since the 13th District’s latest chapter was chartered. Nu Gamma Gamma Chapter has existed since mid February of this year and already the community in Ottawa, Canada has been taken by storm.

When eight men are thoroughly immersed in the true Omega spirit great things happen. Just a few weeks after coming off line, Nu Gamma Gamma Chapter went to work, making their presence known on and off the Carleton University campus.

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

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

The month of May of 2008 brought a commitment to volunteer at a local soup kitchen at least once a month.
The Shepherds of Good Hope were in need of volunteers and were happy to hear Nu Gamma Gamma Chapter answer the call to help fill that void.

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

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

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP FUND NATIONAL ALUMNI COUNCIL
BROTHER DR. JABARI V. PREMPEH

By Brother Roscoe Nance

DETROIT, MI- An African proverb admonishes those who use the elevator to get to the top so please don’t forget to send it back down so someone else can use to get to the top too. Brother Dr. Jabari V. Prempeh of Nu Omega Chapter, in his role as president of the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund National Alumni Council, is the embodiment of that proverb.

Brother Dr. Prempeh will represent more than two million HBCU alumni nationally and worldwide on the Board of Directors of the Thurgood Marshall Fund. He will also advocate for 228,000 students attending Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund affiliated universities who he calls “pre-alumni.”

“You have to give back,” Brother Dr. Prempeh, a Florida A&M University graduate, says. And that’s the message he says he will deliver to HBCU alumni and students – they have to give back especially financially.

“That’s where I got my start (at an HBCU),” he says. “That’s where my family got its start. That’s where my wife (Bertha Coleman Poe, Alabama State 1967) got her start. My father (James V. Poe Sr.) and mother (Louise Taylor Poe) met at an HBCU (Alabama A&M). I was conceived at an HBCU. Most of my relatives attended HBCUs. Those were pretty much the only schools they could attend. Now we have a choice. But if we don’t attend them, who is going to attend them? In order for them to survive they need to be supported with more than lip service.

“My charge and that of the National Alumni Council will be to ask all of our over two million alumni nationally and worldwide to support their school/alma mater with cash donations and/or their active participation in the Alumni Association and the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund. We need them to help keep our institutions of higher learning open and thriving as we progress into the next century”.

The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund was established
in 1987. It has the distinction of being the only organization raising funds nationally for publicly funded HBCUs, and it represents 80% of African-American students enrolled at HBCUs.

Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund events include an annual Leadership Institute Recruitment Conference, America’s largest recruitment and career fair, which was held Oct. 23-26, 2007 in New York, and the President’s Summit and Conference, which will be held March 23-27, 2008 in San Francisco. Registration information and information about the President’s Summit and Conference is available at WWW.thurgoodmarshallfund.org.

Brother Prempeh says his goals as president of the National Alumni Council include:
* Recruiting new students for Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund member institutions.
* Fostering more cooperation among alumni groups and friends of HBCUs.
* Providing national forums to explore and serve educational issues.

Brother Dr. Prempeh says the biggest challenge that he faces in his new position is making HBCU alumni aware of the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund and the need to support their schools financially.

He encourages alumni to put together college fairs to make prospective students aware of the opportunities that exist for them at HBCUs and educate them about the success stories those schools have produced. He points out that the large majority of African American physicians, PhDs and lawyers have HBCU backgrounds and that the majority of African American elected officials at all levels attended HBCUs.

“That’s the kind of legacy you want to let them lean on,” he says. “HBCUs have a great history, a legacy of making things happen. When no one else would open their doors, they opened their doors for African Americans.”

Another challenge that lies ahead for Brother Dr. Prempeh, he says, is creating a culture of giving among students at HBCUs before they become alumni. To do that, he says schools must impress upon their students the importance of supporting their alma maters financially while they are still undergraduates rather than waiting until they receive their degrees.

“People who are in those positions have to make sure they impact people virtually as soon as they walk in the door,” he says. “We have to turn the paradigm around.

“The time to do it is not when it’s time for their 50th graduation anniversary. That’s a good time, but it’s not the only time.” It’s too late. It’s not on their agenda. Other decisions have been made. All of that time has been lost. Even if somebody is only giving $10 a month, by the time they get to their 50th anniversary, that’s a lot of money.”

Brother Prempeh says the sooner the process begins the better. “We need to do it within the first 50 days that they enter the institution,” he says. “Get that message out so that when they graduate it’s a continuation, not a start up.”

EPSILON RHO JOINS FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN TO HELP FIGHT WORLD HUNGER

*By Brother Robert Browne*

The Brothers of Epsilon Rho Chapter.
Minneapolis, MN – One Saturday morning, May 31, 2008, was all it took for the Brothers of Epsilon Rho Chapter to change the lives of 60 children for an entire year. That was the end result of the recent community service project in which Brothers joined Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God’s starving children in developing countries.

On the last day in May of 2008, a group of 20 volunteers (Epsilon Rho Chapter Brothers, friends and family) gathered at the largest of three Twin Cities FMSC’s facilities. The Omega Group received a brief presentation about the FMSC organization and detailed information about the impact of world hunger. The group then started a 2 hour shift of preparing and packaging meals.

Preparing and packaging meals is achieved by groups of 4-5 volunteers working at one of the eight food preparation stations assembling scientifically designed meal pouches which provide six child-size servings per bag. The pouches contain rice, soy protein, vitamins, minerals, vegetarian chicken flavoring and dehydrated vegetables. This food mixture is culturally acceptable worldwide and allows dissemination without the need of directions which is helpful when providing humanitarian aid across language barriers.

Event coordinator Brother Rex Smith was quoted as saying, “this is what Omega is about, helping the community and helping the people of the world.”

In total, the group prepared 65,700 meals during their shift. That amount is equivalent to feeding 60 children, three times a day, for an entire year. FMSC meals are distributed in over 50 countries around the world through missionary partners at orphanages, schools, clinics, refugee camps and malnourishment centers.

Andre, a 11 year-old boy from Minneapolis participating that day with another group, was overheard telling his mother, “I want to be like them” after observing fellow station workers from the Omega Group and talking extensively about football and Omega’s aspirations of helping the community.

CHRIStMAS TOy DRIVE - 2008

Fort Hood, TX - December 7, 2007, the Brothers of Omicron Pi Chapter donated 52 bicycles to the Fort Hood Santa’s Workshop (FHSW) at Fort Hood, Texas. These bicycles were given to the children of soldiers who were not financially able to give their children a large number of gifts. The FHSW screens the soldiers and determines their eligibility based on rank and income. The Brothers gave one bicycle to Specialist M. Clemmons of Echo Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment. Brother (CPT) Tryndall Franklin is the Commander and he felt that it would be a great compliment to the program if we could select a deserving soldier who has exemplified
impeccable values and morality to receive a bike to brighten one of her children’s Christmas.

Brother Joe Holston has been the chairperson for the committee since its inception and has watched it grow from a five or six bike donation to what you see today. The employees of FHSW were pleased that the Brothers could make another sizable donation to match the donation of last year. The Brothers of Omicron Pi Chapter and supporters of Omicron Pi Chapter purchased the donated bicycles. No fund raising was done in the name of this function. A change was made from previous years in that the Chapter donated $350.00 towards various toys along with the bikes.

The Brothers exemplified their motto for 2008, “THE BEST NEVER REST!” Galvanizing deploying soldiers, Department of Defense employees, and community leaders is one of the greatest challenges the Chapter faces day-to-day. They overcame personnel, logistical and holiday expense challenges to prove to the community that Omega can be a pillar even when the numbers are low. A chapter of 60 members, over 45% of them deployed in support of the war in Iraq. The Chapter continues to produce such outstanding contributions in support of the Ft Hood/Killeen area. Omicron Pi is a “CUT ABOVE THE REST!

IOTA PSI CHAPTER  
“BROTHER TO BROTHER” AT THE FRANK W. HALE BLACK CULTURAL CENTER:  

During Founders week, Iota Psi Chapter hosted a leadership workshop entitled “Brother to Brother”. Dr. Reuel Barksdale facilitated the workshop. It called for all the Black male leaders on campus to come together and discuss what defines leadership and how to become more involved on campus. Other issues discussed were the lack of Black male leadership on Ohio State’s campus, the keys to networking and the importance of Black male graduation.

November 14, 2007 Respect for Black Women Seminar at the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center:  

During Founders week, Iota Psi Chapter also hosted a respect for Black Women Seminar. The Brothers addressed problems between males and females, the importance of respecting one another and some of the stereotypes on campus. The seminar was facilitated by the Multicultural Center and the Women Studies Department. The open discussion was very informative and one of the main lessons learned was that as individuals, we teach people how to treat us; if you demand respect, people will give you respect. At the end of the seminar, a yellow rose ceremony was preformed in which members of the Chapter to symbolize friendship and respect gave all the women in the audience.

Tutoring and Mentoring  

The members of Iota Psi Chapter are involved in a youth mentoring program in which the Chapter works with student athletes from the Columbus, OH area. The Mentoring Student Athletes Foundation has weekly study tables on Sunday’s at Ohio State’s Campus. Members of Iota Psi Chapter tutor and mentor the students. Recently, the Chapter hosted a program in which members from the Chapter and the Ohio State University Football team spoke to the youth about what it takes to be academically successful and chase their dreams.

January 2008 Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive  

The Brothers of Iota Psi Chapter in collaboration with the American Red Cross, NAACP Ohio State Chapter and the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center hosted a blood drive in which the Chapter successfully signed up 50 1st or 2nd time donors. This was also a scholarship fundraiser set up through the university that allocated scholarship funds to high school seniors for every 1st or 2nd time blood donation.
BETA KAPPA KAPPA CHAPTER

ACHIEVEMENT WEEK

by Brother Yon Weaver

High Point, NC-The Brothers of Beta Kappa Kappa Kappa Chapter held their Achievement Week Program on November 11, 2007. The event was held at the Carl Chavis YMCA in High Point, NC. The High School Achievers were Terrell Jones, Joseph Alston, Jr., Michael Jones Jr., and Jamal Glasgow pictured. Brother Geoff Foster, Basileus and Brother Pemberton, KRS are also pictured. All students participated in the High School Essay Contest.

2008 THETA RHO INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER TALENT HUNT

By Brother Ronnie Bell

Kaiserslautern, Germany-Theta Rho International Chapter, 13th District, hosted its annual Talent Hunt Contest on April 19, 2008. Participants represented the Department of Defense students from Kaiserslautern, Wiesbaden and Mannheim. Contestants displayed a wide range of talent from a theatrical skit of the Broadway hit, “The Lion King” to contemporary music and dance and opera. Ms. Jacqueline Lowe, a senior at Kaiserslautern High School was crowned the winner out of five participants with her rendition of a beautiful Italian opera piece, titled, “O Mio Babbino Caro”. Ms. Lowe will represent Theta Rho International Chapter at the 13th District Talent Hunt Contest with an opportunity to compete at International Level at the 2008 Grand Conclave in Birmingham, AL.

A STAR IS BORN

By Brother Marc Styles

East Point, GA- Some 63 years ago, back in 1945, our 9th Grand Basileus, Brother J. Alston Atkins, had an idea that would provide scholarship assistance and encourage students in the musical arts to showcase their talents for local chapters. Thanks to the scholarship assistance, community interest and public support, other Districts took notice. In 1953, at the Grand Conclave in Cincinnati, Ohio, the "Talent Hunt" made its debut. In keeping with that tradition, the Brothers of Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter held their Annual Talent Hunt on Saturday, April 14, 2008 at Miller Grove High School. Nine young contestants maintained their composure as the program was moved.
from the schools acoustically equipped auditorium to the roaring gymnasium.

“By allowing and encouraging these students to participate on a public program such as this allows them to be better speakers, musicians, and importantly students within their local schools”, said Brother Reginald Sullivan, Chapter Basileus. With a chance to win a Free Trip as the Chapter’s representative to the upcoming Georgia State Workshop to be held in October, each contestant put on their best performance. As if that was not enough incentive, the Chapter promised cash prizes of $300, $200, and $100 to the first, second and third place winners respectfully as well as trophies. “Even though some did not make the top three spots, all were winners in the Chapter’s eyes,” said Brother Rickey Harrison, Committee Chairman for the event.

As the judges tallied up their respective score cards, the second place winner was made aware that if the first place winner could not attend the State Workshop then she would be able to go in her place. As the official score card was handed to Brothers Sullivan and Harrison, the contestants had gathered together and held hands hoping to hear their name called as one of the winners. When they announced that Ms. Kandice Kerlew was chosen as the first place winner, a big round of applause was given to her by the audience. “I have set goals to win on the state, district and national levels”, said Kandice to her family members.

His awards and honors include receiving the Prelude Scholar Links Award 2007 & 2008 in collaboration with The Ohio State University Office of Minority Affairs, qualification for the National Association of High School Scholars and nomination for the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. He was awarded the Silver Scholarship Certificate from the Ohio Basketball Coaches Association. Rahim’s hobbies include art/painting, creating and arranging music. He plans to attend The Ohio State University and major in Pre-Medicine or Berklee College of Music and major in Music. Rahim will represent the Fourth District at the 75th Grand Conclave in Birmingham, Alabama.

2007 KAPPA OMEGA ACHIEVEMENT WEEK OBSERVANCE

By Brother Trent E. Roach

Harrisburg, PA- Preceding the Achievement Week Observance, the Brothers of Kappa Omega Chapter held a Founders Day Rededication Service, commemorating the Fraternity’s 96th anniversary. Brother Burell Whitworth presided over the program’s coordination, focusing...
upon our Founding Father’s reflections of the Fraternity’s Cardinal Principles. Brother John W. Maloney III, former 2nd District Representative, provided encouraging words and led the Brothers in attendance in a rededication oath.

At the conclusion of the Founders Day Rededication Service, the Brothers joined their wives, honored guests and significant others for the Achievement Week Dinner recognizing individuals who impacted the local community, accomplished academic excellence and merits virtue worthy of being called Omega Man of the Year. In attendance were three widows to include Henrietta Roach, widow of Brother Clyde W. Roach, Elizabeth Williams, widow of Brother Glenn Williams and Lela Brown, widow of Brother Gilbert Brown.

This year’s theme, “Three Looks, One Focus: Family/Fraternity/Friendship...How can we as individuals make a difference in the Lives of Black People?” Our keynote speaker, Brother James Jordan, 2nd District 1st Vice Representative, presented a fitting analogy to this year’s theme. With thoughtful reflections upon his own life, Brother Jordan identified individuals who made lasting impressions upon him...many being Omega Men. The indelible footprints made by Omega Men have guided Brother Jordan’s life spiritually, academically and professionally. Brother Jordan’s message spoke to the responsibility of Omega Men to instill the same impressions upon others. “You never know who’s observing you”.

The Chapter recognized Brother Stephen L. Powell as the Entrepreneur of the Year. Brother Powell is the President and CEO of Powell Steel located in Lancaster, PA. Powell Steel is a steel fabrication and erection company providing structural steel framework for regional and international construction needs. Brother Powell was inducted into the Entrepreneur Hall of Fame and his company is the 3rd Fastest Growing Company in Central Pennsylvania. Brother Powell is a member of Kappa Omega Chapter.

The Citizen of the Year was awarded to Dr. Donald W. Spignier. Upon receiving his BA and MD degrees from the University of California, Dr. Spignier served on the staff at Los Angeles County General Hospital. As a member of the Public Health Peace Corp. in 1967, Dr. Spignier practiced medicine in Nigeria. In 1976, Dr. Spignier became the director of the Hamilton Health Center serving the needs of those in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The following year he established the Community Medical Association which employs five physicians and staff. Kappa Omega Chapter’s recognition focused upon Dr. Spignier’s commitment and dedication to the South Central Pennsylvania Sickle Cell Council, which he formed in 1994 and currently serves on the Board of Directors. His efforts have greatly assisted in providing health services and public awareness of those suffering with Sickle Cell.

The Student of the Year award was presented to Joshua Potts, a “Renaissance Man” whose academic excellence ranks him 1st in his class and his athletic prowess on the gridiron and track and field earned him state recognition.

Kappa Omega Chapter chose to honor as this year’s recipient of the Omega Man of the Year Award, Brother Arthur Dickinson. Brother Dickinson is a licensed Profession Electrical Engineer, licensed Electrician, and
K-12 Teacher of Mathematics and Electrical Technology. Brother Dickinson served 22 years in the United States Air Force and National Guard with tours in Thailand and the Persian Gulf. Brother Dickinson was initiated into Omega through Zeta Psi Chapter, Brooklyn, NY in 1965 later transferring to Nu Nu Chapter, Willingboro, NJ, where he served as Keeper of Records and Seal for 6 years. In 1999, he transferred to Kappa Omega Chapter, was elected as Vice Basileus and is presently serving his fourth term as the Chapter’s Basileus. Brother Dickinson is instrumental in the various successes realized by Kappa Omega Chapter. Under his leadership, the Chapter’s stability and growth in Social Action and economic development continues to prosper.

Often harrowed but sometimes missed in receiving much deserved accolades, special acknowledgements were presented to the following Brothers: Lester, Gumby, King and Womack who have supported Fraternity initiatives; Brothers Love, Webster and Lumpkin for serving as Chairmen for Achievement Week, The Talent Hunt Program and The Scholarship Committee respectively as well as Brothers Fry, Enoch, Kinnaird, Jefferson, Jackson and Roach for the House and Manna Café operations.

On Sunday, November 18, 2007, the Brothers of Kappa Omega Chapter worshiped at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Pastor Martin Odum and the members of Bethel AME Church extended a warm welcome to Kappa Omega Brothers and their wives and guests. Brother Dickinson read the history of Achievement Week, and achievement plaques were presented to the honorees by Brother George H. Love. The Chapter’s Basileus, Brother Arthur Dickinson complimented the Achievement Week Chairman, Brother Dr. George H. Love and the Founders Day Rededication Service Chairman, Brother Burell Whitworth and their respective committee members for another successful combined program.

Montgomery County, Maryland- Mu Nu Chapter hosted its 2007 Achievement Week Observance awards and dinner program on November 14, 2007 at the East County Community Center in Silver Spring, Maryland with some 150 family members, friends and supporters of the annual scholarship program in attendance. The Achievement Week Chairman, Brother Samuel Spann III (Zeta Zeta Chapter, 1979, University of South Carolina), organized yet another successful event, which featured 30 student awardees from 18 area high schools.

This year’s featured speaker was Brother Congressman James E. Clyburn, U.S. House of Representatives (Xi Psi Chapter, South Carolina State University) who shared words of wisdom, praise for the students and their parents, and some fitting anecdotes and reflections. The Business Person of the Year honoree was Brother Marvin Dickerson (Lambda Zeta Chapter, 1986, University of Virginia), who was recognized for his leadership and philanthropy as the president and CEO of Dickerson Technologies. The Citizen of the Year honoree was career educator Dr. Judy Docca, Board or Education, Montgomery County Public Schools. The program’s attendee list included county principals, administrators, and college and career coordinators who came out to honor the students and support the program. Also in attendance were special guests, Brothers Kenneth Rodgers (Rho Mu Chapter, 1983, University of Arkansas-Monticello), DKRS – 2nd District, Mu Nu Chapter’s own, Brother Milton D. Harrison (Nu Psi Chapter, 1975, Virginia State University), ADKRS – 2nd District, as well as Teddy Taylor (Gamma Pi Chapter, 1990, Prince Georges County,
Maryland), Basileus, and other supportive area Brothers.

The Chapter’s 2007 Achievement awards included: Omega Man of the Year, Brother Bobby Juett (Nu Beta Chapter, 1980, Marshall University); Founder’s Award (posthumously) – Brother Richard H. Johnson Jr. (Etta Gamma Chapter, 1957, Central State University); the Maynard James Community Service Award – Brother Elihu El (Beta Delta Chapter, 1992, University of Central Arkansas); and the Superior Service Award – Brother Spann. The program concluded with the traditional singing of “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” followed by the “Omega Hymn.”

Mu Nu Chapter was chartered May 23, 1970, in Rockville (Montgomery County), Maryland.

KAPPA UPSILON CELEBRATES NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK

From left to right: Charles Hudnell, James Jefferson, Dr. Dorsey Miller, Claude Tolbert, Charles P. Falana and Mitchell Dasher II.

Six Omegas share the fraternal joys of brotherhood before a National Achievement Week celebration in West Palm Beach, FL.

Kappa Upsilon Chapter celebrated National Achievement Week on Sunday, November 11, 2007 with a large congregation of joyous participants at Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, Florida. Brother Ulysses Smith presided over a moving service of historic remembrance, award recognition and spiritual uplift. Several Brothers performed key roles during the event. The congregation was led in prayer, reading of Holy Scripture, providing a concise history of National Achievement Week, welcoming participants, introducing the speaker, presenting awards and singing the beautiful Omega Hymn, Omega Dear.

Brother Dr. Dorsey C. Miller, Jr., Omega’s 35th Grand Basileus, provided a memorable address on Three Looks, One Focus: Family, Fraternity and Friendship. He intimately discussed the peaks and valleys of his life, and noted several joys that continue to enhance his existence; joys of spirituality, family, fraternity, community service and high accomplishment. Additionally, Brother Dr. Miller, Jr. described a period in his life when he was deeply troubled by a few critical anxieties. However, with God’s loving grace and the strong support of family, close friends and fraternity brothers, he found safety and peace on higher ground. He concluded his eloquent and inspiring speech with a ringing announcement: God, love, faith and hope are ascendant in life. Indeed, his golden words of wisdom were met with sustained applause and personal affirmation.

Four awards were presented to deserving persons of distinction. They were Brother John E. Jenkins who received an award (Outgoing Basileus of Kappa Upsilon) for his outstanding service to the Chapter; Brother Charles P. Falana received who received an award (Kappa Upsilon’s Omega Man of the Year) for his meritorious contributions to Chapter activities; Brother Dr. Dorsey C. Miller, Jr. (Special Presentation) received an award for his excellent keynote address; and finally, Dr. Arthur Anderson (Citizen of the Year) received an award for his exceptional work as Supervisor of Elections, Palm Beach County.
Tabernacle’s Pastor, Gerald D. Kisner offered a warm and gracious welcome to the 21 brothers of Kappa Upsilon Chapter who participated in the 2007 celebration of National Achievement Week. In his closing remarks, he extended an open invitation to Omegas to come again and abide in fellowship with a vibrant Christian community in West Palm Beach, Florida.

LAMBDA GAMMA GAMMA
“TALENT HUNT CONTINUES TO EXCEED EXPECTATIONS”

By Brother Michael H. Smith, Chapter Editor

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

The Omega Talent Hunt competition originated in our Fraternity’s Sixth District (North and South Carolina) in 1945. Lambda Gamma Gamma takes great pride in the display and celebration of some of the Capital Region’s most talented high school aged students. Forty Six talented High School students registered for the contest this year.

Thirty one very talented contestants participated in this year’s event and were judged in the categories of Vocal, Dance, Instrumental, Drama and Visual Arts. This year, six students participated in the area of dance, 4 students participated in the area of instrumental music, three students participated in the area of drama, 8 students participated in the area of visual arts and ten students participated in the area of vocal music. The Chairman, Brother Darryl W. Bennett and the Co-Chairman, Brother Galen Kimbrue both stressed that the event should be a positive, motivating and a learning experience.

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

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

Ms. Jazmyn Richardson, a student at Suitland High School, was the second place overall winner. Jaymyn was the winner of the drama category. Jazmyn’s dramatic rendition of a psychopathic murder chilled the audience. She portrayed a deeply disturbed teen, who while being interrogated by authorities, eerily explains the demented exhilaration of cold blooded murder of one of her classmates.

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

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

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

The Talent Hunt program has been very rewarding to the Brotherhood of Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter contemporarily and to Omega over the last 60 years. The Brothers of the Chapter will continue to search for and support our gifted youth!

Los Angeles, CA-For nearly 10 years, The Mighty Tau Tau Chapter has hosted its Annual Talent Hunt Contest at Compton High School in the City of Compton, California. The Talent Hunt is one of the Fraternities nationally mandated programs, which provides its contestants with the opportunity to showcase their talents.

2007’s Talent Hunt competition featured 12 talented contestants who displayed an array of talents ranging from lead vocalist to interpretive dance. The contest was held Thursday, March 13, 2008 where each contestant performed in front of a panel of judges.

The panel appointed by the event chair, Brother Derrick Rice, were endowed with the formidable task of selecting the top three contestants, one of which was scheduled to represent Tau Tau Chapter in their Fraternity’s annual District meeting.

Adding to the popularity of the contest, established names like comedians, Patrick Pratt and Steve Harvey have been hosts for the contest.

Aspiring pianist Eric Dairy earned a spot in the Fraternity’s 63rd 12th District Meeting Talent Hunt contest to be held which was held in April 2008, by winning the competition. The individual winners of the District Talent Hunt competitions will be flown to the Grand Conclave to
compete for national recognition.

The Talent Hunt was well attended and there was a lot of excitement about moving next 2008’s event to a larger venue to accommodate larger crowds and more contestants.

LAMBDA IOTA CHAPTER CONDUCTS ITS ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK PROGRAM

By Brother Marvin Broadwater, Sr.

Columbus, GA—Lambda Iota Chapter held its Annual Achievement Week Program at M. L. Harris Methodist Church on November 11, 2007. The Achievement Week Program was originally designed “to promote the study of Negro life and History”. Achievement Week is used to seek out and give due recognition to those individuals at the local and national level who have made a noteworthy contribution toward improving the quality of life for Black Americans.

Along with the announcement of award winners, the Fraternity also conducts a National Essay contest awarding Scholarship monies to a local, District (GA, FL, AL & MS) and national winner. The National High School Essay Contest is a phase of achievement week that is held in November of each year. The contest is open to college-bound high school seniors. College scholarships are awarded to the winners, each of whom must submit an essay on a theme/topic, which is chosen annually by the Fraternity. 2007’s theme was “What is the number one issue that would make the biggest difference in the lives of Black people and if you were President, how would you address it?” The program recognizes the achievements of citizens, educators, religious leaders, students, and fraternity brothers within the community. In 1926, Carter G. Woodson (an Omega) passionately known as “The Father of Black History” charged fraternities and other organizations to recognize citizens whom have contributed not only to their respective organization, but to their respective communities as well. 2007’s Achievement Week winners were:

- Local Essay Winner--Ms. Kremease Dora (George Washington Carver High School)
- Citizen of The Year-- Brother Travis Chambers and Brother Cedric Dirty
- Superior Service Award-- Brother Vincent Galvin
- Omega Man of the Year--Brother Jeffery Gibson

STUDENTS SHOWCASE TALENT WITH BROTHERS OF XI XI CHAPTER

By Brother Mike Wade

L to R Bros. Michael Shoulders and Kirk Lattimore, 1st place winner Bruce Herring and Basileus Warren Shelton present the award at the Moore Men of Quality Meeting.
Fort Knox, KY - On Friday, November 16, 2007, Xi Xi Chapter hosted a Talent Hunt and Scholarship Recognition Program at the Fort Knox Leaders Club Candlelight Room. The Talent Hunt competition involved eight students representing Fort Knox, North Hardin and Elizabethtown High Schools.

The talent involved three musicians and five vocalists. The winner of the competition was Ms. Amanda Young of Elizabethtown High School who played a classical selection on piano—entitled Hoomberg Suite by Grieg. The second place winner was Mr. Mike Taylor of Fort Knox High School who enlightened us on electric guitar playing Cannon Rock by Jerry C. of the famed rock group U2. Our third place winner was Mr. Chris Shanks of North Hardin High School who sang an original piece entitled Bye, Bye, You in acapella and really worked the crowd.

The Chapter awarded the winners with cash prizes, trophies, and gift certificates from local area restaurants. The other participants in the Talent Hunt competition included Ms. Jamielyn Riggins of Fort Knox high School, Mr. Quintin Harrison of North Hardin High School, Ms. Jennifer Brazier of Fort Knox High School, Mr. Leandre Hostler of Fort Knox High School, and Mr. Dominique Young of Fort Knox High School. All other participants in the Talent Hunt competition received a replica trophy with a musical note emblem with Xi Xi Chapter 2007 Omega Talent Hunt inscribed and gift coupons from local area restaurants. To further demonstrate the Chapter’s ability to provide encouragement and exposure, all Talent Hunt participant were offered an opportunity to receive expert instruction by the 113th Army Band at Fort Knox and an opportunity to participate in their holiday band concerts, as well as future band concerts performances.

During the same program, the Chapter provided awarded $4500.00 of scholarships to seven Hardin County, Kentucky college bound students represent all five local area high schools. The recipients of our Local scholarships were as follows: Ms. Amanda Young of Elizabethtown HS; Mr. Cameron Tucker of North Hardin HS; Ms. Chianta Holmes of North Hardin HS; Mr. Cody Mitchell of John Hardin HS; Ms. Lindsey Skaggs of Central Hardin HS; Ms. Stacie Wallace of Central Hardin HS; and Ms. Whitney Lewis of Fort Knox HS. The Chapter also recognized its local winner to the National Essay Contest, Ms. Amanda Young of Elizabethtown HS and provided her an incentive award of $100.00 during the program. The Chapter collected non-perishable food items and donated it to the Fort Knox Army Community Service Helping Hands Program in support of Thanksgiving and the Fort Knox Holiday Food drive.

OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR:
BROTHER RONALD THOMPSON

Special Presentation: Pi Omega Chapter gave special recognition to those Brothers who have served as Basileus of the Chapter. Pi Omega Chapter was charted 86 years ago and the chapter has been able to identify former Basilei from 1946 to the present. Sixteen of those Brothers are still alive, the oldest being Brother Dr. Benjamin C. Whitten who was Basileus from 1956 to 1958. Last year Pi Omega Chapter recognized the five Brothers from the Chapter who rose to the rank of Second District Representative. Of those five, four were former Basilei. Pi Omega Chapter indeed has a rich legacy and tradition.

Brother Charles Cephas led the Brothers in the traditional Omega Toast, followed by Brother Green leading the Brothers in a singing the Fraternity hymn. In following the charge given by Brother Avery, yes the Founder’s would
have been proud of Pi Omega Chapter on this day.

**TAU PI CHAPTER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BANQUET**

On Sunday October 14, 2007, Tau Pi Chapter held its first “Lifetime Achievement Awards Banquet” in honor of 18 distinguished members to celebrate their legacy and tradition. All of the honorees were Brothers who have been long time members of the Chapter and outstanding Community servants.

These men have been a roll model, advisor and confidant to the men of Tau Pi Chapter. They have led the Chapter in its service to the Howard County Community by demonstrating that “Friendship is Essential to the Soul.” Each of these men has attained or exceeded the age of 70 and has actively served the Fraternity for up to 67 years.

These Brothers are proud, humble, determined, dependable, honorable and possess strong will and character. They lived through times of extreme racism; overcame obstacles, to earn undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate degrees and lead remarkable, productive and charitable lives. These 18 “Sage Brothers” have succeeded against all odds and made it possible for those of us who have followed them to have a better life … they are Tau Pi’s Founders, heart and soul!


**PI OMEGA CHAPTER HOSTED ITS ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK PROGRAM**

*By Brother John Berkley, Vice Basileus*

Baltimore, MD- Pi Omega Chapter hosted its Annual Achievement Week and Founder’s Day Observance on Saturday November 17, 2007 at the Visions Banquet and Catering Hall. The guest speaker for the event was Brother James S. Avery, former 28th Grand Basileus and 9th Second District Representative.
The chaplain, Brother Aaron Von Moore, set the stage by opening the program with a reading from Proverbs 4, which spoke about wisdom and the steps of the righteous.

The Hon. Brother George K. McKinney introduced the head table, which consisted of Brother James Avery, Brother Marvin Dillard, current Second District Representative, Brother Danard Smith, Basileus of Pi Omega Chapter, and Brother Moore. Other fraternity officers in attendance were Brother Walter Amprey, former Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Brother James Jordan, Second District First Vice District Representative, Brother Kenneth Rodgers, Second District Keeper of Records and Seal, Brother Danard Smith presented greetings on behalf of Pi Omega Chapter.

Brother Sydney Gardner presented the tribute to the Founders. Founder Stand-ins for this year were Brother Aaron Smalls (Brother Edgar A. Love), Brother John Nash, Sr. (Brother Oscar Cooper), Brother Roosevelt Hobbs (Brother Frank Coleman), and Brother D’Juan Neal (Brother Ernest Just). Brother Dr. Washington Green, Jr., JD provided those in attendance with the meaning of brotherhood. Brother Green reminded the Brothers that we have a precious legacy that must be protected. We should do all we can to make our Founders proud of us.

Brother Michael Miller provided the Spiritual Uplift and spoke on the Fraternity’s Cardinal Principles. Manhood – to be accessible, responsible men; Scholarship – to be accomplished, learned men; Perseverence – to be assured men; Uplift – to be available men. Brother Miller encouraged the brothers to be mentors to the “boys in the hood”.

Brother James Avery spoke on the Fraternity’s theme of “Three Looks, One Focus: Family, Fraternity, and Friendship”. Brother Avery reminded the Brothers that we have esteemed leaders from Pi Omega Chapter at the District and National levels, and in various business endeavors. We have to continue to focus to make family, fraternity, and friendship our foundation. The Founders told him of their dreams to have men anchor their lives around the Cardinal Principles. They wanted good leaders and hand picked the best they could. We should do no less if we are to remain relevant in today’s society. Society has raised the bar to what is acceptable, and we must rise to the occasion. Omega needs only the best of men, men of good will and character who can stand up to their responsibility. Brother Avery encouraged the Brothers to be the exception rather than the rule. Strive to be the ultimate. Believe that we can be great.

Prior to the awards ceremony, Brother John Scott presented Ms. Courtney Studivant to the audience. Ms. Courtney is the 2007 recipient of the Pi Omega Chapter Scholarship. Ms. Studivant is a freshman-nursing student at Coppin State University.

**AWARDS PRESENTED AT THIS YEAR’S PROGRAM INCLUDED:**

- **Howard L. Cornish Humanitarian Award:**
  June Streckfus, Executive Director, Maryland Business Roundtable for Education; The Saint Frances Academy Community Center; Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration

- **National Superior Service Award:**
  Brother Demaune Millard

- **Founder’s Award:**
  Brother Garland Brown

- **Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award:**
  Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore City Council President

- **Colonel Charles Young Military Leadership Award:**
  Brother LTC David Patterson
GAMMA PI CHAPTER CELEBRATES ITS 34TH ACHIEVEMENT WEEK PROGRAM

Brother James Alexander, Jr./Chapter Editor

Prince George’s County, MD-Gamma Pi Chapter’s 34 annual Achievement Week Program proved to be one of the best in the Chapter’s history. As the saying goes, the chapter “packed the house” for the “Brothers only” dinner held at Andrews Air Force Base on November 8, 2008 and for the public Achievement Week program held on November 11, 2007 featuring keynote speaker, Brother Ernest Green, a member of the historic Little Rock Nine.

Brother Green highlighted this year’s Achievement Week observance with a very moving and powerful recanting of the history that he and eight other colleagues made in September of 1957 when they integrated Little Rock, Arkansas’ Central High School escorted by armed troops. “I was very proud. I was not thinking about the global impact we were making. I was thinking about getting my diploma and getting out on time.”

A standing room only crowd at the Drew-Freeman Middle School gym in Suitland, MD, included several dignitaries, among them U.S. Congressman, Albert Wynn and Omega’s 1st Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl A. Blunt. The audience hung on every word as Brother Green connected the strands of yesterday’s history to the challenges of tomorrow’s generation.

“It became clear to us that this was not a sprint. This was a long distance race,” said Brother Green, reminiscing on the events that brought together what became the Little Rock Nine. “It makes you feel good to look back as a teenager and see that the idea that you had ... wasn’t such a screwy idea at all.” He had a very important message directed at the young people in the audience and that was to work outside their own comfort zones and to make contact with people outside of the ones they know in their home communities.

Brother Green captured everyone’s attention with stories about how he worked Saturdays with a tutor from the University Of Arkansas Medical School on a difficult science subject and how the Little Rock nine members had strong support and guidance from their families during their ordeal. He also recalled how he looked up during his Central High graduation ceremony and saw a surprise guest sitting with his family, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Putting Achievement Week in perspective, Brother Green said, “Omega Psi Phi Achievement Week program is really about something we ought to do every week and not just this week.” Just a few days prior to Achievement Week, Brother Green was interviewed about his planned Gamma Pi Chapter speech on the “Joe Madison Show.” He told a national XM Satellite Radio audience that African American fraternities and sororities were as relevant as ever. These organizations, he said, with Omega leading the way, maintained the same the obligations as their predecessor Greek brothers and sisters to improve opportunities for African Americans everywhere. He pointed out that in many respects, the mission of the Little Rock Nine was not unlike that of Omega’s founders, which was to make a difference and help people live life according to winning principles.

To commemorate the historic occasion for Gamma Pi Chapter, Maryland Governor, Martin O’Malley issued
a citation. Brother Green came forward with his own special way of commemorating the event and presented Gamma Pi Basileus Teddy Taylor with a DVD copy of the documentary about his life story for possibly auctioning off to raise scholarship funds. During the program, the Chapter awarded $20,000 in college scholarships to Prince George's County students. Gamma Pi Chapter also honored the Chapter's student essay contest winner.

Several Gamma Pi Chapter members were honored for their contributions: Brother Orlando McDowell (Omega Man of the Year), Brother Roland Byrd (Founder's Award), Brother Marion Massey, Jr. (Superior Service Award) and Brother Deacon Demitri Kornegay, a high-ranking police official in Montgomery County, Md., was presented a communitywide award as Religious Leader of the Year. Several local citizens were also feted for service awards for Achievement Week.

For the third consecutive year, the Achievement Week program was preceded by Gamma Pi Chapter's "Brothers-Only" dinner at the officers' Club on Andrews Air Force Base. Nearly 100 Brothers from Gamma Pi Chapter and neighboring chapters attended the dinner. An evening of food, fellowship and fun set the right tone for the Chapter's stride into the main event on November 10.

**ALPHA IOTA IOTA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON**

*Brother Horace Satisfield*

Richardson, Texas - On Saturday May 17, 2008, Alpha Iota Iota Chapter held its annual scholarship awards luncheon at Humperdink's Restaurant. Five (5) $1,000 scholarships were awarded to deserving college bound high school seniors who exemplify the ideals and Cardinal Principles of our beloved Fraternity. Winners were judged on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community involvement, essay, interview and financial need.

Pictured above from left to right are: Sir Norman Tyler Melancon-Plano East High School, attending Dartmouth College Trevoy Dunn- J. J. Pearce High School, attending DePaul University Edwin Jones. Scholarship Chairman Kevin Dillon- Plano East High School, attending Missouri University of Science & Technology Andrea Madu- Plano East High School, attending Texas Tech University Jovita Bello- Plano East High School, attending University of North Texas Michael Hartman, Chapter Basileus

For the 2nd consecutive year, Brother Edwin Jones coordinated this annual event. The guest speaker, the lovely Lynn Pride Richardson, Asst. District Attorney, Dallas County Public Defenders Office and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, gave a rousing inspirational message regarding preparation, helping one another, and community involvement.

After the luncheon, Alpha Iota Iota Chapter Brothers shared words of encouragement and wisdom to these deserving students and their parents. The Chapter salutes this Class of 2008 high school graduates!

**ALPHA IOTA IOTA CHAPTER-NORTH DALLAS QUES**

*Talent Hunt 2008*

Alpha Iota Iota Chapter sponsored its 17th annual Talent Hunt program at the Garland Plaza Performing Arts Center. Twelve outstanding high school students showed off their vast reservoir of talents and captivated the audience. Performers showed their talents as vocalist, musicians and interpretive movement dancers.
Program chairman, Brother Wayne Powe and Basileus & Master of Ceremony, Brother Michael Hartman presented the awards to the 3 winning contestants and certificates to other participants.

The program was very well attended by community supporters, sponsors and featured praise dance teams from “Moving for the Messiah” (Greater New Birth Baptist Church, Plano) and the “Park Steppers” (Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, Dallas).

The Chapter has a commitment and tradition of providing a positive outlet for student/performers and has produced several past 9th District Winners.

This exceptional community service program was started and continued by Brothers Wayne Williams, Ron Silas, Lawrence Carriere (Omega Chapter) and this year’s talent hunt chairman, Brother Wayne Powe.
Brother Dr. Andrew A. Ray
Educator Extraordinaire

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

Brother Dr. Ray’s post secondary education includes a B.S. in Economics (Southern University), M.S. in Education (University of New York), M.S. in Administration and a Ph.D. in Administration and Policy from The University of Buffalo. Dr. Ray has demonstrated a life-long commitment to learning through his study at 13 colleges and universities in the United States and Africa including Yale, American University, Loyola, Wisconsin and the University of Ghana (West Africa). His thirst for knowledge has resulted in the conferring of four Professional Certificates for Post Baccalaureate Studies. His professional experience includes Economist, Teacher, Administrator, Adjunct Professor and work with the Urban League, Singer Corporation, The US Department of State and The US Congress in Washington, DC.

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

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

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

His life’s motto has been, when you close your eyes to slumber, do you think that GOD will say that you have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today.
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BROTHER LEONARD HAYNES RECEIVES NATIONAL APPOINTMENT  
By: Brother Troy K. Manigault, Chapter Reporter

Montgomery County, MD-In October 2007, the U.S. Secretary of Education appointed Dr. Leonard Haynes III to the position of Executive Director of White House Initiatives on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Secretary Margaret Spellings cited Brother Haynes' “vast experience in higher education, coupled with the leadership he has demonstrated as Director of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education,” where he served since June 2003.

In his HBCU Executive Director position, Brother Haynes will work with the presidentially appointed HBCU Board of Advisors and assist the Secretary of Education as the liaison between the executive branch and HBCUs, including working with some 32 Federal agencies in support of Federal grants and contracts targeting HBCUs. His distinguished career includes stints as the U.S. Department of Education’s Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, the U.S. Information Agency’s Director of Academic Programs for the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, Acting President of Grambling State University, Executive Vice President of Southern University, and faculty memberships at Howard University, University of Maryland, George Washington University and Southern University.

Brother Haynes earned his bachelors from Southern University, masters from Carnegie Mellon and doctorate from Ohio State University. He is also the recipient of numerous honors and awards including ten honorary degrees.

BROTHER DR. FREDERICK BURROUGHS INDUCTED INTO 2007raleigh, NC HALL OF FAME  
By Brother Michael A. Boykin

Raleigh, NC- For nearly 40 years, Brother Dr. Frederick D. Burroughs has selflessly delivered medical care and counseling to the children of Raleigh, NC. The third of five children, Brother Dr. Burroughs was born in New Jersey in 1930. Presented with many challenges, it was relatively late in life that he realized his childhood dream of becoming a doctor, as he was nearly 40 when he began to practice medicine.

Brother Burroughs earned a Bachelors of Science degree from Hampton Institute in Hampton, VA, and was
commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army ROTC. He began active duty after graduation, completing tours of duty in both the United States and Germany. Brother Burroughs entered Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN and received the Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1966.

Three years later, with great personal financial risk, he moved his young family to Raleigh and opened an office next to Wake Memorial Hospital, becoming the first African-American physician in the city to devote his practice completely to the specialty of pediatrics. Many of his young patients had little or no insurance. He quickly gained acceptance among his colleagues, not by demanding recognition, but by earning their respect through his hard work, dedication and medical expertise.

In 1977, Brother Burroughs became a founding partner of Sunnybrook Multi-Specialty Medical Center located in a southeast Raleigh neighborhood, providing a place where patients could receive care in a variety of specialties. He remained in private practice until January 1996 when he joined Wake Health Services. In July 2003, Brother Burroughs joined Growing Child Pediatrics and continues to practice.

Throughout his career, Brother Burroughs has advised, and taught medical and health professional students and mentored pediatric residents as an adjunct clinical professor at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He was also the first African-American doctor to serve on the staff of Rex Hospital in Raleigh, NC. In 2003, the North Carolina Pediatric Society honored him with its highest community service award, recognizing his pioneering service as a pediatrician and his role as a mentor and teacher of three generations of medical students and residents.

Brother Burroughs has also contributed to the community through his church choir and various ministries; member of the Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc (Raleigh, NC); Board of Visitors- St. Augustine’s College; Occoneechee Council of the Boy Scouts, and the Health Systems Agency Board.

On September 13, 2007, Brother Dr. Frederick D. Burroughs was one of 14 citizens inducted into the 2007 Raleigh Hall of Fame for extraordinary commitment to the Raleigh community. Brother Burroughs has made a profound difference in the lives of countless patients and their anxious parents. Through him, Raleigh's young children have had a better chance to become healthy productive citizens.

KAPPA LAMBDA CHAPTER- FIRST TO COMPLETE THE LAMPADOS PILOT PROGRAM
By Brother Justin Ratliff

Raleigh, NC- Fall 2007, Kappa Lambda Chapter was fortunate to be the very first chapter in the entire Fraternity to bring new Brothers into the fold through the Lampados Pilot Program. Through this program, the Lampados Club, which consisted of Christopher Akpobiyeri, Justin Ratliff, Justin Gorham and Louis Johnson, organized and ran programs to benefit the Fraternity as well as the Raleigh and NC State community. The first of these programs was Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity of Wake County has been building
homes for deserving families for over 20 years and continues to encourage volunteers to do the same. On November 3, 2007, the Lamps of the Kappa Lambda Chapter participated in building a new home for a deserving Raleigh family.

The next event which was sponsored in conjunction with the current Brothers of Kappa Lambda Chapter was the Charles R. Drew Blood Drive. This program, held on November 6-7, was named in honor of African American physician and medical researcher, Dr. Charles Drew, whose groundbreaking research helped scientists discover new ways to collect and store blood, particularly blood plasma. Drew is also a member of Omega. The drive was held over a two-day period in Bragaw Activity Room and Talley Student Center, respectively. Donors were asked to complete a short screening process in which they were asked questions about their health history and after being screened waited briefly for the next available donation station. After blood was given, donors were encouraged to help themselves to refreshments as they recuperated.

The purpose of this event was to save lives and to raise awareness about the importance of donating blood. This event was also focused on encouraging first time donors to give and to remind returning donors about the rewards of saving lives.

The final program organized by the Kappa Lambda Chapter’s Lampados Club was a voter registration drive for the upcoming 2008 Presidential Primaries and Elections. This program was held on November 13, 2007 outside of the freedom expression tunnel on NC State’s campus. A table was set up outside of the tunnel containing voter registration forms, brochures about voting, stickers, pens and buttons all pertaining to the importance of voting. Passersby were encouraged to stop at the table to either register, or receive information to pass along to their friends about registering.

The brochures that were made available contained information on how to register, how to figure out where their precinct is, and other useful information for first time voters. Many of the unregistered voters felt the historic implications this election could have as the US awaits the possibility of an African American or woman Democratic candidate. Over 80 unregistered voters were registered for the upcoming election.

**UPSILON ZETA CHAPTER AT ECU RECEIVES HONORS**

*By Brother Lathan E. Turner*

Greenville, NC- During the Spring Greek Awards Banquet at East Carolina University, members of Omega were recognized for a variety of awards.

The Office of Greek Life created the first class of ECU Greek Alumni Hall of Fame inductees. The award is based on service to the broader community. Among the inductees to the first class is Brother Vonta Leach, a 2004 graduate of ECU and former ECU Pirate football team member. He currently plays for the NFL team, the Houston Texans.

Additionally, the Overall Chapter GPA award (highest fraternity or sorority gpa) for NPHC organizations went to the Upsilon Zeta Chapter. Lastly, the NPHC Advisor of the...
Year award was presented to Brother Dr. Lathan E. Turner.

The banquet was held on January 15, 2008 and is an annual affair recognizing students, advisors and other awardees from the three major Greek-lettered organizations: NPHC, IFC, and NPC.

**OMICRON PHI CHAPTER’S HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT**

*By Brother George Adams*

Columbia, SC- Members of the Omicron Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi participated in the Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity blitz build; transforming an empty lot in North Columbia to a beautiful three-bedroom home. Combined with generous sponsorship and labor from the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Habitat for Humanity house took shape over eight days in the Rockgate Community in South Carolina.

Omicron Phi Chapter members worked alongside other volunteers to build the 1,400 square-foot home. Everything from the drywall, electrical, plumbing, painting, trim work, and other details were needed to complete the house. Brothers of Omicron Phi Chapter worked tirelessly until the job was complete.

The enthusiasm of doing this great deed to uplift members of the local community spawned a unique challenge for the Omicron Phi Chapter. The idea for next year is to form a battle of fraternities that will place the Omicron Phi Chapter and other fraternal organizations in competition against each other as they build two Habitat for Humanity homes. “We think this will be competitive, but fun, and we will be prepared for the challenge,” said Brother Charles Marshall, Basileus of Omicron Phi Chapter.

The brothers of Omicron Phi are to be commended for their efforts, service, and labor that made this event a huge success.

**BROTHER CHRIS WILLIAMSON DEDICATES YOUTH CENTER**

*By Brother Tony Reed*

Moncks Corner, SC- On January 19, 2008 Brother Chris Williamson, along with his wife Deloris and daughters Khrissy and Daysha, dedicated his building that will be used to house the Williamson Youth Services (WYS). Brother Williamson, a member of Iota Beta Beta Chapter and a Captain of Troop 7 with the South Carolina Highway Patrol (SCHP), fulfilled a dream of being able to offer some guidance to today’s youth.

The mission of WYS is to provide mentoring, discipline and behavioral intervention services to the youth and their families; to serve as advocates on their
behalf and to assist them with problem solving issues that will help them grow and be self-sufficient, responsible and contributing members of society.

In order for WYS to accomplish its mission statement and goals, a 10-day camp is held each summer to reinforce these initiatives. The military style camp provides structure and leadership designed to educate in various areas through positive reinforcement and encouragement.

Brother Williamson’s position with SCHP, gives him the ability to meet and network with high profile individuals. Such persons as Brother Ryan Stewart, former Detroit Lion, Arizona Diamondbacks second baseman Orlando Hudson, and Green Bay Packers linebacker, Tracy White have all volunteered to lend a helping hand to his program.

As always, Brother Williamson is confident that the Brothers of Iota Beta Beta Chapter will be behind the youth center and provide any assistance the program may need.

**THETA TAU CHAPTER HOSTS RECEPTION FOR 20TH PRESIDENT OF TALLADEGA COLLEGE**

*By Brother Johnny L. Harris*

Anniston-Talladega, Alabama-The Brothers of Theta Tau Chapter hosted a lavish reception at Budget Inns & Suite in the city of Talladega, on March 6, 2008, for Brother Dr. Billy Hawkins, 20th President of Historic Talladega College, Talladega, AL. Brother Dr. Hawkins assumed his new position on January 3, 2008, after having served as president of Texas College, Tyler, Texas for six years. He replaced Brother Dr. Oscar Prater, the 19th and interim President of Talladega College. Brother Hawkins described himself as a hands-on administrator and explained his vision for Talladega College, which culminates with returning this historic institution to its rightful place of pre-eminence among Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs). He presented other goals to include but not those limited to the following:

* revising athletics to include basketball (has been initiated), baseball, softball, and golf for fiscal year 2008-09
* increasing enrollment to at least 500 students for the fall of 2008
* massive renovation of student housing
* quality foodservice program
* establishing communication and a presence in the community with churches, social civic organizations, local businesses and corporations
* enhancing the academic programs and adding new programs
* campus beautification
* intensive fund raising campaign
* public relations
* getting the alumni actively involved

This was a great evening of fellowship and bonding as the Brothers of Theta Tau Chapter welcomed Brother Hawkins to historic Talladega College. As a chapter and individual Brothers, we offered our influence, financial assistance, and unequivocal support to help Brother Hawkins, his administration, staff, and student body return Talladega College to his rightful place of pre-eminence among
HBCUs. The Brothers of Theta Eta Chapter, Jacksonville State University, are also to be commended for their participation in this event.

**ETA RHO CHAPTER PRESENTS NEW SPRING LINE INITIATED APRIL 26, 2008**

St. Petersburg, FL - Eta Rho Chapter takes great pride in its introduction of the Chapter’s new spring line of six Brothers initiated on April 26, 2008. The New Brothers represent high academic attainment and professional growth that Omega can be proud of. During the MSP process and after initiation, these six men have continued to seek ways to uplift the mighty name of Omega. They have already presented to the Chapter several community projects that they wish to pursue. One project in particular is to support the local Carter G. Woodson Museum; by aiding it in its publicity campaign to create awareness and involvement by the local community. Eta Rho Chapter will continue to encourage and nurture these new Brothers in the great tradition of Omega.

**ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL RETIRES**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson completed a distinguished 32-year military career and ROTC instructor “tricked” him into pursuing his education at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He said his Army career has been fun and he plans to continue to work very hard for the next several years and continue to hone his skills. “I am as energetic now as when I first joined this team called the United States Army,” Johnson said.

A Chicago native, Johnson was commissioned as an engineer officer from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in June 1976. He held a variety of positions during his career including: director of the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency; dual-hatted as the commanding general of the Corps’ Gulf Region Division and as the U.S. deputy director to the Program Management Office, Coalition Provisional Authority, Baghdad, Iraq; and commanding general of the Corps’ Pacific Ocean Division, Hawaii.

Chief of Engineers and Commander of the Corps, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, said previously that Johnson “played a shaping role in the future of Iraq as the commanding general of the Gulf Region Division, headquartered in Baghdad ... building clinics, schools, roads, pipelines, and power distribution systems. And he was the first African-American to serve as the Army’s senior engineer in the
Commander of the U.S. Africa Command, Gen. William E. “Kip” Ward, was the guest host of the retirement ceremony. He congratulated Johnson “for having done the things that have caused each of us to be better human beings.

“Your service to this nation, our Army, this institution, is characterized in ways that point to nothing other than being selfless,” Ward said.

“From his junior ROTC days in Chicago to every command assignment, every staff assignment, he, through leadership, through example, through professionalism, caused those things he was responsible for, those teammates with whom he served to be the very best that they could be just by pure force of will and personality,” Ward said. “That doesn’t stop just because that phase of this life journey is about to transition.

Earlier this year, on Feb. 16, Johnson received the Black Engineer of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award during the 22nd annual Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference on in Baltimore. Since 1986, the conference and the associated awards ceremony have recognized the outstanding achievements of African-Americans in companies across America, according to BEYA officials.

In addition to the lifetime achievement award, Johnson is also the recipient of the 2003 Black Engineer of the Year Award for Professional Achievement in Government Service.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers comprises approximately 34,000 civilian and 600 military employees, who serve the Armed Forces and the Nation by providing vital public engineering services and capabilities across the full spectrum of operations—from peace to war—in support of national interests.

Atlantic City, NJ - On May 3, 2008, Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter demonstrated an extraordinary level of excellence of which our Founding Fathers would be proud. The Brothers of the Chapter were blessed, honored and humbled to receive nine of the most prestigious awards during 60th Second District Conference, for award to a member of our great Fraternity at the District level. The Annual Second District Conference was hosted by Upsilon Alpha Chapter and District Marshal, Brother Ernest Cheatham. Over 550 members of the Fraternity’s Second District composed of the states of New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland participated in this record setting event. Ironically, Atlantic City was the site of the 1st Second District Conference in 1948.

Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter was represented by delegates and accompanied by over 25 members who came to support the “Capital Region Ques” and to re-elect Brother James Hicks Jr., for 2nd District Keeper of Finance. The Chapter leadership was present to orchestrate the efforts of the Chapter and insure that Fraternity business was a priority during the 60th Second District Conference.

The Chapter leadership was present to orchestrate the efforts of the Chapter and insure that Fraternity business was a priority during the 60th Second District Conference.

Extreme dedication to excellence and our four Cardinal
Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift, and was demonstrated as members Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter and our community won the following awards at this year’s Second District Conference.

60th Annual Second District Achievement Week Winners
- Brother Reginald L. Vance, Ph. D., 2nd District Omega Man of the Year
- Brother Yahari Butler, 2nd District Superior Service Award
- Brother Aaron Combs, LTC (ret), 2nd District Colonel Charles Young Award
- Ms. Jay McElroy, 2nd District Citizen of the Year

60th Annual Second District Talent Hunt Award Winners
- Steven Garrison, Saxophonist, 1st Place Overall
- Steven Garrison, Saxophonist (Contemporary Instrumental), 1st Place
- Mark Stewart Jr., (Visual Arts), 1st Place

60th Annual Second District Scholarship Awards
- Brother Ernest Marshall III, Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter, Graduate Scholarship
- Brother Maurice Foster, Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter, Graduate Scholarship
- Brother Rodney Pumphrey, Epsilon Sigma Chapter, Undergraduate Scholarship

In addition to Brother Hicks’ representation on the 2nd District Council, the Brothers of Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter are proudly represented on 2nd District Committees by Brother James Whitehead whom is on the District’s Life Membership Committee and Brother Angelo “Twin” Riddick whom is the Co-Chair of the District’s Information Technology Committee.

The Brothers of the Chapter are truly blessed, humbled and honored to represent the Mighty 2nd District. Community service and excellence in all endeavors will propel Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter and the 2nd District to greater heights as we approach the 100th anniversary of our great Fraternity.

THE THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT EXPANDS ACROSS THE WORLD

Greeting Brothers, I pray all is well with each of you. Things are progressing in the 13th District everyday and we are on the verge of massive expansion. As such, I would like to continue to thank the Brothers who have and are continuing to serve the District, in spite of controversy and have committed to moving forward with the District’s Agenda. I am thankful that over the last year I have been able to speak candidly with Brothers and while we do not all see things quite the same way, we were at least able to respect each others positions. That said, we are embarking on a new Fraternal year and I again, request that Brothers would get behind the move of the District. We have and are moving forward in a positive direction. Special
congratulations are in order for Brother Peter Mitchell upon his selection and induction into the Greek Hall of Fame in the Bahamas. We all know that Brother Mitchell is a great and dutiful Omega Man who is deserving of the recognition. Again Congrats! Last but not least, I would like to thank those Brothers who participated in the Coaches for Cancer drive.

Brothers, I am pleased to announce that we have reestablished our presence in the Nation of Canada. Nu Gamma Gamma Chapter was reactivated in Ottawa, Canada in January of 2008. During the month of February (15-18) 2008, we also established an undergraduate presence and were privileged to initiate eight young men from Carleton University. These young men entered Omega through Nu Gamma Gamma Chapter. The initiation took place in Toronto, Canada and we were blessed to have Brothers from Texas (9th District), Washington State (12th District), Buffalo New York (2nd District) and Brothers within the 13th District present. A special note, Benjamin Pops Wilson was able to join us from Germany. In addition to the Initiation, we conducted an Information Session to 25 Businessmen who are moving forward to form a Graduate Chapter in Toronto, Canada and are committed to the establishment of a chapter at the University of Toronto. Our visit to Toronto culminated with a 13th District-sponsored Black History Program featuring the University of Toronto Gospel Choir and our visit to Grant Chapel AME Church (oldest Black Church in Toronto, Canada) on that Sunday. Pending Grand Basileus and Supreme Council Approval of our charter request, Carleton University will be chartered as the first Undergraduate chapter in the 13th District.

We are in discussions with three Universities in Canada to expand the District of which one is McGill, our first international chapter many years ago. We take great pride and consider it an honor and privilege to do all we can to reclaim her back within the folds of Omega. The other Universities are the University of Toronto (over 20 prospects), and the University of Ottawa. Our goal is to have all three Universities and a Graduate Chapter established NLT May 08.

We currently have eight (8) Brothers who have formed the nucleus of the Graduate Chapter in Canada, have reclaimed one (Reverend Brother Darryl Gray) and we have leads on at least five (5) Brothers who are in Canada who we are working to reclaim. I would ask if any Brothers are aware of Brothers in Canada, please provide me their contact information that we might contact them and hopefully reclaim them. It is my intent to move an inactive Graduate Chapter there.

The Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta Chapter, led by Brother Walt Torrence (Basileus) and his Executive Council, are preparing to conduct both an undergraduate and graduate process. After which, we will petition to charter our 2nd Undergraduate Chapter in the 13th District. Also, I am in communications with a Brother who has relocating to South Africa and is interested in chartering a chapter there. This action is in the preliminary stages with more information to follow. Wow!!! It is exciting times in the 13th.

As I conclude, it is my desire that we come back together as a Brotherhood, as a District and as Friends. We have achieved much and have the potential for even greater achievements and through your support and God’s Grace, we can continue to establish our presence and posture in the world and truly be International and make an International difference in the Lives of Black People. In as much, I must thank our current Grand Basileus and our Past Grand Baseli for their guidance and support in all of our endeavors. God Bless and Keep them and God Bless the 13th District.
WVU ORGANIZATIONS HONOR FORMER RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST, BROTHER HORACE BELMEAR

Brother Horace Belmear made a career out of recruiting minorities for West Virginia University. Now, at the age of 93, he still volunteers. After more than six decades of service to the University, three organizations are working together to raise funds to honor him.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the WVU Black Alumni Association are raising funds for the Horace and Geraldine Belmear Endowment Scholarship Fund. At a recent, Brother Belmear presented a check for the amount raised to date to the WVU Foundation. Brother Belmear and his wife were members of Omega and Alpha, respectively, as students and Brother Belmear dedicated his career at WVU to helping minority students succeed.

“Belmear and his wife became surrogate parents to students who were here because relations between minority students and other students were very new,” said JT Thomas, the Northern West Virginia representative of Omega. “They played an important role to a number of students who have graduated since then.”

The local Chapter at WVU held a 35th anniversary reunion event where they presented several thousand dollars to the foundation and announced the “Belmear Fund Challenge” to inspire the community to help meet that goal. “Our challenge is to individuals, companies and Greek organizations in general to support the cause and contribute to this fund. It’s key that we get people to accept our challenge,” Thomas said.

The organizers asked Brother Belmear to present the funds to the WVU Foundation and Belmear said that made him proud. “Most of my life, I’ve helped (students), recruited them, had them in classroom sessions and it means a lot that they wanted me to come back and do that,” Belmear said.

The three organizations behind the fund set a goal in 2005 to research $25,000 over five years. Thomas said this fund is important not only because of Brother Belmear’s generosity but because of the legacy it has created and the multitude of students who have been helped. “At the point, a couple of generations later, I haven’t been a direct beneficiary of his work, but I’ve received the support of people who he taught to be good mentors and good people in general,” Thomas said.

According to Brother Belmear, the best part of presenting the funds was getting to see people he had helped. “I was pleased – it made me happy,” Belmear said. “They told me how much they appreciated what I had done for them, and that makes anyone feel good.”

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. CLAIMS CANADIAN CAMPUS “LEFT... LEFT... LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT. OMEGA”

OTTAWA - On Saturday, March 15, 2008, the halls of Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada echoed the rhythm of golden boots and march songs. The OMEStad 8 presented themselves to the nation’s capital university with a burst of energy never before seen on this campus. The arrival had been anticipated and the wait was great. Omega was finally here.

At first the newly chartered Omega men were heard and not seen. More than 200 students made the effort to be on campus that Saturday to witness history in the making.

When the eight men appeared around the corner they were wearing purple and gold masks. Their peers were
uncertain of their identities with some believing that these were Brothers from America and were surprised when they learned otherwise. One by one, the OMEstad 8 were re-introduced to Carleton University. Many onlookers were quoted as saying “is that …I can’t believe it.”

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

Many preachers have said 2008 is the year of “open doors” and “new beginnings.” With the birth of Nu Gamma Gamma Chapter in Canada, Omega men can be rest assured that the good word is forever true.

Bowie State University Advises Business Students To Dream Big, Work Hard

On October 2, 2007, business majors at Bowie State University heard a very similar message from several speakers during the “Meet a Mentor Luncheon” to open the University’s annual “International Marketing and Entrepreneurship week.” The theme of the event was “Scholarship and Salesmanship: A Strategy for Success.”

“Our raison d’etre is three fold,” said James t Dixon, a business and marketing professor at the university. “To help students identify business opportunities, to network with business representatives and to secure an internship or shadowing experience with a future employer.”

An estimated 150 students were given the chance to connect with several alumni who had created successful businesses for themselves or who had prospered from national and international corporations such as Walgreen’s, Rite Aid and Wal-mart.

Dr. Dorsey C. Miller, Jr., President and CEO, D. C. Miller and Associates, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, with a 35-year federal business career, encouraged students to never settle for anything less than their own hopes of accomplishment. “Don’t ever let anyone set bars for you,” he said. “You can do anything you can dream of doing.”

Brother Miller implored each student to begin pursuing their business careers now and after graduating with professionalism and class and to carry with them the belief that exceptional hard work and dedication will pay off.

“Those who don’t strive for scholarship are handicapped against those who do,” he said. “Burn the midnight oil while you are in school!” In addition to working hard while in college, Brother Miller endorsed a “strong sense of scholarship and salesmanship as part of the formula to succeed in the expanding global world of business.”

He also advocated perseverance and dissatisfaction as ingredients that would spur students never to settle for anything less than what they hope to achieve personally and professionally. “Businesses are the engine that drives the world,” he added. In order to compete in the business
world, you must become a super salesman, not just a salesman.

District 4 County Councilmember, the Honorable Ingrid Turner, also promoted a message of confidence and achievement to University students. “To the young adults here interested in having a career in business, this is what it’s all about.” Turner stated. “It is necessary that you network with the businessmen and businesswomen here who can provide you with guidance and support to help you develop the Mentor/Mentee relationship. If you do this you will both have a wonderful experience.”

Brother Miller concluded his address by requesting that each student passionately follow his or her dream of success with humility and class. “I wish you success and all the good things,” he said. “But most of all, I wish that whatever you touch, you will leave it a little better than you found it and may the winds of scholarship, salesmanship, dissatisfaction and perseverance always be at your disposal.”

Youngstown, Ohio- On April 25, 2008, Brother Marc Cunningham received the Scholar of the Year Award for a second time. Brother Cunningham is twenty-two years old and he attends Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Brother Cunningham currently is a junior majoring in Video Production. Brother Cunningham’s hobby includes reading scary novels, cutting hair and working out.

Brother Cunningham plays football for Ohio University and is a member of the Black Student Cultural Programming Board. He received the Bobcat award for academics, was selected to leadership camp and achieved the Dean’s Scholarship for his outstanding work in the classroom. He continues to be an active young man on the football field as well in his community and classroom. He is applying for the Herman Dreer Leadership Scholarship, Undergraduate Scholarship Grant and the Creative Research Fellowship.

**FOURTH DISTRICT SCHOLAR OF THE YEAR**

*By Chris Kennerly*

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

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

Brother Mitchell received the 2008 City of Bloomington, IN Outstanding Young Black Male Leader of Tomorrow Award, an annual award presented by the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males.

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

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

“Strides made by Brother Dr. Mumford and others like him have opened doors that have created opportunities for so many that have come after them,” Safety and Civil City Director Beverly Calender-Anderson said. “This is one way of saying thank you”.

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

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

Montgomery, AL – The value of Greek life is group acceptance. Our Chapter has provided a bridge to a wider life of maturity for seven young men. Our task is to bring out the best in these Brothers in our effort to make their experience within fraternity life a great one. Our Chapter is happy to have been one of the Chapters within our Fraternity to experience the Lampados Club Pilot Program. As of March 11, 2008, the newest members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., through the Lampados Program, by way of Omega Iota Iota Chapter, are: 1. Markus Palmer, 2. Frank Benefield, 3. Carlton Meriweather, 4. Kanzy Williams, 5. Dedric Washington, 6. Marvin Atchinson and 7. Leo McCall.

With these seven new men in our Chapter, we endeavor to continue with phenomenal community service programs. These young men are anticipated to provide more enthusiasm within our Chapter members to continue to be a cut above the rest. Men of Omega, please welcome these worthy young men into the fold of Omega.

Job well done to our District Representative, Brother Joseph Williams, Chapter Basileus Brother Robert Smiley, Chapter Vice Basileus, Brother Aubrey Carter and State of Alabama District 3 Representative, Brother Willie Franklin.
BROTHER
MALCOLM S. MEDLEY

New Chairman Brings Experience, Knowledge and Skill to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Chief Civil Rights Law Enforcement Agency

Boston, MA – Brother Malcolm S. Medley, Chairman, MCAD - In November 2007, Massachusetts Governor, Deval Patrick, appointed and designated Brother Malcolm S. Medley Chairman of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). In his capacity as Chairman, Brother Medley leads an organization of investigators, fact-finders, attorneys and others who enforce civil rights laws under M.G.L. c. 151B and Title VII of the United States Code. In addition to his administrative functions, Brother Medley oversees all regulatory, enforcement and adjudicatory functions of the MCAD. In announcing Brother Chairman Medley’s appointment, Governor Patrick expressed confidence that Brother Medley “will bring a broad range of experience, knowledge and skill to the Commonwealth’s chief civil rights agency. Massachusetts is fortunate to have a freer, more democratic society than we have ever before, but we have work yet to do.”

As a practicing attorney, Brother Medley handled a number of employment and civil rights cases in federal and state courts on behalf of individual, municipal and corporate clients. His experience extends to appellate practice in Federal and State Appeals Courts, as well as before State and Federal administrative agencies. As a Special Assistant Corporation Counsel with the City of Boston, Brother Medley represented the Boston Public School Department in discrimination cases, traditional labor negotiation and disputes, disciplinary proceedings, and grievance arbitrations. He advised senior management on civil rights related issues such as court ordered staffing and student assignment. Brother Medley served as an Arbitrator on the American Arbitration Association’s National Roster of Employment and Commercial Arbitrators.

In 2001, upon earning an LL.M. Degree in Banking and Financial Services, Brother Medley served as Legal Counsel to OneUnited Bank. During his tenure with OneUnited Bank, he provided legal oversight for the Bank’s growth-related strategies which created the largest Black-owned bank in the United States. Mr. Medley also oversaw all of the bank’s employment-related legal matters. OneUnited Bank profitably serves urban communities in Massachusetts, California and Florida that were previously viewed as “un-bankable.”

In 2003 Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly recognized Brother Medley as one of its “Up and Coming Lawyers” of the year. He serves on several not-for-profit boards and is the Immediate Past-President of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association. Brother Medley is a graduate of Northeastern University, where he earned a B.S., and Boston University Law School where he earned both his J.D. and LL.M. degrees.

OHIO AND WEST VIRGINIA 67TH DISTRICT MEETING
By Chris K. Welch

Youngstown, Ohio-On April 24 - 26, 2008 the mighty Fourth District held its annual District Meeting. The Brothers of Psi Omicron Chapter conducted an outstanding District Meeting.

They planned several exciting activities and events to show their love for our great Fraternity. During the meeting, Brothers were recognized for excellence in a variety of areas. Brothers who excelled in Social Action and community outreach during the year were presented awards during the Founders’ Banquet. Brother James Elam was the keynote speaker.

2008 Achievement Week Awardees:
2008 Chapter of the Year:
Xi Iota Iota Chapter

Omega Man of the Year
Brother Anthony Scurse, Mu Chi Chapter

Citizen of the Year:
Mr. Clarence D. Lumpkin, submitted by Mu Iota Chapter

Founders’ Award:
Brother Jarrett A. Thomas, Xi Iota Iota Chapter

Superior Service Award:
Brother Mikle Brown, Beta Iota Chapter

Colonel Charles Young Military Award:
Brother Jason Ward, Delta Alpha Chapter

Essay Contest Winner:
Ms. Adrienne Fairbanks, submitted by Mu Chi Chapter
Human Interest

Social Action Awardees:
Small Chapter - Beta Iota Chapter
Large Chapter - Mu Iota Chapter
Undergraduate Chapter - Tau Xi - University of Cincinnati

At the closing of the Fourth District Founders’ Banquet, Psi Omicron Chapter recognized and acknowledged Brother James Lottier for 70 years of dedicated service to our beloved Fraternity. Brother Lottier is now the oldest member of Psi Omicron Chapter in Youngstown, Ohio. Brother Lottier became a member of Omega Psi Phi in 1938 and was later assimilated into Upsilon Chapter.

MAJOR DEMETRIUS D. BROOKS
COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG
MILITARY LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT
By Brother Joseph C. McKinney

Brother Demetrius D. Brooks is Delta Omega Chapter’s 2007 colonel Charles Young Military Leadership Award recipient and he received the same award in 2006. He is also the Chapter’s 2007 Superior Service Award recipient.

Brother Demetrius D. Brooks is a Major in the United States Army, stationed at Fort Lee, VA. He is an Acquisition Officer and Combat Developer. Brother Brooks joined the United States Army as a private in 1991 and served as an Air Traffic Coordinator at Fort Bragg, NC. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology in 1994 and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice in 1996 from Fayetteville State University. He was commissioned in the U. S. Army through the ROTC in 1996 as a chemical Officer. Brother Brooks recently completed the intermediate-level Education Advance Civil Schooling.

Brother Brooks was initiated in the Fraternity through Delta Gamma Chapter, Fayetteville State University in 1992. He has been a member of Delta Omega Chapter for the past three years. Since his initiation into the Fraternity, he has been very active and has served on the following committees: Economic Development, Talent Hunt, Reclamation and Retention, Scholarship, achievement Week, Charles Drew Blood Drive, Voter Registration Drive and Social Action and Afro-American Life/History. In addition, he chaired Delta Omega Chapter’s Male Protégé Committee as well as mentored the young men in the program.

His past Chapter memberships include Delta Gamma and Beta Chi Chapters (6th District), Kappa Iota Iota Chapter (3rd District), Lambda Xi Chapter (13th District), and Tau Gamma Chapter (6th District).

Brother Brooks is affiliated with the United States Army Transportation Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Army Air Force Mutual Aid Association and St. Ann’s Catholic Church. He is the recipient of many military awards and decorations to include the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army National Defense Service Medal, Armed Force Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and NATO Medal and Parachutist Badge.

Brother Brooks is to be commended for making outstanding contributions to the military and community. He truly exemplifies and represents the Fraternity’s Four Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.
BROTHER JOSEPH K. DAVIS ENTERS OMEGA CHAPTER
By Brother Michael A. Boykin

Raleigh, NC– Brother Joseph Keith Davis, 46 and born October 27, 1961 in Roanoke Rapids, NC departed this earthly life to be with our Lord on Friday, January 18, 2008. He spent his childhood in Halifax County, NC where he graduated from Northwest High School in 1980. He became a member of Omega by way of Kappa Epsilon Chapter in 1983. He graduated from St. Augustine College in Raleigh, NC in 1984. At the time of his death, he was employed with the NC Employment Security Commission in Raleigh, NC.

Brother Davis was an active member of the Iota Iota Chapter in Raleigh, NC. He is survived by his wife, Jewel Bell Davis, of the home; two daughters, Britney Gulledge, of New Castle, DE and Jaidan Davis, of the home; two sons Bryson Gulledge, of New Castle, DE and Joseph Keith Davis, II, of the home; and his mother, Ms. Bessie B. Davis, of Roanoke Rapids, NC. Brother Davis leaves a host of family, friends and Brothers to cherish his memory.

BROTHER REV. DR. KENNETH B. SMITH
1931-2008 Omega Chapter

Brother Reverend Dr. Kenneth B. Smith Sr. was born February 19, 1931 in Montclair, New Jersey. He was the fifth child of Dorothy and William Smith. He had ten brothers and sisters, six of whom predeceased him. Brother Ken was educated in the Montclair Public Schools Systems. After high school, he attended college at Virginia Union University where he majored in History. He obtained a Master’s degree from Drew University and a degree in divinity from Bethany Theological Seminary.

Brother Ken, as he was known by his friends, was a kind and faithful gentleman. He was a man of great warmth, a caring nature, deep insight and one who was comfortable in any setting with the rare ability to bring people together no matter what their background. He was a man who saw the best in people. He always brought forth the good among others and never played on their weaknesses. He was a man for all seasons.

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

His service to the greater community included the following: The first Black President of the Chicago Board of Education • Chairman of the Board, Chicago Community Trust • President Clinton’s Taskforce on Teen Pregnancy.

Among his numerous honors were Volunteer of the Year from the United Way of Chicago, Humanitarian of the Year from
Omega Chapter

THE MARATHON RUNNER—FINISHES LIFE’S LAST CHALLENGE

BROTHER LEMUEL JOHNSON

By Brother Keith Vereen

By Brother Michael A. Boykin

Winston-Salem, NC—Brother Lemuel Lafayette Johnson finished his race of a lifetime of achievement on Saturday, June 30, 2007 in Winston-Salem, NC. Brother Johnson, affectionately known as “Coach” meritoriously served his country, community and his Fraternity throughout the course of his life. He was born in Greenville, SC on March 5, 1931, the son of the late Ludie and Lula Christine Johnson.

He received his degree in Elementary Education in 1954 from Winston-Salem Teachers College (WSSU). He later joined the United States Army and served in the Special Services Division. Brother Johnson was a dedicated member of Omega after being initiated into Omega by way of Mu Epsilon Chapter at Winston-Salem Teachers College in 1953. His Fraternal accomplishments included two terms as Basileus of Psi Phi Chapter from 1964-1968 and 1971-1973. He was
Charlotte, NC—Pi Phi Chapter of the Mighty Sixth District and Omega has experienced a great sadness with the loss of Brother Arthur Tyrone McCarroll. Brother McCarroll exemplified, to the highest extent, our Fraternity’s Four Cardinal Principles throughout his personal and fraternal life. Brother McCarroll was initiated into the Fraternity on November 22, 1969 through Pi Phi Chapter in Charlotte, NC, following his graduation from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina.

More than 150 Brothers were on hand to bid our beloved Tyrone a joyous adieu for the Omega Service while the Pi Phi Chapter Ensemble rang out with melodic voices and harmonic tones to proclaim the celebration of Brother McCarroll’s life who was missing from the first tenor line. Brothers C. Tyrone Gilmore and Lloyd Jordan, Past Grand Basilei, other national officers and Supreme Council Members, Brother Charles J. Worth, Sixth District Representative, along with other Sixth District Officers as well as Brothers from chapters throughout the Sixth District were in attendance to provide support to Brother McCarroll’s family.

After Brother Ed Benjamin, Pi Phi Basileus, instructed Brother Willie Walker, Pi Phi KRS, to strike from the roll the name of our beloved Brother, the Omega Service was concluded with Brothers encircling Brother McCarroll, his family and their guests while other Brothers throughout the church rose to sing with fervor and pride “Ome...
KAPPA ALPHA CHAPTER MOURNS THE LOSS
OF A GREAT BROTHER

By Brother Byron Putman

Rock Hill, SC-Brother Winston Searles was born on April 7, 1922 in Augusta, Georgia, however; he grew up in Asheville, North Carolina. Upon high school graduation, Brother Searles entered the US Army and served in World War II. After his military commitment, Brother Searles entered and graduated from Allen University in Columbia, SC. While attending Allen, Brother Searles landed a part-time job working for the US Postal Service as a transportation clerk. His job required him to travel on the mail train that ran between Charlotte, NC and Augusta, GA. In 1965, Brother Searles entered the folds of Omega by way of Kappa Alpha Chapter.

In 1978, Brother Searles became the first Ward 1 City Councilman and along with Frank Berry, became the first ever Black City Councilmen of Rock Hill, SC.

Brother Searles received numerous appointments and awards and demonstrated a lifetime committed to achievement. Those achievements include: First President Conference of Black Municipal Elected Officials, Member Catawba Regional Planning Council, Trustee Clinton Jr. College and Boy Scouts Executive of the Year (Region 6). He received his Doctorate of Humane Letters, Clinton Jr. College, Award of Appreciation, Mt Olivet AME Zion Church, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Award, and Omega’s Citizen of the Year and Omega Man of the Year.

There were two annual events initiated during Brother Searles’ life that will stand as a tribute to his dedication and commitment to community service. They are the Roddey- Searles Golf Tournament, sponsored by Kappa Alpha Chapter and the Wilkes -Searles Round ball Classic. Brother Searles loved Omega and was a loyal and faithful member since his initiation. He held several offices during his 40 plus years in the Chapter. He was the Parliamentarian at the time of his death.

Brother Searles was preceded in death by his wife of 40 years, Willia Searles. He is survived by two children, Edna of Atlanta, GA. and Winston Jr. of Baltimore, MD. His other son, Chauncey, of Rock Hill, SC. has also entered Omega Chapter. He also leaves behind a family of Omega Brothers and friends whom will miss him very much.
life that Brother Boulware decided to dedicate his life to Omega. Brother Boulware crossed the burning sands of Omega by way of Epsilon Epsilon Chapter in 1958. Brother Boulware has served as Basileus and Chaplain of the Kappa Alpha Chapter.

Brother Boulware earned a Master of Theology and a Doctorate Degree from the Mid Atlantic Theological Seminary. One half of Brother Boulware’s life’s work was in education. He began his career as a public school teacher in York and Fairfield Counties. After 10 years of teaching, he was promoted to administrator. He served as principal of Leslie Elementary and Castle Heights Middle School. He also served as a Director of Rock Hill, South Carolina’s Head Start Program.

The second portion of Brother Boulware’s life was spent in religion. At the time of his death, he served as the pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church located in Chester, South Carolina, a position that he held for more than 35 years.

Brother Boulware was a devoted husband to his wife, Barbara. He was also a dedicated father to his son, Wendell and his daughter Diedra. He was grandfather to four grandsons, Nkosi, Nnamdi, Mekhi and Grayson.

Brother Boulware’s life was one that was committed to excellence and certainly dedicated to service. He will be missed.

BROTHER JESSE CHAMPION, SR.

Whereas it has pleased the Heavenly Father to transition from the labors of this earthly life to the sweet rest and fellowship of the Saints in heaven our dearly beloved Brother Jesse Champion, Sr. . . .

Brother Champion, a devout Christian, was a faithful, committed, and longtime member of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Birmingham, Alabama where he was affiliated with many ministries of the church. Brother Champion received his early education in the public schools of Birmingham, Alabama and received his high school diploma from A.H. Parker High in 1945. He was called into the Armed Services (Navy) in 1945 shortly after graduating from Parker.

Brother Champion began his professional career as an instructor in the City of Gadsden (AL) and later taught instrumental music at Council Elementary School in the Birmingham School System. He also taught in the Flint, Michigan Public Schools.

Gifted with a tremendous voice and quality, Brother Champion was the featured vocalist with the Sun Ra Orchestra, the Jimmy Chappell Band, and the Birmingham Heritage Jazz Band. He became a dynamic radio personality as a very popular disc jockey hosting a modern jazz Sunday afternoon program on Birmingham’s first black-oriented radio.
His impeccably smooth delivery, command of the English language, the changes of the times, and previous radio experience led to Brother Champion becoming the “first” Black news anchor and reporter at radio station WERC in Birmingham from whence he retired in 1990.

Fraternally, in 1948, Brother Champion was a “charter member” of the Nu Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. while an undergraduate student at Alabama A&M College. He later joined Alpha Phi Graduate Chapter where he served on many key committees in key capacities. He was the “official spokesperson” for the Chapter at all public events including the Annual Talent Hunt Program, the Annual Achievement Week Observance Program, and the Annual Christmas Toys for Tots Ball benefiting the Sickle Cell Foundation of Central Alabama. He served as the Chapter’s Director of Public Relations for a number of years. He also served as the 7th District Editor and as a member of the District’s and International (Singers) Que Chorale. His faithful and untiring service resulted in the Alpha Phi Chapter awarding him the Founder’s Award in 1998 and inducting him into the Chapter’s Hall of Fame—Class of 2001. Brother Champion touched the lives of numerous people who will forever be indebted to him for his sharing of his talents, knowledge, wisdom, and especially his friendship and brotherhood.
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2009 Leadership Conference

Las Vegas, Nevada

“Friendship Is Essential To The Soul”