

Summer 2007, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



# Omega's Clarion Call

## OMEGA CELEBRATES ITS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS



Brother Justin Smith



Brother Edmund P. Lewis



Brother Dominic Crane



Brother Derick Cooper



Brother Maurice Mosi McMorris



Brother Brian G. Davis



Brother Dyrill D. Burnett



Brother Quincy M. Shannon

National Scholarship Award Recipient



Brother Lars U. Johnson

Corporate  
Governance  
Group Training  
in New Orleans

Interview With  
The Writer

A conversation with 28<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus,  
Brother James S. Avery, Sr.  
By Brother Glenn Rice  
Kansas City Star

2007  
Philadelphia  
Leadership  
Conference

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**Omega's Clarion Call**  
**Vol. 1 \* No. 2 \* Summer 2007**  
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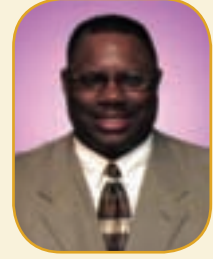
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# Ω Omega's Clarion Call

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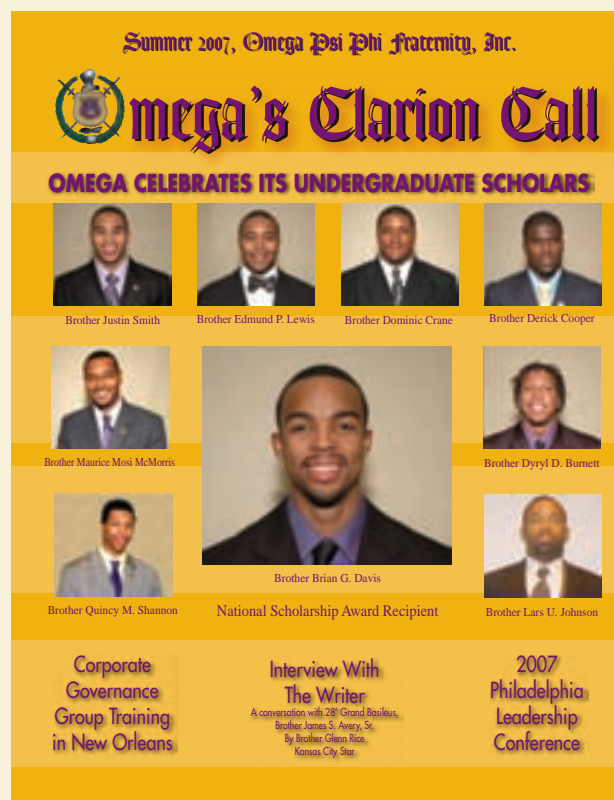
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## About The Cover

### Omega Celebrates Its Undergraduate Scholars

The cover is a collage of photos of nine Brothers presented with awards during the 2007 Leadership Conference in Philadelphia, PA as well as various other District functions. Brothers receiving recognition for the following awards are featured in this issue of Omega's Clarion Call:

The National Scholarship Award, District Scholar of the Year, Founders' Memorial Scholarship, Hermon Dreer Scholarship / Leadership Award, Ronald McNair Scholarship, Creative Research Fellowship and the George E. Mears Memorial Scholarship.

# An Open Letter To The Brotherhood

Brother Warren G. Lee Jr.  
38th Grand Basileus

Brothers,

As we set our sights on Birmingham and the 2008 Grand Conclave, let me first thank those of you who helped make the 2007 Leadership Conference the best attended Leadership Conference in the Fraternity's history.

That momentum has been carried over to Conclave planning. I have been working closely with the local Birmingham team and I am pleased with the cooperation and consideration we are receiving from the city, sponsors, community and Birmingham's Omega family.

Our Leadership Conference theme, "Everything Rises and fall's on Leadership - Leadership Today, Tomorrow & Forever" was a deliberate play on words setting the stage for the upcoming 2008 Birmingham Grand Conclave.

On January 14th 1963, Alabama Governor, George C. Wallace gave a speech that contained the statement, "Segregation Now, Segregation Tomorrow, and Segregation Forever." Our Leadership Conference Theme, "Leadership, Today Tomorrow and Forever" was a play on that statement and a reminder that only 45 years since that speech, members and families of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. will converge in Birmingham having long since defeated legal segregation.

Conducting the business of Omega will be our main focus. But, it is also paramount that we pay homage and honor to those who put themselves in harm's way and those who laid down their lives to give us the opportunity to come to cities like Birmingham as leaders with the expectation of receiving fair and equal treatment within the protections and privileges afforded to us by the United States Constitution.

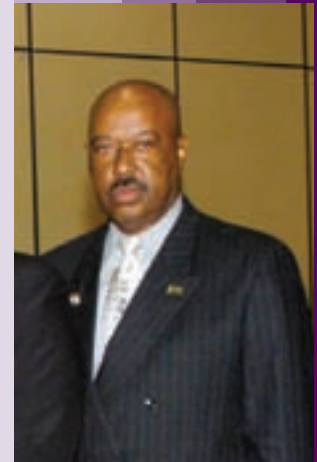
As our history tells us, Birmingham Alabama was one of the most severely segregated cities in the United States during the 1960's. Black men and women held "sit-ins" at lunch counters where they were refused service and "kneel-ins" on church steps where they were denied entrance. Hundreds of demonstrators were fined and imprisoned.

Many of our Omega Brothers played vital parts in this struggle and I have given the 1st Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl A. Blunt, the direction to spotlight Omega's involvement in the Civil Rights Struggle via an exhibit that will be on display, during the 2008 Grand Conclave, at the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum.

In the coming year and leading up to the 2008 Grand Conclave, there will be various articles in both Omega's Clarion Call and the Oracle that will be focused on the Civil Rights Struggle. Information and facts will also be placed on our web site that will address the significance of the Civil Rights Movement and what it has meant to Black America.

May God bless you all,

Warren G. Lee, Jr.  
38th Grand Basileus  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



38th Grand Basileus,  
Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr.

# Ω Omega's Clarion Call

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@opph.org](mailto:clarioncall@opph.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.opph.org](http://www.opph.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

Managing Editor of Omega's Clarion Call

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## Omega's Clarion Call

Omega's Clarion Call is the new name given to a publication concept the Fraternity has come to know and appreciate for many decades. Why the name change to Omega's Clarion Call? The name has had a rich history throughout the ages.

Wikipedia provides its purest definition. The online encyclopedia defines Clarion Call as, "a powerful request for action or an irresistible mandate. It derives from the cloud of a clarion, a medieval trumpet. It is frequently used in a religious context, and is the name of several Christian groups. It is also used in a political context, in that a politician issues a challenge for action from the public. In literature, it is a point in the plot where a character receives clear justification or incentive for his or her actions in the future of the plot."

The most famous example of a Clarion Call is when Joshua blew his horn to warn the nation of Israel that an account would have to be given for their actions just as Moses returned from the Mount with the Ten Commandments in hand. A challenge from Moses was subsequently given to the nation of Israel for the righteous to unashamedly identify themselves and come to GOD's side. The rest of the story is classic.

Bringing the clarion call philosophy to Omega is the vision of 38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr. Brother Lee is issuing a challenge to the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. to give an account of what we have done to show that we have kept the promises that were made at the moment we crossed the burning sands of Omega. He is also challenging all Brothers to show how they are making a difference in the lives of Black people.

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## Lessons Learned From Some of My Favorite Movies



Brother Troy Moore

**T**he average American, Black and White, has a mild obsession with what is referred to as the popular culture. We love to be entertained through books, music, videos, and movies, of course. It is also common for certain forms of entertainment to teach a lesson. This is done more so in movies than in any other

entertainment medium. I have looked back into the past 30 years of my life and identified at least 14 of my favorite movies. I realized that these movies taught some valuable lessons for life. Please allow me to share those lessons with you.

***The Empire Strikes Back:*** Being in the right and having the moral high ground does not necessarily guarantee that we will win the battle. We should never underestimate the opposition. What did Mr. Murphy say? If it can go wrong; it will go wrong. Being defeated when we have the moral high ground can also fill our hearts with fear. Remember what Master Yoda said: "...Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. And hate leads to suffering. This is the path to the dark side." The moral of this story is to never make assumptions about the capabilities of others. You will strongly be disappointed.

***Heavy Metal:*** When life has lost its value, the Tarackian will come to avenge. Watch the news every evening and see for yourself that life has once again lost its value. It is my understanding that the Tarackian is scheduled to come like a thief in the night just before the Tribulation. And make no mistake about it. He is coming to avenge every wrong that ever was.

***Raiders of the Lost Ark:*** Throughout history, the world's most talented and brilliant men have tried to either use or outsmart GOD. They all failed. GOD does not tolerate disrespect.

***Return of the Jedi:*** There is hope for the down trodden and defeated. With careful planning, cunning and strength of will, an ant can defeat a giant. It has been done before. You know the story. David and the other guy!

***The Breakfast Club:*** Unfortunately, we all have experienced a spoiled rotten period in our lives. Hopefully, we got past it in high school or in college. All will find that life gets a little easier when we simply choose to get over ourselves.

***Saint Elmo's Fire:*** This is my generation's coming of age movie. (Summer 1985) Post collegiate life is difficult for most young Black men. Try and remember. You are in your early twenties, there are many lonely nights, debt, bad credit and only you know what else. But, somehow, you manage to make it anyway. Before you know it, you find yourself in your mid to late twenties being a member of the North Dallas BMW Club with folks calling you and your circle of friends "Buppies." (Black Yuppies) Oh, and by the way, we know Saint Elmo's Fire to be that feeling we get when we're filled with the Holy Spirit in church.

The title song for this movie is extraordinary. For the past 22 years I have listened to it before job interviews and it sometimes serves as morning coffee for me. The song puts you back on the horse. I strongly recommend it if you are just out of college or if you are simply having a bad day. Take a look at these lyrics:

# Ω Omega's Clarion Call

“...I can make it. I know I can. You broke the boy in me, but you won't break the man. I can see a new horizon underneath a blazing sky. I'll be where the eagle's flying, higher and higher. Gonna be a man in motion. All I need is a pair of wheels. Take me where my future's lying; Saint Elmo's Fire. I can climb the highest mountain; cross the wildest sea. I can feel Saint Elmo's Fire burning in me... Just once in his life, a man has his time; and my time is now. I'm coming alive...”

*Have hope and believe, Brothers. When you do, you will soar.*

**A** *liens*: Aliens happens to be my favorite movie of all times. I know the dialog to this movie verbatim. Perseverance and endurance are an understatement in this movie. One would be surprised to know just how much he can do when he is under extreme pressure to perform. Ripley is the featured character in this movie and is the personification of perseverance and endurance. If I were to have any heroes in my life, this quintessential and unlikely character would be my favorite hero.

**T** *he Secret of My Success*: When you believe in your dream and in yourself, you just might find that the six-foot wingspan you asked of Heaven may turn out to be a 60-foot span when you spread them. You can do anything if you just give yourself a chance. Believe in yourself and the world will believe with you. Depending on your dream, you may have to live 25 hours a day!

**T** *he Lion King*: We must never forget who we are and what our fathers have taught us. We must not abandon or avoid what we were born to be or what we were groomed to be. If we fall off the horse, let's not believe the defeat demons when they whisper sweet nothings in our ears. No self-pity. Just do it!

**T** *he Blair Witch Project*: Sometimes in our lives we make a wrong turn and get lost. It's best to pay attention to all the warning signs and avoid those wrong turns in the first place. Classic example: A 40-year-old Brother being “owt” like a 20-year-old Brother.

**D** *eepest Impact*: Disaster will strike in our lives. And sometimes when we ask GOD to change things, the answer is NO! The aftermath is the character builder if your mind is strong. If not, you will need counseling and medication.

**T** *he Movie 300*: This movie should be required watching for all Brothers in Omega.

Loyalty to one's captain is the lesson here. Earning the loyalty and trust of his men is the greatest hope of a captain. Earning the respect of a captain is equally as important to the men who would follow. A captain should not make it difficult for his men to be loyal. And the men who would follow should give the same consideration to their captain.

**S** *piderman III*: Only those closest to us can truly and deeply hurt us. We will never be able to take back those strong words. Forgiveness is forgiveness, but pain is pain. There is a thin line between love and hate. Let's all try to make that line a little thicker each day we love our friends and families.

**T** *he Devil Wears Prada*: Life is about choices. One can chose to allow others to draw him to the dark side of this world. He can also put his foot down and say no when it is appropriate. Once the line is crossed, there is no return. Brothers, don't sell your soul for a moment of fame. There is a GOD in Heaven to give an account to.

**G**o out and see a great movie, Brothers. You just might learn something valuable as I have over the years.

## Omega Celebrates Its Undergraduate Scholars

THE OMEGA LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOUNDATION, INC. distributed scholarships to qualified undergraduate Brothers at the 2007 Philadelphia Leadership Conference as well as various other District venues. Recipients submitted required applications to the Foundation and were selected after careful review and verification of credentials. These young men were found to have proven themselves academically in multiple majors and disciplines.

The Omega Life Membership Foundation, Inc. was chartered to aid organizations involved in charitable, educational, scholastic and scientific pursuits. In its history, the Foundation has had tremendous growth and success and has been of significant benefit to those whose work it has been privileged to support. The Foundation has supported a number of Uplift and Scholastic projects and initiatives started and endorsed by Omega.

### National Scholarship Award Recipient



***Brother Brian G. Davis.***

Brother Brian G. Davis is currently an advertising major at Hampton University and serves as Basileus of Gamma Epsilon Chapter. He is the recipient of the Omega Life Membership Foundation's National Scholarship Award and received an endowment of \$10,000.00. He is also the 3rd District Scholar of the Year receiving a \$10,000.00 endowment for this award as well. He is involved in a number of university organizations to include the Student Leadership Program, Campus

NAACP, American Advertising Federation, Student Government Association and American Association of Advertising Agencies.

He is the recipient of a long list of awards to include National Coca Cola Scholar in 2003; University of Rochester Humanities & Social Sciences Award in 2003; West Point Scholar, 2003; Golden Key Honor Society, 2004; Lottie B. Knight Book Award, 2005 (Highest Grade Point Average in the Sophomore Class); Association of National Advertisers Multicultural Excellence Scholarship, 2006 and Basileus of the Year (Third District), 2007.

## District Scholars of the Year And Recipients of a \$10,000.00 Scholarship.

### ***Brother Marvin W. Kalema, 1st District Scholar of the Year***

Brother Marvin W. Kalema is the recipient of the 1st District Scholar of the Year Award and has received an endowment of \$10,000.00. He has earned a degree in Accounting at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut and has a grade point average of 3.5.

Brother Kalema is a Uganda national who has been in the United States for three and one half years. Adjusting to Western Culture has been difficult, but through perseverance and strength of character, he has seen his way through the fog of life's difficulties.

He pledged Omega in the fall of 2004. On campus, Brother Kalema has worked as a dormitory Resident Advisor. His activities included involvement in the following: The Business Mentorship Program, National Association of Black Accountants, Leadership Diversity Program and Coordinator for the Omega Invisible Children Charity Initiative. Brother Kalema also performed volunteer work with the homeless providing clothing, serving in a soup kitchen and assisting with the Assault on Illiteracy Program.

Brother Kalema is also the recipient of a list of awards to include: Member of the National Scholars Honor Society, 2005; Recipient of the National Association of Black Accountants Scholarship, 2006 and the National Dean's List Honor Award.

***Brother Glenn J. Haley,  
\$10,000.00, 2nd District Scholar of the Year***

***Brother Brian G. Davis,  
\$10,000.00, 3rd District Scholarship  
Recipient***

***Marcus Cunningham,  
\$10,000.00, 4th District Scholar of the Year***

On May 5, 2007, Brother Marcus Cunningham was named the 2007 Fourth District Scholar of the Year and is a recipient of a \$10,000.00 endowment. Brother Cunningham attends Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He is currently a sophomore majoring in Video Production with a Cumulative GPA of 3.02.

Brother Cunningham's hobbies are reading, scary novels, cutting hair, and working out. He has received the Bobcat award for academics, selected to leadership camp, and received the Dean Scholarship for his outstanding work in the classroom. Brother Cunningham also plays football for Ohio University and is a member of the Black Student Cultural Programming Board. He has continued to be active on the football field as well in his community and classroom.

***Brother James A. Stratford,  
6th District Scholar of the Year***

Brother James A. Stratford is the 6th District Scholar of the Year receiving a \$10,000.00 endowment. He attended Elizabeth City State University in Elizabeth, City, NC. He was initiated into Omega by way of Lambda Gamma Chapter the fall of 2004.

Brother Stratford is a native of the Bronx, NY. As a student at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU), he was very active in several leadership positions on campus including: Vice Basileus of Lambda Gamma Chapter. He has served the University as Student Government Association President 2005 – 2007; Elizabeth City State University Board of Trustees (2 years); Chancellor Search Committee and a host of

other student activities while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average.

Brother Stratford graduated in May 2007 with a degree in Political Science and plans to attend law school in New York City in the fall of 2007. He intends to enroll in a dual degree program- MBA/Juris Doctorate.



***Brother Lars U. Johnson,  
7th District Scholar of the Year***

Brother Lars U. Johnson is the recipient of the 7th District Scholar of the Year Award receiving a \$10,000.00 endowment. He is a spring 2007 graduate of Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, MS. Brother Johnson has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology with a cumulative grade point average of 3.78 on a 4.0 scale. He was initiated into Omega by way of Rho Epsilon Chapter in the fall of 2004.

Brother Johnson's campus and community activities included serving as Basileus of Rho Epsilon Chapter (2006-2007), Vice Basileus (2005-2006) and KRS (2004-2005). He served as a mentor at Hardy Middle School, Omega Prep Mentor, Walton Elementary School Mentor and Hurricane Katrina Community Clean Up Volunteer. Brother Johnson is currently working with emotionally challenged youth in an effort to help manage their behavior with the intent of integrating them back into the traditional school system.

He has received a number of awards to include: Six time "4.0 GPA" Award recipient, a member of Alpha Delta Honor Society, a member of the National Dean's List, Who's Who Among Undergraduate Students and he received the Top Student in the Psychology Department Award at Tougaloo College.





***Brother Quincy M. Shannon,  
\$10,000.00, 8th District Scholar of the Year***

***Brother Saint-Aaron L. Morris,  
9th District Scholar of the Year***

Brother Saint-Aaron L. Morris is the 9th District Scholar of the Year receiving a \$10,000.00 endowment. Brother Morris currently attends Prairie View A & M University and majors in Pre-Med. He was initiated into Omega by way of Rho Theta Chapter where he has served as Chapter Basileus and Chapter Chaplain. He currently serves as the 9th District 2nd Vice District Representative.

Brother Morris has been involved in a number of campus activities to include Student Government Association Freshman Class Chaplain and Special Projects Chair 2003-2004. He also served as a SGA Senator holding the position of Finance & Appropriations Co-Chair, 2005-2006.

Service has been an integral part of Brother Morris' life. He has served as a mentor at Schultz Middle School, 2006; Hurricane Rita Volunteer, 2005; Hurricane Katrina Volunteer, 2005; Buffalo Soldier Cemetery Restoration, 2004 to 2005. Brother Morris plans to attend medical school pursuing the field of orthopedic surgeon.

***Brother Akintunde I. Maiyegun,  
12th District Scholar of the Year:***

Brother Akintunde I. Maiyegun is the recipient of the 12 District Scholar of the year Award receiving a \$10,000.00 endowment. He is currently a student at Stanford University majoring in Electrical Engineering with a grade point average of 3.27. He was initiated into Omega by way of Alpha Mu Chapter in the spring of 2007 and currently serves as Chapter Basileus.

Brother Maiyegun has been involved in a number

of campus organizations to include: The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Stanford Nigerian Students Association, Stanford Society of Black Scientist and Engineers and Stanford Black Pre Business Society.

He has received a number of awards to include: Oduduwa Heritage Organization Scholar, 2006-2007; National Society of Black Engineers Torch Bearer, 2006-2007; Elected for Black Community Service Center Dean's Award for Superior Academic Achievement for Winter 2003 and Spring 2006; Nominated as a National Society of Black Engineers, "Fulfilling The Legacy Scholar," 2006 and Nominated for the Community Development Award by the Dean of the School of Engineering.

## ***Founder's Memorial Scholarship:***



***Brother Justin H. Smith (2nd District)  
(\$2,500)***



***Brother Derrick J. Cooper,  
Founders' Scholarship Award***

Brother Derrick J. Cooper is the 7th District recipient of the Founder's Memorial Scholarship Award, receiving a \$2,500.00 endowment. He is currently enrolled at Georgia State University with a grade point average of 3.33 on a 4.0 scale. He was initiated into Omega by way of Zeta Theta Chapter at Georgia State

University in Atlanta, GA in the spring of 2006.

Brother Cooper's campus activities have included serving as President of Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society (2005-2006), Senator for the Robinson College of Business (2005-2006), Parliamentarian of the National Pan Hellenic Council (2006-2007), Chairman of the Constitutional and Bylaws Committee for the National Pan-Hellenic Council and as Senior Advisor of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society (2007-2008).

He has received a number of awards and recognitions including being recognized for being on the Dean's List (Fall 2005), a Faculty Scholar (Summer 2005), commended by the Student Government Association as President of Alpha Lambda Delta for service to the organization in the fall of 2005, earned a Certificate of Recognition for Leadership which was presented by the Office of New Student Programs (Fall 2006) and recognized by the NAACP for help in co-sponsorship in Voter Awareness Week (Fall 2006).

## ***Brother Johnathane H. Gaffney, Founders' Memorial Scholarship***

Brother Johnathane H. Gaffney is a 2007 9th District recipient of the Founders' Memorial Scholarship, receiving an endowment of \$2,500.00. He is currently a junior at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX and has a grade point average of 3.56 on a 4.0 scale. He was initiated into Omega by way of Phi Gamma Chapter.

Brother Gaffney's campus activities and community service includes serving as Vice Basileus of Phi Gamma Chapter, Recruitment and Retention Chair of Champions of Equality and Diversity, Extended School Day Instructor II, Elementary, Middle, High School and College Tour Leader, Carriage House Nursing Home Volunteer, Thanksgiving Day Give Away, N.A.A.C.P. Black History Program and Aids Benefit Program.

He has received a number of awards to include University President's and Dean's List, Local news media exposure for various service projects, Most Energetic Fraternity Award, Rookie of the Year (Intramurals of UNT) and 9th District Undergraduate Talent Hunt Search Chairman.

## ***Brother Saint-Aaron L. Morris, 9th District (2,500.00)***

## ***Herman Dreer Scholarship / Leadership Award***



## ***Brother Edmund P. Lewis, Jr. Herman Dreer Scholarship / Leadership Award, 6th District***

Brother Edmund P. Lewis, Jr. is the 6th District's Herman Dreer Scholarship Award recipient, receiving a \$1,000.00 endowment. He received the Sixth District Herman Dreer Leadership Award at the 62nd Annual Sixth District Meeting. The International Herman Dreer Leadership Award was received at the 2007 Leadership Conference in Philadelphia, PA.

He is currently a student at North Carolina Central University and majors in Criminal Justice. He was initiated into Omega by way of Tau Psi Chapter where he has served as Chapter Vice-Basileus.

Brother Lewis has served as the NCCU Junior Class President for 2006-07 and served as Vice-President of the Collegiate 100 Black Men Chapter of NCCU along with a host of other activities in the NCCU community. He currently holds a 3.0 GPA.

## ***Ronald McNair Scholarship***



## ***Brother Domonic F. Crane***

Brother Dominick F. Crane is a 2007 9th District recipient of the Ronald McNair Scholarship, receiving

a \$1,000.00 endowment. He is currently a senior at Langston University in Langston, OK with a grade point average of 3.53 on a 4.0 scale. He was initiated into Omega by way Phi Psi Chapter.

Brother Crane's campus activities have included serving as Chapter Basileus of Phi Psi Chapter, NPHC Treasurer and Dormitory Assistant (RA). His community activities have included Reading to daycare children, Langston University Tour guide for incoming students/Parents, Conducting seminars on time management and National Pan-Hellenic Council Treasurer.

He has received a number of honors and awards that include the Siemens Teacher Award, Thurgood Marshall Scholarship, LINC Recipient- (President's List) and S.U.R.E. Step Recipient – (Dean's List).

## Undergraduate or Graduate Scholarship Grant



***Brother Dyril D. Burnnett, 10th District  
(\$1,000.00)***

# ΩΨΦ

## Creative Research Fellowship



***Brother Maurice M. McMorris, 2nd District  
(\$1,000.00)***

## George E. Meares Memorial Scholarship



***Brother Maurice J. Hobson (7th District)  
(\$1,000)***

Tuskegee, AL – Bro. Maurice Jermaine Hobson has the honor of being recognized as the Fraternity's 2007 George E. Meares Scholarship Award recipient which is awarded for graduate study in the fields of social work, social science, and/or criminal justice. Bro. Hobson is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Champaign, IL. His major focus of study is in 20th Century African American History and Popular Culture focusing on the Black New South under the guidance of Bro. James D. Anderson PhD (1963 Rho Gamma Chapter) with minor studies focusing on Educational History and U.S. History since 1830 (Social & Cultural). His dissertation title is "Speaking to the Spirits of the Games: A Geo-Political,



# Ω Omega's Clarion Call

Social and Cultural History of Black Atlanta, Georgia, 1966-1996." Bro. Hobson maintains a GPA of 3.93 on a 4.0 scale, and is scheduled to graduate August 2008.

Bro. Maurice J. Hobson was raised in Selma, AL, and is the third of six (6) children. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History with an emphasis in African American Studies from The University of Alabama at Birmingham (Birmingham, AL) in 1999, and a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, AL) in American Studies under the direction of Dr. Amilcar Shabazz in 2002. Bro. Hobson served a dual appointment role as an instructor of history and as an administrator in the Office of the Provost at Tuskegee University (Tuskegee, AL) from 2002-2004 before matriculating to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has demonstrated his leadership abilities and scholarly aptitude while at the University of Illinois where he has been recognized as a 2006-2007 Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Doctoral Fellow (awarded by the United Negro College Fund), recognized as a Dewson Fellow for Underrepresented Students, recognized as a University of Illinois Underrepresented Minority Pre-doctoral Fellow (2004-2006), as well as being inducted into the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society where he currently serves as president of the Epsilon Chapter. His professional affiliations include the following: Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Southern Historical Association, National Academic Advising Association, National Council of Black Studies, and

the Noel-Levitz Group. Community service remains an integral aspect in the life of Bro. Hobson as he lends his time to working on the Rural School and Museum Project: Hale County Civil Rights Museum (Hale County, AL), teaching swimming classes to children of color, Don Moyer's Boys Club Volunteer (Champaign, IL), Habitat for Humanity, Centennial High School Mentor (Champaign, IL), and working for the Black Male Health Awareness group funded by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Bro. Reginald Alston PhD (1982 Chi Iota Chapter). His long term goal is to become a college professor, administrator, and public intellectual. He plans to utilize his gifts to educate those within the African American community, and increase the number of African American doctoral recipients through teaching, mentoring and advising.

Bro. Maurice J. Hobson was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through Kappa Delta Chapter at the University of Alabama at Birmingham on November 14, 1996. He served as basileus and chapter historian while in Kappa Delta Chapter. He is currently financial with Iota Omega Chapter in Tuskegee, AL, but often participates in the functions of Sigma Xi Chapter in Champaign, IL. He has completed all course work, and his dissertation research has him spending time between Atlanta, GA, Tuskegee, AL, and Champaign, IL. Bro. Hobson is married to Mrs. Cynthia Lester Hobson PhD of Tuskegee, AL.



Undergraduate Scholars with former 2nd Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Muiyiwa Bamiduro, 38th Grand Basilius, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr. and Chairma of Omega Life Membership Foundation, Brother Donald Harris.



## Interview With The Writer

28<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Brother James S. Avery, Sr.  
By Brother Glen Rice

Brother James S. Avery, Sr., a former corporate executive, who served as Omega's 28th Grand Basileus, did not merely open doors for Black people in this country; he changed marketing strategy throughout the corporate world.

In his autobiography, "Others Thought I Could Lead," Brother Avery shares in vivid, candid and often poetic detail, the secrets of his success and unique work ethic, his moral values, and an uncompromising belief in himself that allowed him to persevere in the face of adversity. Horace Baldwin writes in the foreword. "Brother Avery's book gives us the opportunity to put our own stories in perspective as we realize how much we are capable of contributing to the world".

The autobiography was given to nearly 2,000 delegates at the 2006 Grand Conclave in Little Rock, AR. The following is an interview with Brother Avery about the book and what he hopes the reader will gain through his years of experience as an educator, athletic coach, corporate executive and leader of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

**Clarion and Call:** What compelled you to write an autobiography? What were you trying to emphasize or stress with the title, "Others Thought I Could Lead?"

**Brother Avery:** I have had a blessed life that has allowed me to participate and accomplish many things. I wanted to write about a life that achieved many significant goals and brought about important changes that, hopefully, made circumstances better for more people...particularly those in the so-called minority groups in America. Once I accepted a particular responsibility, I felt committed to initiate change where change was necessary, to advance the bottom line financial objectives of the Esso Corporation and move the objectives of the organizations

like Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; more thoughtfully into areas of social and economic relevance.

With one exception, every position I held was a position I did not seek. I either was asked to run for the office or was selected to take on the leadership role. Other people expressed their belief in me and I took each role as an opportunity to prove that their confidence in me was justified. That is why I entitled my autobiography, "Others Thought I could Lead."

**Clarion and Call:** You provide revealing detail of your childhood; in particular, growing up extremely poor with your mother and father working extremely hard to raise you. How did that have an impact on how you viewed the world and your decision to dedicate so much of your life, time and energy in the area of social activism and helping those in need?

**Brother Avery:** During my childhood, despite the poverty we faced and the few material things we had, my parents continually stressed the importance of looking at life in a positive way. They also placed great importance upon religious training and the adoption of good moral standards. By their actions and words, they taught me to respect my elders and see other persons as individuals and to judge people on the basis of the way they treated others. I grew to believe a person's character was shown by their actions, their

moralistic values and how they interacted with others. I believed this so strongly in life that it drove my determination to be that way in all my relationships. I always got great satisfaction in helping others become better at what they were doing, helping others achieve their own objectives, be it in education, social relationships or corporate life.

**Clarion and Call:** In the summer of 1957, you were initiated into the Omicron Chi Chapter in Plainfield, NJ. How was that experience different from other organizations in which you had participated? This would include NAMD, UNCF, various collegiate and semi-professional athletic teams, civic and corporate groups.



28th Grand Basileus,  
Brother James S. Avery, Sr.

# Ω Omega's Clarion Call

**Brother Avery:** My initiation into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1957 was motivated by several factors. When I became an executive with Esso Standard Oil in 1956 and began traveling throughout the company's marketing territory, I had the pleasure of meeting many members of the Fraternity, including two of the Founders, Brother Bishop Edgar A. Love and Brother Dr. Oscar J. Cooper. Many times I witnessed the friendship and comradeship that existed among the Brotherhood. I saw many examples of how various Brothers went out of their way to be of assistance to another Brother. When I moved to Plainfield, NJ in 1954, I found I was living in a neighborhood with men who were members of Omicron Chi Chapter. I got to know these men on a social basis and saw the great significance of their brotherly love for each other. Of course, there was effective teamwork in other organizations in which I was involved, like the National Association of Market Developers, Inc. (now known as the National Alliance of Market Developers), the United Negro College Fund, athletic teams and other organizations and agencies. But in Omega, the friendship among Brothers is a special kind of friendship that has an everlasting, undying quality. Then too, we feel a very conscious, special and unselfish commitment to living, and being viable examples of the Four Cardinal Principles that we love and profess as men of Omega.

**Clarion and Call:** How did your experience as an educator, corporate executive, and association president prepare you to be elected the Fraternity's 28th Grand Basileus?

**Brother Avery:** You know, leadership involves a lot of things such as having integrity, honor, a strong moral fiber as well as a strong desire to serve in ways that bring benefit to others. I have thoroughly enjoyed the leadership opportunities I had in the various roles in my life working with people to develop and assess programs and in accomplishing important objectives. I came to recognize early in my adulthood that a key factor in leadership involves having a vision and having what it takes to help enable others to find their place in that vision of what an organization should be doing to achieve stated objectives.

Once having accepted a particular responsibility, I felt committed to initiate change where change was necessary, to advance the bottom line financial objectives of the corporation and move the objectives of the organization more thoughtfully and with greater commitment into areas of social and economic relevance. This was

true of my leadership roles in education. It was true of my voluntary role as a national vice chairman for the United Negro College Fund in raising millions of dollars to improve Black colleges and universities and for scholarships for students attending those colleges. The book delineates my more than 30 years experience in corporate America starting in pre-civil rights years of segregation and deep racial prejudice when I brought about advances in race relations and Black employment as well as corporate marketing practices.

**Clarion and Call:** In just over twelve years of joining the Fraternity, you were elected Grand Basileu. How would you characterize that upward mobility?

**Brother Avery:** I took my entrance into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. very seriously and solemnly. I have always had the greatest respect for the fraternal vision of our Founders and for the Four Cardinal Principles of our organization. I have committed my entire life to emulating those principles. I have constantly spoken of the sacred vows we took and of a love of Omega as a symbol of the best one could be. I am sure that my love, my concern and my respect for Omega's ideals along with my vision for Omega were the factors that propelled me onward in the Fraternity. I can proudly say I have never seen my participation as one based upon political motives, I just wanted to do all I could to advance the true cause of Omega. It was the Brothers around me who saw the depth of my fraternal devotion and my intense desire to serve.

My leadership as Grand Basileus in Omega was particularly significant to me when I moved the Fraternity's objectives more aggressively into areas of social and economic need, changing the focus of activities into relevant areas like a nationwide drug education program, youth education projects, senior housing projects, expanding the Fraternity's focus upon scholarship and the first-of-its-kind program in health education. In addition, there was significant chapter development and the Conclaves during my administration dealt with important national issues and were serious learning experiences for the Brotherhood.

**Clarion and Call:** The book provides some detailed recollections of your meeting past Grand Basilei and other Fraternity leaders. Who among them had the greatest impact on you personally and helped you shape what would be your vision during your tenure as Grand Basileus?

**Brother Avery:** I had the opportunity to meet and get to know many of the Brothers who had the privilege of serving as Grand Basileus for our Fraternity. Brother Lawrence A. Oxley, he was one, we became very close friends when I was Grand Basileus. He was an outstanding administrator and gave me some good suggestions when I was developing my programs. I met Brother Albert W. Dent, another former Grand Basileus, when he was president of Dillard University in New Orleans, LA. At that time, I was participating as a national vice-chairman for the United Negro College Fund's annual fund raising campaign. We had chats about the need for leaders to place great emphasis upon evaluating activities and making the appropriate adaptations to improve program effectiveness. Brother Z. Alexander Looby was a Grand Basileus who was a social activist that redirected Fraternity programs into more socially relevant areas. I studied his leadership style and was greatly influenced by his aggressive concern for moving Omega more prominently into areas of public concern. Brother Herbert E. Tucker was another Former Grand Basileus that I knew before I joined the Fraternity. When I became Grand Basileus, we talked often about my ideas for Omega. I looked up to Herb and saw him as an outstanding example of an Omega man deeply involved at the community and state level with great skills in relating and getting others to support his objectives. Of course, I knew all of the Grand Basilei once I became an Omega man and respected each one highly.

Brother Carl Moultrie was NES when I became Grand Basileus and I worked more closely with him than anyone else. I ran all my decisions by him and had the highest respect for his wise counsel and his recommendations for various committee assignments. No one had a more comprehensive view of Omega than H. Carl. It was my great pleasure to have the lead in his investiture and to present him with his robe when he first became a federal judge in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

**Clarion and Call:** Please tell us about your meeting and your visits with Founders Oscar J. Cooper and Bishop Edgar A. Love.

**Brother Avery:** As you know, I met both Founders before I entered Omega and was introduced to them by a member of the Fraternity that I was working with at Esso Standard Oil Company, Brother Wendell P. Alston. Wendell was highly respected within the ranks of Omega

and he made meeting great men like our Founders easy for me. After becoming a Fraternity Brother, I relished every time there was an opportunity to be in their presence. It was great to sit and listen to them talk about Omega and their dreams for its continuing success. One thing they continually emphasized was the need to select the highest quality manhood for induction into Omega. I remember when Brother Love was being interviewed by Brother Mark Hyman, who was PR Director in my administration, in talking about initiation into Omega, he said, "There may be a place for mediocre men in fraternity life, but not in Omega!"

**Clarion and Call:** What words of vision did they impart on you and what lasting impression did they give you about the future growth and development of the Fraternity? Moreover, were they pleased with how the Fraternity grew and the direction it was moving?

**Brother Avery:** I think the answers to the two previous questions are evident in what I have already stated. I might add that both Founders realized that fulfilling the mandate of one of their founding objectives occupying a progressive, helpful and constructive place in the civic and political life of the community and nation is something that must change with changing times. They expressed their great joy with the fact that I had adapted our programming to meet socially relevant issues of our time. Also, they often commented upon the good press that Omega got in the Black newspapers throughout the years of my administration.

**Clarion and Call:** Upon the conclusion of reading this book, what is it you want the reader to come away with?

**Brother Avery:** I wanted to write about a life that achieved many significant goals and brought about important changes, that, hopefully, made circumstances better for more people. You know, making a real difference, giving true commitment to advancing the goals of an organization, wanting to do the best, wanting to be the best, were always paramount in my life. The book, "OTHERS THOUGHT I COULD LEAD" is a written testimonial that I hope those who read it can draw energy and spirit to help them make their participation in life more productive and equally rewarding.

*Brother Glenn E. Rice is a reporter for The Kansas City Star and is the Eighth District Keeper of Records and Seal. He can be reached at glennric@gmail.com.*



## Corporate Governance Group Training Workshop Held In New Orleans, LA

Grand Basileus, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr., held a Corporate Governance training workshop in New Orleans, LA on June 8-9, 2007. The purpose of the workshop was to establish a meaningful communication base between the International Leadership and the Fraternity's District Representatives.

Brother Lee's goal was to convey to the District Leadership his wish that Omega establish a new and viable working relationship that would allow the day to day operations of the Fraternity to flow smoothly and in a way that would be most satisfactory and beneficial to the Brotherhood. The workshop was headlined with numerous sessions and discussions that allowed the International Leadership, as well as the District Leadership, to present ways in which Omega could proceed into future with a positive and hopeful outlook.

The training sessions were opened by the Grand Basileus and followed by presentations that included sessions on:

**Accounting Disclosures for Non-Profit Organizations** which featured presentations from Brothers Eugene Radcliff, Partner Montgomery-Barnett; Lynne A. Burkhart-Postlethwaite & Netterville; Richard Salmon – Postlethwaite & Netterville; Jullin Renthrope, CGFM, CPA- Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office and Kyshun Webster, PhD, -Operation Reach, Inc.

**Do's and Don't of Being a Volunteer Board Member** which featured Brother Andrew "Ty" McMains, General Counsel – Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

**Internal Revenue Service Advice for Non-Profit Organizations** which featured Brother John Collins-

Exempt Organization Revenue Agent, Internal Revenue Service.

**Ethics** which featured Brother Robert Holmes, Senior Vice President for Ethics and Corporate Concerns – Alabama Power.

Brother Judge Melvin Zeno was the Training Workshop's keynote Luncheon Speaker. He currently serves as Judge of the 24th Judicial District of Jefferson Parish. Brother Zeno's message of unity was well received by the Brothers attending the workshop.

Other issues discussed included those involving established procedures, improvement of those procedures and new ways to avoid any possible breakdown of communication along the way. The Workshop concluded with a moving presentation on the state of Black America by a representative from Essence Magazine.



Brother Judge Melvin Zeno





*Corporate Governance Group Training*



*Workshop*



*New Orleans, Louisiana*



## Communications Team Workshop Held in New Orleans

The Corporate Governance Workshop also included a Communications Team Workshop and Training Session. This was led by, Communications Director, Brother Ben Holbert. Those in attendance included Brother Troy Moore, Editor of Omega's Clarion Call and the Fraternity's District Directors of Public Relations to include:

Brother Keith S. Mathews	1st
Brother L. Rodney Bennett	5th
Brother Zanes E. Cypress, Jr.	2nd
Brother Michael A. Boykin	6th
Brother Terrance Gilliam	3rd
Brother Roger T. Watkins	9th
<i>Assistant:</i> Brother Wayne Poulard	
Brother Christopher Welch	4th
Brother Wayne Pollard (Asst.)	9th
Brother Timothy W. Tyler	10th

Other Brothers participating in the Communications Workshop Training Session included Brothers Robert L. Woodson, Milbert O. Brown Jr. and Alvin Swilley.

The Communications Workshop was opened with a message from the Grand Basileus. The Session began with a discussion of the Oracle and its new purpose for Omega. Brother Troy Moore, Editor of Omega's Clarion Call discussed article submission rules for the publication as well as the anatomy of the publication. It was also established that the publication would be on the Fraternity's official website for at least six months.

Brother Patrick Smith, International Technology Committee Chairman, discussed the new face of the International Web Site. The website currently features working technology that allows interaction with its users. Brother Smith explained that the website is a work in progress and that it will improve with time and application.

Brother Glenn Rice, Staff Writer for the Kansas City Star, and Brother Milbert Brown, Staff Writer of the Chicago Tribune, completed a presentation on the "Role of the Media." This presentation conveyed to Brothers in attendance how they should approach the media in reference to covering events that are being sponsored by local chapters. Brother Rice expanded on "What Reporters Want" in a story while Brother Milbert Brown completed a presentation on how to approach photography when pursuing a good story.

The Session was concluded by a Brainstorming session that ended with an agreement of unprecedented cooperation between the International Communications Team and the Fraternity's District Directors of Public Relations. The Editor of Omega's Clarion Call and the Editor of the Oracle will work directly in concert with the DDPR's to assure that the Brothers of Omega receive quality publications on a quarterly basis. The policies and procedures for submission to both publications will be posted on the websites of each District as well as in the communications section of the International Web Site. The DDPR' will pursue a working relationship with the Editors of the chapters in their respective Districts to ensure that all submissions flow from the Chapter level to the District level to the International level. This new found spirit of cooperation will ensure that the submission process flows smoothly.



Brother Ben Holbert  
Director of Communications



*Communications Workshop*



*New Orleans, Louisiana*





## A Man Alone in New Orleans

By Brother Glenn E. Rice

Herbert Gettridge says his neighborhood is silent. Music often blared from the house across the street from his white three-bedroom stucco-coated house located on Roman Street in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward.

The community had hundreds of homes, schools, grocery stores, and drug stores. The joyous sounds of children playing, the constant hum of traffic, and the echo of barking dogs were part of the urban symphony that filled Gettridge's ears each day.

"We had it all," said Gettridge, 83, a former merchant seaman, who earned a living plastering walls. "We didn't have it as big as it is on Canal Street or in the upper districts but down here for the colored people that built this area up, we had it well built."

That changed on Aug. 29, 2005 when Hurricane Katrina ravaged the parts of southern Louisiana and Mississippi forcing the Industrial Canal levee to burst open. A tide of water swept into the Lower Ninth Ward and throughout the region, causing massive flooding. More than 1,600 people were killed and thousands left homeless. Gettridge's neighborhood was one of the areas Katrina hit the hardest.

While the center of the city is slowly reviving, the Lower Ninth Ward remains ghostly. Gettridge's house literally stands in ruins. The rubble of houses knocked off their foundations surrounds Gettridge's small-framed, white house. A few roofs lay on the ground with the houses they belong to nowhere in site. Dozens of hollowed-out homes dot the landscape, littered with rotting cars and other signs of abandonment.

Today, even on streets devoid of residents, most houses appear gutted, their mildew-ridden walls and floors ripped out in anticipation of being replaced. Many of the other homes are being worked on. Cramped government-issued trailers are parked in numerous driveways.

Standing in the front yard of his refurbished home, Gettridge says a deafening silence has replaced the music, the traffic and the sound of children playing.

"I am here by myself," he said. "I don't see people walking down the streets after it gets dark. I might see a car pass by but that's how quiet it is."

Hurricane Katrina has separated Gettridge from his wife of 68 years.

She lives in Madison, Wis., with relatives. It has been nearly two years since they last seen each other, he said. The Gettriges had evacuated early, but so many others stayed behind or simply refused to leave. The attic of the house next door has a hole cut in it. Gettridge said his neighbor stayed behind. The neighbor waited two days for emergency crews to rescue him.

Yet, Gettridge who survived Katrina and other natural disasters said he remains determined to rebuild.

He is one of only a handful of homeowners in the Lower Ninth Ward to have started the rebuilding process. Gettridge said he built it with his home own two hands and he is determined to stay.

"I pulled out the old sheetrock by myself and put in all the new. I'll do it again," said Gettridge. He had re-built the house once before, after Hurricane Betsy in 1965.

Nevertheless, as time passes and rebuilding costs mount, the idea that the federal, state or even the local government will provide financial support here seems ever more remote.

Therefore, instead of waiting, Gettridge has gutted, treated, and cleaned his flooded house, mostly by himself and teams of volunteers who traveled to the region. He has also received assistance from Common Ground, a multi-service agency formed after Hurricane Katrina that has attracted volunteers from all over the country. The group maintains a presence in a damaged house in the Lower Ninth Ward.

Sharon Johnson, the group's co-founder, said the agency help residents demolish gut and rebuild homes. They also offer a tool-lending program and distribute food, water and other survival items.

Johnson said the crumbling houses that still dominate the Lower Ninth Ward have managed to draw attention to the area's slow recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

A hand-painted sign in the front of the Common Ground makeshift headquarters admonishes those tourists for not stopping and making donations.

Local officials have quarreled with state and federal authorities on releasing billions of dollars intended to go towards the recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Activists such as the Rev. Jesse Jackson have said the Bush administration and much of the nation had largely forgotten



the working-class and mostly Black hurricane victims in the Lower Ninth Ward, while areas that draw tourists and sections that are more affluent recover more quickly.

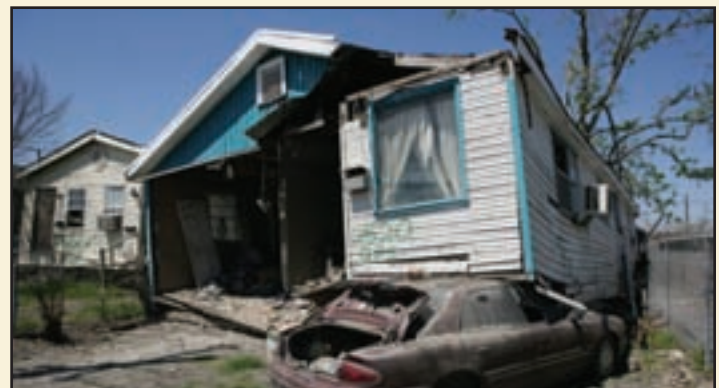
For their part, federal authorities said they have allocated billions targeted to residents and recovery efforts. It is up to local and state officials to get the funds to those who are in need.

Gettridge said the Lower Ninth Ward was poor and crime-ridden before Katrina, but it also remains a community of families and who are now gone; only leaving the poverty and desperation.

"I was born and raised in New Orleans; I have been all over the world but I don't intend to leave New Orleans," he said. "This is my home and this is where I am going to stay."

*This article contained information from previously published media accounts and reports.*

Brothers Glenn E. Rice and Milbert O. Brown Jr. spent two days touring the Lower Ninth Ward. They spoke with residents and volunteers who are helping them rebuild. Photographs and a video interview with Mr. Gettridge are available on the Fraternity's website, [www.oppf.org](http://www.oppf.org). Through its newly formed Omega Charities, the Fraternity is seeking to raise money to assist residents.



## Glenn E. Rice

Reporter

The Kansas City Star  
7601 N. Roanridge Road  
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# Ω Omega's Clarion Call



*New Orleans, Louisiana*



*Lower Ninth Ward*



*Katrina Aftermath*





## Omega To Test A Bold Membership Process

By Brother Keith W. Neal,  
International Membership Chairman



**Brother Keith W. Neal**

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. will test a new membership process with its roots connected to the Lampados Club. This new process began when 38th Grand Basileus, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr. instructed the International Membership Committee to design a new membership program that would be an intensive educational process based on developing leaders who

would commit to community activism and having a positive impact in development of the youth in the communities in which they live. It must stress that the entering of Omega is no mere formality, but a lifetime commitment which requires a continuing financial obligation and an active participation commitment. This will be the New Lampados Program. As with all membership activities, mental and/or physical harassment, hazing, extortion, or brutality is strictly prohibited and such actions will be met with the most severe penalties by the Fraternity and violators are also subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law allowable by the jurisdiction where the violation took place.

It should be noted that while the basis of the process will be the Lampados Manual, originally designed in the 1960's, this new Lampados Program has been revised to accommodate the Fraternity in the 21st Century. As 1st Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl A. Blunt, stated, "it's the Lampados Program but, it's not your father's Lampados Program." This is a newly designed program which targets the development of an individual's skills, experience and philosophy to succeed in life in today's world.

During the Leadership Conference, the Supreme Council approved a test of the New Lampados Program to take place during the Fall of 2007 and Spring of 2008. This test program will allow the Fraternity to gather data on the effectiveness of such a program for possible approval by the Brotherhood at the 2008 Grand Conclave. Each District was allowed to have two chapters, preferably a graduate and an

undergraduate chapter, to work the program in each of the two sessions. It was agreed that each District's participating chapters would attend a Lampados Program Certification Training session. 180 Brothers are anticipated to be involved in the testing phase of the Program. Evaluations of the process will be completed after the fall of 2007 session. This will allow the Membership Committee the opportunity to complete any necessary modifications for the spring of 2008 session if applicable.

The new Lampados Program will be a four week pledge process which will be implemented by the local chapters. All Brothers that participate in the process will need to be MSP Certified and have an Indemnification Form (Form 9A-21) on file at the International Headquarters. Program highlights include a revised Lampados Manual, weekly progress reports with the District Representative, weekly formal Lampados Club Meetings, pledges are to complete formal Lampados Club Meetings, pledges are to complete Social Action Projects and a weekday activity curfew of 10 PM to 8 AM. Undergrads will also be required to wear shirt and tie during the school day, 15 hours of weekly academic study time, weekly academic follow-up by Chapter Advisor, and weekly projects with the local graduate chapter.

As with any Omega membership program, the future of our Fraternity is intrinsically connected to the selection of our new membership. We must find men of high moral integrity, men of principle, honor and discipline who demonstrate highly ethical behavior. It is imperative that we select the best and the brightest, as "Mediocrity is fine but not in Omega." In addition, the Brothers must also emulate these same standards of integrity, honor and ethics in their dealing with prospective members. We must never do anything that will bring shame or dishonor to the Fraternity. Only we, the Brothers of Omega, can ensure our future and the future of the communities we impact. This program is smart, but it will only be as successful as we make it. Now is the time for us to seize the opportunity.

Brother Keith W. Neal was initiated by way of Iota Epsilon Chapter at Towson State University on December 5, 1976. He served on the Supreme Council in 1999 to 2001 as the 26th 12th District Representative. He also served as the International Rules Chairman from August, 2002 to July, 2006. In August, 2006, he was named Chairman of the International Membership Committee.

# Ω Omega's Clarion Call

## 1st Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl A. Blunt - The 2007 Philadelphia Leadership Conference



Brother Carl A. Blunt,  
1st Vice Grand Basileus

Now that the curtain has fallen on the 2007 Leadership Conference and on the "City of Brotherly Love," I want to thank the 2nd District, Mu Omega Chapter, the Task Force, all of the presenters, speakers, registrants and Quettes who collectively made this Leadership Conference the best attended Conference in Omega's history. There were over 715 Brothers registered.

I also give thanks to the IHQ advance team and staff members that worked behind the scenes for many hours into the mornings to provide much needed support for the event.

Upon arrival into Philadelphia International Airport on Wednesday, July 11th, Brother Steve Oakman's pick-up team was very visible and ushered visiting Brothers into vans and directed others to the hotel shuttle. At the hotel, the Brothers found the hotel staff very professional and courteous.

On Thursday, July 12th, Brother Daryl German teamed with IHQ golf tournament coordinator, Brother Wendell Porter to provide a quality tournament with door prizes and gifts donated by Ms. Debert Cook of the African American Golf Digest, Brother William "Bill" Council, and Brother Walter Body.

Brother Duerson, a former NFL player, was joined this year by former NFL players Brother Clyde Simmons and Brother Irvin Fryar. Former 2-Time Olympic Gold Medal Hurdles Champion, Brother Roger Kingdom, also joined in the fun as did Mr. James "Bonecrusher" Smith, a former Heavyweight Champ.

This year, the visiting Omega Brothers reached out to the community by providing a youth golf clinic which was coordinated by Brother Hugh Smith and conducted by LPGA teaching professional, Ms. Robin Aiken. Lunches and commemorative golf caps were provided by Brother Clayton Bell, CEO of Atlanta based ISS Corp. Later that Thursday evening, Brother William Smith hosted a fantastic and standing room only reception for the Grand Basileus on behalf of Citizens Bank.

The official start of the 2007 Philadelphia Leadership Conference began with a recognition breakfast on Friday morning, July 13, with Brothers Vernon Baker, Nathan Thomas, Ermon Jones & Andrew Delgado who received their 60 year pins along with Brother Wilbert Foster who received his 70 year certificate and Omega clock.

The Brothers then attended their respective workshops.

"MSP & Lampados Overview"

Brother Keith Neal, Brother Dorsey Miller III, Brother Joseph Williams, Brother Raymond Bourgeois.

"Preparing for Leadership"

Brother Al Cornish, Brother Eric Lewis, Brother Terrel Parris.

"Critical Issues Impacting Black Youth"

Brother Dr. Ruben Warren, Brother Rev. Farrel Duncombe

"Business Leadership/Franchising Opportunities"

Brother Robb Harvey, Eddie Bickham

"Medical Seminar - Male Health Issues"

Brother Dr. Charles Christopher, Brother Dr. Al Dennis

Luncheon speaker, former New Jersey Attorney General, Brother Peter Harvey, was detained in traffic and would not arrive until 1:00 pm. In his place, the former Grand Basilei were given an opportunity to address the assembly of the Brotherhood.

The closing session gave Brother Harvey an opportunity to address the Brothers along with scheduled speakers Brothers Dr. Joseph Marshall and Florida State Rep., Brother Frank Peterman. Saturday provided more excitement with the Leadership Conference recognizing the 28th Grand Basileus, Brother James Avery as he received his 50 year service pin.

After the workshops International Scholarship Chairman, Brother Ademuyiwa Bamiduro presented undergraduate scholarships to well deserving recipients members of Omega. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in conjunction with the Omega Life Membership Foundation, distributed more than \$115,000 in scholarships during the ceremony.

The closing session featured speakers to include Brother Admiral Manson K. Brown USCG and Florida State Senator, Brother Tony Hill. Brother Hill brought the crowd to their feet by pledging \$10,000 towards the development of an Omega Leadership Academy.

Several Districts were recognized for exceeding their published registrant projections. They were the 9th District with 2 awards: Highest Percentage of Targeted Attendance and Most Chapters in Attendance. The 7th District, 1st District, 12th District, and 4th District also receive attendance awards. The 6th District and the 5th District were also acknowledged for exceeding their respective attendance goals.

Brother Charles Sherman closed the Leadership Conference with his band, "Change of Pace." A full house was treated to a mixture of Jazz & R&B.

Thanks again to everyone who worked so hard to make the 2007 Philadelphia Leadership Conference a rousing success. I especially would like to thank those who worked behind the scenes that may have not been mentioned in this abbreviated account.

Yours in Friendship & Fraternity,

Brother Carl A. Blunt

1st Vice Grand Basileus

2007 Leadership Conference Chairman

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.





# 2007 Philadelphia Leadership Conference

July 12th through July 15



## The 2007 Philadelphia Leadership Conference

The 2007 Leadership Conference held July 12 -14th in Philadelphia provided 715 registered delegates with a front-seat to history and fraternal knowledge. 268 chapters were represented at the Leadership Conference. The 9th district, lead by Representative Brother Willie Hinchon had the most chapters in attendance followed by the 2nd District, under the leadership of Brother Marvin Dillard.

First Vice-Grand Basileus, Brother Carl A. Blunt stated, "This Leadership Conference surpassed all previous registration records." The 2005 Conference in Mobile, Alabama was able to attract 504 Brothers to the bi-annual seminar. "This is the first time in the history of the Leadership Conference that we have reached capacity almost 30 days prior to the event," said Brother Blunt. One hundred undergraduates were also in attendance.

The Leadership Conference was hosted by Mu Omega Chapter of Philadelphia, where Brother Alan W. Junius serves as Basileus. "The 2007 Leadership Conference allowed Brothers to gain a hands-on opportunity to guide and instruct our members at all levels of the Fraternity".

### Breakout Sessions

#### Critical Issues Impacting African-American men:

Brother Ruben Warren and Brother Farrel Duncombe discussed the plight of the Black American male. Mentorship has become more important than ever, as Black America is currently suffering from what many have called the loss of an entire generation of young Black men.

The message put forth in the presentation made no attempt at manufacturing any pretentious quick fixes. The moderating Brothers simply stressed that we as men of Omega can no longer provide lip service to the issue or continue to put in a few hours a month to, "make ourselves feel good" about our good deeds. It is time for Omega to fully commit to salvaging what we can of our lost generation of Black men.



Pictured above: Breakout Session host, Brother Rev. Farrel Duncombe

#### Medical Seminar - Male Health Issues:

The Medical Panel was conducted by Brothers Dr. Charles Christopher and Dr. Al Dennis who discussed a number of medical concerns that are predominant to the Black American male. Those medical concerns included Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, Erectile Dysfunction, Kidney Disease and Prostate Cancer.

Approximately 2.7 million are 11.4% of all Black Americans aged 20 years or older have diabetes. However, one-third of them do not know it. The most life-threatening consequences of diabetes are heart disease and stroke, which strike people with diabetes more than twice as often as they do others. African Americans are 1.6 times more also likely to have diabetes than non-Latino whites. 25% of African Americans between the ages of 65 and 74 have diabetes.

You are more likely to develop high blood pressure if your parents also had it. Black men are also more likely to develop high blood pressure at a younger age than Black women. If you have high blood pressure that's caused by an inherited condition or other risk factors, you may need medication to control this medical condition. It is important that you make life style changes, if applicable.

Black men have a 50% higher chance of developing prostate cancer than whites and we are twice as likely



to die from it. One major risk factor is a family history. A simple blood test called a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test and a digital rectal exam are the methods use by doctors to detect prostate cancer. The American Cancer Society recommends that all Black men start annual testing at age 45 even if there is no family history. Fatty foods have been thought to boost a man's risk of developing prostate cancer. A diet rich in antioxidants such as vitamin E, selenium and lycopene have been shown to reduce chances of developing the disease.



Pictured above: Breakout Session co-host,  
Brother Dr. Charles Christopher

## **Leadership In Business/Franchising Opportunities:**

The Leadership In Business / Franchising Opportunities Breakout Session was conducted by Brothers Robb Harvey and Eddie Bickham.

Brother Harvey is President and CEO of RAHA Enterprises, Inc. He is the Subway Development Agent which overseas San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties in California. Mr. Harvey purchased the local Development Office containing 142 stores. To date, the region has grown to 183 restaurants with more on the horizon.

Brother Bicham is the Director of Operations for Subway Development for San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties in California. He has been part of the Subway family since 2004. He is also an Associate Professor in the Business Department at Central Texas College located at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA.



Pictured above: Breakout Session co-host,  
Brother Robb Harvey



Pictured above: Breakout Session co-host,  
Brother Eddie Bickham

## **Preparing For Leadership:**

The Preparing For Leadership Breakout Session was conducted by Brothers Al Cornish, Eric Lewis and Terrel Parris. The session stressed the following action plan for success:

“Discipline yourself to do the things you need to do when you need to do them, and the day will come when you will be able to do the things you want to do when you want to do them.

Motivation gets you going and habit gets you there. Make motivation a habit and you will get there more quickly and have more fun on the trip.



For too many people have no idea of what they CAN DO because all they have been told is what they can't do. They don't know what they want because they don't know what's available for them."



Pictured above: Breakout Session co-host,  
Brother Al Cornish



Pictured above: Breakout Session co-host,  
Brother Eric Lewis



Pictured above: Breakout Session co-host  
Brother Terrel Parris

## Press Conference

A press conference was held by 38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr. on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> to notify the local Philadelphia press as well as Brothers in

the press about Omega's new direction and commitment to social action, economic independence for Black America and Omega's continued commitment to education and excellence. This new direction is a first step in the direction of "Making a Difference in the lives of Black People."



38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr.



1st Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl A. Blunt with Brother  
Rear Admiral Manson K. Brown



Florida State Senator, Brother Anthony "Tony" Hill





Brother Dr. Joseph E. Marshall, Jr., Pi Chi Chapter, 1967- Co-founder of the Omega Boys Club/Street Soldiers initiative, based in San Francisco, CA.



Florida State Representative, Brother Frank Peterman Jr. addressing the Brotherhood

## 50, 60 and 70 year Pins



Brother Nathan Thomas of Mu Omega, getting his 60 year award and get's "pinned" by the 38th Grand Basileus Bro. Warren G. Lee while looking on: (l-r) 30th Grand Basileus,

Bro. Ed Braynon, 2VGB Bro. Brian Gundy, 1VGB, Bro. Carl A. Blunt and Birmingham Grand Marshall, Bro. Walter Body.



Brother Vernon Baker receiving his 60 year pin & award. (l-r) 38th Grand Basileus Warren G. Lee Jr, First Vice Grand Basileus, Bro. Carl A. Blunt, 30th Grand Basileus Bro. Ed Braynon, Grand Chaplain Bro. Farrell J. Duncombe, Bro. Vernon Baker, Grand Marshall Bro. Walter Body, Grand Keeper of Finance, Bro. Antonio "Tony" Knox and 2nd District DR, Bro. Marvin Dillard.



Former 2nd District Representative, Bro. Ermon Jones receiving his 60 year award from (l-r) 1VGB, Bro. Carl A. Blunt, 38th Grand Basileus, Bro. Warren G. Lee Jr., 2VGB, Bro. Brian Gundy, Bro. Ermon Jones, 28th Grand Basileus, Bro. James Avery, Bro. Marvin Dillard, 30th Grand Basileus, Bro. Ed Braynon, Bro. Michael D. Adams, 37th Grand Basileus, Bro. George Grace, 2nd District Rep. Bro. Marvin Dillard, undergraduate rep, Bro. Joseph Bowers Jr., Grand Keeper of Finance, Bro. Antonio "Tony" Knox & Grand Chaplain, Bro. Farrel J. Duncombe.





Bro. Wilbert Foster, (sitting) receives his 70 year award and is "flanked by" the 37th Grand Basileus, Bro. George Grace, 28th Grand Basileus, Bro. James Avery, 31st Grand Basileus, Bro. Burnel Coulon and the 38th Grand Basileus, Bro. Warren G. Lee Jr.

The following is a Richmond Free Press (week of July 19<sup>th</sup>) article on Brother Wilbert Foster:  
**Salutes to 'Skip' Foster**

Wilbert F. "Skip" Fosters' lucky 90<sup>th</sup> birthday week end began on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Richmond native and 34 year manager of the defunct Richmond Teachers Credit Union traveled last week to Philadelphia, where he was honored by his fraternity at Omega Psi Phi's 2007 Leadership Conference.

With characteristic tousled hair and winsome smile, Mr. Foster was seated on the dais during the special recognition breakfast.

As a 70 year member, Mr. Foster, a graduate of Virginia Union University, was cited for his devotion and service to local Omega Psi Phi chapters and to the national organization.

He was presented a plaque by Grand Basileus Warren G. Lee, Jr. and a handsome clock by Grand Keeper of Records Seals Charles A. Bruce, who noted that Mr. Foster exemplifies Omega's cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift.

His frat brothers sang "Happy Birthday" to him on Saturday, and presented him with a card signed by Supreme Council members and former Grand Basilei attending the conference.

When he returned to Richmond, Mr. Foster was feted by family and friends at a special birthday luncheon on Sunday hosted by his nephew and niece, Wendell Foster of Richmond and Eloise Foster of Silver Spring, MD.

It was a fitting tribute for Mr. Foster, whose large and prominent family is deeply rooted in the civic fabric of

the Richmond community.

In humorous inspirational remarks, his brother, Dr. Francis M. "Frank" Foster, recalled how Mr. Foster became known as "Skip." When he was young, Mr. Foster wore a cap cocked to the side, just like a newspaper comic strip character. The character's name: Skip.

Mr. Foster is an avid sports fan and math whiz, who can calculate quickly in his head. He has spent a lifetime quietly dedicated to the community. He is a longtime member of the NAACP and Ebenezer Baptist Church and a founding member of Club 533.



**Former District Representative Trio with Grand Basileus:**

Left to right: Brother Warren G. Lee, 38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Bro. Sylvester Wilkins, former 1st District Rep (1989-1994), Bro. Mark Bishop, former 5th District Rep. (1991-1995) & Bro. Charles Christopher, former 9th District Rep. (1990-1993), together again at the Philadelphia Leadership Conference and still working hard for Omega, 15 years later.



## Lampados Club Discussion

Pictured above: Brother Keith W. Neal,  
International Membership Chairman

The Lampados Club re-instatement discussion featured a lively presentation with questions and answers on the pilot intake program to revisit the viability and reinstatement of the Lampados Club.



## Pining Ceremony



Grand Basileus, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr., 4<sup>th</sup> District Representative, Brother Dewey Ortiz, 9<sup>th</sup> District Representative, Brother Willie "Mercenary" Hinchey, and Grand Marshall, Brother Walter Body.



(l-r) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Brian Gundy & Undergraduate Representative, Brother Jamar McCoy present Brother Dr. Joseph Marshall with a commemorative set of Founders Coins.

## 2007 Leadership Conference Speakers



Florida State Senator, Brother Anthony "Tony" Hill addressing the Brotherhood



Florida State Representative, Brother Frank Peterman Jr. addressing the Brotherhood



Brother Peter C. Harvey Esq., Former Attorney General New Jersey --Pi Chapter, 1976 (astute political and civic wisdom) partner with Patterson, Belknap, Webb and Tyler, and former Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.







Pictured above: Brother Rear Admiral Manson K. Brown, US Coast Guard --Sigma Iota Chapter 1983, the First Omega Man and only the third African-American to achieve the flag rank in the United States Coast Guard.



Pictured above: Brother Dave Duerson, former DB with the Super Bowl Champion Chicago Bears, and Leadership Conference Celebrity Golf Tournament coordinator.

At the conclusion of the Conference, Brother Senator Tony Hill pledged \$10,000 toward an Omega Leadership Institute for Youth, and also pledged \$1,000 toward the Coaches for Cancer Project, an effort aimed at raising one million dollars for prostate cancer research with proceeds going directly to efforts to find a cure for prostate cancer.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl Blunt thanked the Brotherhood for their participation, as well as their understanding regarding the registration cut-off. "I am proud that the Brothers showed true leadership. It was an impressive turn-out; Brothers adapted and we overcame any and all obstacles we were faced with," said Brother Blunt.



(l-r) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus, Brother Carl A. Blunt, with speakers: Florida State Representative, Brother Frank Peterman, Jr., Former New Jersey Attorney General, Brother Peter Harvey, Brother Dr. Joseph Marshall, and 38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr.



## 50 year Pin

Grand Chaplain, Brother Farrel J. Duncombe, 30<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Bro. Edward Braynon, 28<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Brother James Avery, 37<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Brother George Grace, 38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr. and Grand Keeper of Finance, Brother Antonio "Tony" Knox.



Grand Chaplain, Brother Farrel J. Duncombe, Floriday State Representative, Brother Frank Peterman, Jr. and 38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus Brother Warren G. Lee, Jr.





*2007 Leadership Conference*



*Brothers At Large*



*Philadelphia, PA*







*2007 Leadership Conference*



*Brothers At Large*



*Philadelphia, PA*







# Omega Recognizes The Civil Rights Movement and a few Brothers who made sacrifices for, “The Cause.”

Civil Rights: “...Those rights bestowed by nations on those within their territorial boundaries to include the equal treatment of citizens irrespective of race, sex or other class along with the protections and privileges of personal power given to all citizens by law...”

We The People



## The African-American Civil Rights Movement A Prelude

Brother Carl A. Blunt, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus



Brother Carl A. Blunt,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus

As we prepare to descend on the city of Birmingham for the 2008 Grand Conclave, I thought we might take a general look at the Civil Rights Movement and understand what it meant to African-Americans, especially to those who fought and won victories for us in Birmingham, Alabama and the entire South.

In no way will a few pages cover the entire breadth of the contributions and sacrifices that so many made in the struggle. However, we can take a high level look at the prelude.

The Civil Rights Movement was an organized reformation movement aimed at abolishing racial discrimination of African-Americans in the United States. The 13 years spanning 1955 through 1968 are the widely accepted dates of the height of the movement.

In the years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Democratic controlled states, mainly in the South, passed racially discriminatory laws, but even elsewhere in the U.S., racial violence aimed at African-Americans escalated.

Elected, appointed or hired government authorities began to require or permit discrimination in the following states: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Kansas.

Those required or permitted acts fell into four basic categories: 1) racial segregation, 2) voter suppression, 3) denial of economic opportunity and 4) private acts of violence. These acts of racial violence were encouraged by and seldom hindered by government authorities.

The combination, in the southern states, of overly ra-

cial laws, public and private acts of discrimination, marginal economic opportunity and racial violence became known as "Jim Crow". ("Jim Crow" being a well known character featured in popular minstrel shows).

The "Jim Crow" laws remained almost intact into the early 1950's and contributed to the Great Migration, which was a steady northward flow of African-Americans out of the South. Those who migrated north found conditions somewhat better though not always appreciably so.

Prior to 1955, discrimination against African-Americans was confronted with a variety of strategies. Those strategies included litigation, and lobbying efforts by traditional organizations such as the NAACP. The crowning achievement of those efforts was the legal victory in *Brown vs. Board of Education* in 1954, which overturned the "separate but equal" legal doctrine.

Private citizens invigorated by the legal victory, still remained frustrated by the lack of immediate implementation. They began to reject the gradual legalistic approach as the primary tool to bring about desegregation. And in defiance, adopted a combined strategy of direct action with nonviolent resistance which became known as "civil disobedience."

Acts of civil disobedience, which consisted of freedom rides and similar tactics which relied on mass mobilization such as boycotts, "sit-ins" and marches, produced crisis situations between those practicing the various acts and government authorities. Some of the most successful acts of "civil disobedience" were the Montgomery Alabama Bus Boycott (1955-56), the Greensboro North Carolina sit-in (1960), the Deep South southern Freedom Rides (1961) and the Selma to Montgomery Alabama marches (1965).

As churches and local grass roots organizations stepped in, they brought a much more energetic and broad based style than the more legalistic approach of groups such as the NAACP. Nevertheless, legislative achievements were made during that phase of the Civil Rights Movement such as the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Even though it had little impact, it was the first anti-discriminatory federal legislation since Recon-



struction. Other noted legislative accomplishments of the time included The Civil Rights Act of 1964 that banned discrimination in employment practices and public accommodations, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that restored voting rights, the Immigration Nationality Services Act of 1965, that dramatically changed U.S. Immigration policy, and the Civil Rights Act of 1968 that banned discrimination in the sale or rental of housing.

Some of the success of the Civil Rights Movement can be attributed to the invention of the Television. The taping and broadcasting of the imagery of the civil rights workers, sit-ins marches and clashes brought to the “mainstream” or “middle” America’s conscience the severity and inhumane treatment of African-Americans.

Sources:

Omega Psi Phi- John H. Williams Museum  
African American Civil Rights Movement  
Timeline of the African American Civil Rights Movement  
Wikipedia  
The International Library of Negro Life and History

## One Story Of The Civil Rights Struggle In Little Rock Arkansas

By Brother Carl A. Blunt  
1<sup>ST</sup> Vice Grand Basileus



There are many stories to be told about the African-American Struggle for Civil Rights in this country. As we move closer to our Conclave dates in Birmingham, we hear stories of courageous Omega Men who not only joined in, but led others in the fight for Civil Rights. The 2008 Conclave story actually begins with the 2006 Conclave, which was held in Little Rock Arkansas.

During the civil rights era, the city of Little Rock, Ar-

kansas was in a relatively progressive southern state. However, the Governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, caused a crisis to erupt when he called out the National Guard on September 4<sup>th</sup> to prevent nine African-American students from attending Little Rock Central High School. The students had sued for the right to attend an integrated school and had been chosen because of their excellent grades.

On the first day of school only one of the nine students showed up because she did not receive the phone call about the danger of going to school. She was harassed by whites outside of the school and the police had to take her away in a patrol car to protect her. Afterwards, all nine students had to be escorted to school by military convoy in jeeps.

Gov. Faubus was considered by many, not a “dyed in the wool” segregationist, but he had received significant pressure from the more conservative wing of the Arkansas Democratic Party, which were very powerful in state politics at that time.

Faubus, a year before, had indicated that he would investigate bringing Arkansas into compliance with the Brown v The Board of Education decision, but now took his stand against integration and against the federal court order that required it.

His stand put him on a collision course with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who many deemed as “lukewarm” on the issue of desegregation. Eisenhower however, was determined to enforce the orders of the federal courts.

The president ordered the National Guard federalized, which put them under his (federal) authority, and he immediately ordered them back to their barracks. Eisenhower then deployed the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division to Little Rock to protect the nine African-American students.

The students were able to attend Central High School, but had to endure a gauntlet of spitting and jeering from whites as they arrived to school on their first day. They would have to endure harassment for the rest of the school year.



Even though the airborne troopers escorted the students between classes, the students were still teased and even attacked by white students when the soldiers were not around. Unfortunately, one of the “Little Rock Nine”, Minnijean Brown, was expelled for dumping a bowl of chili on the head of a white student who had been harassing her in the lunch line.

Only one of the “Little Rock Nine”, Ernest Green, got the chance to graduate. After the 1957-58 school years was over, the Little Rock school system made the decision to shut down completely rather than continue to integrate. Other schools across the South soon followed suit.

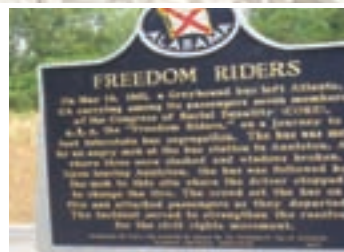
I had the opportunity to meet Brother Ernest Green (Michigan State, Sigma Chapter 1961) while attending the 2006 Conclave ceremony at Central High School. I also had the honor of serving on the Supreme Council as District Representative with another stalwart Arkansas Civil Rights activist and Clinton presidential advisor, Ninth District Representative, Brother James Wise (deceased). But that is another great story we are working on for a future issue. It will be worth the wait.

Yours in Friendship & Fraternity,  
 Brother Carl A. Blunt  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus

## Theta Tau Chapter and Community Leaders Unite to Dedicate “Freedom Riders” Bus Burning Memorial

Written by Brother Anthony Burdell

**Anniston, Alabama** – On May 14, 1961, 46 years ago, a violent mob attacked seven Freedom Riders crossing Alabama on a Greyhound bus. The Freedom Riders were attempting to test desegregation of buses and terminals. The mob attacked the occupants and set the bus on fire. The site of this attack is hard to find now, as it is covered by the expansion of Alabama Highway 202. But on Saturday, May 12, 2007, the Brothers of Theta Tau Chapter, area residents and elected officials memorialized the efforts of the Freedom Riders.



Freedom Riders Bus-Burning Historical Marker



Bus Burning on May 14, 1961

Brother Johnny Harris provided greetings on behalf of the Brothers of Theta Tau Chapter. He stated, “The men of Theta Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., pray that our actions here today will empower and inspire others to join us as we press forward with future commemorative endeavors at this historical site.” Members of Theta Tau Chapter unveiled a marker near the bus-burning site. The marker recalls one chapter in the harrowing story of the Freedom Riders journeys through Alabama.



The Brothers of Theta Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. stand with the historical marker.

The planned memorial was almost in Bernard Emerson’s front yard. He witnessed the bus burning first hand in 1961 from his front porch. Emerson said that as far as he knows, he and his wife are the only people in the neighborhood with a historical connection to the event. He watched the bus pull into Forsyth and Son Grocery located between Anniston and Bynum. The bus pulled over after its tires went flat after they were slashed by the angry mob. The mob then set the bus on fire soon after. “It’s one of those things you’ll remember all your life, I guess,” Emerson said.

Brother Willie Duncan, member of Theta Tau Chapter, coordinated the effort in planning and execution of this memorial event. “It was a long time coming,” he said. Duncan, along with Eli Henderson, Calhoun



County Commissioner unveiled the memorial. Henderson stated, "It was something that we needed to do. If we don't put something here now, four or five years from now we won't know where it was."

The Brothers of Theta Tau Chapter along with the Calhoun County Commission will head a committee that will work to establish a civil rights park adjacent to the memorial marker. Henderson said the county's engineering department would help with the engineering and that the commission "certainly will put some



Bernard Emerson describes the May 14<sup>th</sup> bus burning event, while Georgia Calhoun, mistress of ceremony, stands by.

money into it". The important thing is that we got the sign up, he said.

The sign was removed after the unveiling ceremony. Brothers of Theta Tau Chapter and elected officials explained that it would be permanently installed once the site is transferred to the county by the state Department of Transportation. "We don't have the approval yet", Henderson explained. "It's got to be approved



Brother Willie Duncan, Theta Tau member, and Commissioner Eli Henderson, Calhoun County Commissioner unveiled the marker.

by the Historical Commission and as soon as they do that, we are going to take over and we'll put the sign right back up."

The Brothers of Theta Tau Chapter and the Calhoun County Commission expected to have had the sign permanently installed within three weeks of the event. "The sign is only the first step in a longer journey to a larger recognition, a park dedicated to the history of the Civil Rights Movement here and throughout the state," Alabama State Representative Barbara Boyd told those who gathered to mark the event.

Pete Conroy, director of Jacksonville State University Environmental Policy and Information Center, serves on a steering committee working toward developing a Civil Rights Park. The Brothers of Theta Tau Chapter along with the committee have pledged to work over the next four years to make the park a reality. The committee is negotiating with the state Department of Transportation for a few acres near the sign. The plan is to have the park completed by the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the bus burning, and for it to be a place where people can reflect and learn.

## Fred David Gray, Esquire

Brother Fred David Gray, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, currently lives in Tuskegee, Alabama and is a civil rights lawyer. He was initiated at Gamma Sigma Chapter, Alabama State College for Negroes, now Alabama State University (ASU), in 1949. Raised with four siblings by a mother who walked by faith in God and survived by the sweat of her brow, Fred Gray walked the dusty streets of the poverty stricken west side of Montgomery, Alabama and rode the segregated buses operated by the City. As a youth, Brother Gray made a secret vow to one day become a lawyer and destroy everything segregated he could find.

He was educated at the





Nashville Christian Institute in Nashville, Tennessee and Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama. At that time, Alabama law prohibited black attendance at its state schools. Brother Gray thus attended Western Reserve University, now Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. There he earned his Juris Doctorate degree. At the end of the first semester, he received a \$250.00 scholarship from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity that helped him to pay his balance, thus enabling him to receive his grades. He finished that term 19<sup>th</sup> out of 125 and continued to work his way through law school.

An admittee of the Alabama and Ohio Bars, Brother Gray is admitted to practice in the following Courts: Supreme Court of Ohio, 1954; Supreme Court of Alabama, 1954; U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, 1955; Supreme Court of the United States, 1956; U. S. Court of Appeals for Fifth Circuit, 1958; U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, 1963; U. S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, 1968; U. S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 1982; Tax Court, 1968.

Brother Gray's legal career spans a time period of over 50 years. Enthusiastic, energetic and out of law school less than a year, he began a dynamic civil rights career in 1954. In 1955 he represented Mrs. Rosa Parks who was arrested because she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, which ignited the Montgomery Bus Boycott. *City of Montgomery v. Rosa Parks*. He was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s first civil rights attorney.

The list of his civil rights cases that he won can be found in most constitutional law textbooks. They include, but are not limited to the following:

*Browder v. Gayle*, which integrated the buses in the City of Montgomery in 1956.

*Gomillion v. Lightfoot*, decided in 1960, returned African-Americans to the city limits of the City of Tuskegee. A landmark case, it opened the door for redistricting and reapportioning the various legislative bodies across the nation and laid the foundation for the concept of "one man one vote".

*National Association for the Advancement of Colored People v. State of Alabama, ex rel. John Patterson, Attorney General*, was brought by the State of Alabama in which it outlawed the NAACP from doing business in the State of Alabama. This case was taken to the Supreme Court, three times through the state court system, and twice through the federal court system. The ultimate result was the NAACP was able to resume its business operations in the State of Alabama.

*Dixon v. Alabama State Board of Education*, decided in 1961, reinstated students who were expelled from Alabama State College and held that the students were unconstitutionally expelled, and students attending a state supported institution are entitled to a hearing before expulsion. The legal principle announced in this case has been extended to many other areas.

*Williams v. Wallace*, decided in 1965, was a class action suit brought by African Americans against Governor Wallace and the State of Alabama and resulted in the court ordering Governor Wallace and the State of Alabama to protect marchers as they walked from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama to present grievances as a result of being unable to vote. The publicity of these actions led to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

*Mitchell v. Johnson*, decided in 1966, was one of the first civil actions brought to remedy systematic exclusion of blacks from jury service.

Brother Gray filed suits that integrated all state institutions of higher learning in the State of Alabama, and one hundred four of the then one hundred twenty-one elementary and secondary schools systems in the State. *Lee v. Macon*. He was counsel in preserving and protecting the rights of persons involved in the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study in 1972, the case of *Pollard v. United States of America*. In July of 1993, he argued on behalf of Alabama State University, the higher education case, *John F. Knight, Jr. v. State of Alabama, et. al* in the Eleventh Circuit. The court held in that case that there are still vestiges of racial discrimination in higher education in Alabama.



One of the first African Americans to serve in the Alabama Legislature since reconstruction, he served from 1970-1974. He received the Capitol Press Corps Award for Best Orator in the House of Representatives in 1972, and was a member of the National Society of State Legislators from 1970-1974. He is currently Chairman of the Macon County Democratic Executive Committee.

His love and commitment in promoting the works of the National Bar Association (NBA) gave him recognition as its 43rd President, 1985-86. He initiated the NBA Hall of Fame (becoming an inductee in August of 1995), and was the recipient of the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association.

He is the senior partner in the law firm of Gray, Langford, Sapp, McGowan, Gray, Gray & Nathanson, with offices in Montgomery and Tuskegee, Alabama. Typical representative clients the firm has represented are: City of Tuskegee, Alabama, Utilities Board of the City of Tuskegee, Alabama, The Housing Authority of the City of Tuskegee, Tuskegee University, Macon County Commission, the Sheriff of Macon County, Alabama Education Association, United States Fidelity and Guaranty Insurance Company, Macon County Greyhound Park, Jefferson County Racing Association, Equitable Life Insurance Company, State Farm Automobile Insurance Company, United Services Automobile Association, Aetna Life and Casualty Insurance Company, General Motors Corporation, Alabama Exchange Bank, Allstate Insurance Company, Resolution Trust Corporation, and Alabama Power Company. The firm has also represented Plaintiffs in wrongful death actions, personal injury, fraud, bad faith, which have resulted in jury verdicts and settlements in multi-million dollar amounts. The firm is nationally recognized and has received extensive press coverage in such publications as USA Today, Ebony Magazine, Jet Magazine, NBA Magazine, The Washington Times, Case Western Reserve University Magazine, New York Times, and ABC's Prime Time Live.

He currently serves as a member emeritus of the Board of Trustees of Case Western Reserve Univer-

sity, Cleveland, Ohio; a member of the Board of Trustees of Faulkner University, Montgomery, Alabama; and a member of the Board of Directors of Alabama Exchange Bank; a Master Benchers of the Montgomery Chapter of the Hugh Maddox Inns of Courts; a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. In 1999, Brother Gray became a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Created in 1950 to recognize excellence in trial lawyers, the College includes members from every segment of the civil and criminal trial bar of the United States and Canada. In 2000, Brother Gray's legal career was heightened to another level when he was elected as a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers.

Brother Gray is the first person of color elected as President of the Alabama State Bar Association and served as its 126<sup>th</sup> President for the year 2002-2003. In 2003, he was selected for a three year term as a member of the Executive Council of the National Conference of Bar Presidents.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors, Miller Brewing Company selected him to appear in its 1989 calendar, Gallery of Greats, Black Attorneys: Counsels For The Cause. He was further recognized by Miller Brewing Company as the representative of all lawyers in the 1993 tenth edition, "Excellence Has Many Faces". Miller again recognized Brother Gray in its 2000 Gallery of Greats Calendar, Pillars of the Past: Architects of the Future, as one of the three Black Attorneys: Counsels for the Cause. He has received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from The University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Alabama State University, Southwestern Christian College, Case Western Reserve University, Pepperdine University, Abilene Christian University, Jones School of Law of Faulkner University, Santa Clara University and John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York and the honorary Degree of Humane Letters, Huntingdon College. In addition, Case Western Reserve University named Brother Gray the Fletcher Reed Andrews Graduate of the Year in 1985, elected him to the Society of Benchers in 1986, and presented him



the highest honor that the law school bestows on one of its graduates, the Law School Centennial Medal, in September, 1993. In February of 1996, the American Bar Association bestowed upon Mr. Gray its "Spirit of Excellence Award". The award celebrates the achievements of lawyers of color and their contributions to the legal profession. It also recognizes their commitment to pave the way to success for other lawyers of color and commemorates the rich diversity that lawyers of color bring to the legal profession and to society. In 2003, Brother Gray was awarded the Soaring Eagles Award from the Minority Caucus of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. The award symbolizes the struggle of lawyers of color as they pursue personal and professional excellence and success. In 2004, Brother Gray was the recipient of Harvard University Law School's highest award, the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion; the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award; and the Sarah T. Hughes Civil Rights Award awarded by the Federal Bar Association.

Brother Gray has lectured on the local, state and national levels. He was Practitioner-In-Residence at Pepperdine University; lecturer at Case Western Reserve University, School of Law; Tenneco Distinguished Speaker, University of Houston; guest lecturer for the Harvard Law Forum Speaker Series, Harvard Law School, and facilitator for the Federal Executive Institute, Charlottesville, Virginia. In December 2000, he was appointed to the Charles Hamilton Houston Chair in Law at The North Carolina Central University School of Law.

He has authored two books. His autobiography, *Bus Ride to Justice*, was released in February, 1995, followed by *The Tuskegee Syphilis Study*, which was published in 1998. He also wrote *The Sullivan Case: A Direct Product of the Civil Rights Movement*, a review for Case Western Reserve Law Review.

In 1997, Brother Gray encouraged the President of the United States to make an official apology to the participants of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. The participants also requested a memorial in their honor. The apology was made at the White House in May

2004. Brother Gray was the moving force in the establishment of the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center (the Center), Tuskegee, Alabama. A 501(c) (3) Corporation, serves as a memorial to the participants of the Study, and educates the public on the contributions made in the field of human and civil rights by Native Americans, Americans of African descent and Americans of European descent.

Brother Fred D. Gray has made substantial contributions to his alma mater. He was the first President of the National Alumni Association of ASU when it was reorganized in approximately 1964. He was the first person of color to serve as General Counsel for ASU and served as General Counsel to the Board of Trustees of ASU. As a graduate of ASU, he was inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2003. He makes annual contributions to Alabama State University, and under the Trust for Excellence, he established an endowment trust in the name of his late wife, Bernice H. Gray who was a 1956 graduate of ASU.

He was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in 2005. Created by state legislators in 1965, the Academy recognizes living Alabamians who have reflected great credit on the state. Another notable Academy member is Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice.

An elder of the Tuskegee Church of Christ and an ordained minister, Gray is married to the former Carol Porter of Cleveland, Ohio. He is the father of four, two of whom are Omegas and partners in his law firm, Fred, Jr. (Psi '81) and Stanley (Beta Eta '85); and the grandfather of seven.

## Civil Rights, Texas Style – Bedford, Bunkley and Durham

By Brother Charles Johnson, Jr.

Recently, I visited the Law Offices of L. A. Bedford, Jr., the first African-American Judge elected in Dallas County, Texas and a 50-year Omega man. The visit was scheduled to get information about Judge Bed-



ford for this article. The Judge, as he is called, is well known in Dallas social and legal circles for his work in the cause of civil rights. However, less than five minutes into the interview, we were talking about two other legendary (his description) men who also happen to be Omega men.

Brother L.A. Bedford



The Judge brightened as he began to talk about Attorneys W. T. Durham and C. B. Bunkley. They were both close friends of Judge Bedford and all three helped to write the script for civil

rights advocacy in Dallas, Texas.

We tend to talk about the Civil Rights era as though nothing of substance happened before 1954. For it was in 1954 that the famous *Brown vs. the Board Of Education* case was decided before the United States Supreme Court.

The 1954 United States Supreme Court decision in *Oliver L. Brown et.al. v. the Board of Education of Topeka (KS) et.al.* is among the most significant judicial turning points in the development of our country. Originally led by Charles H. Houston, and later Thurgood Marshall and a formidable legal team, it dismantled the legal basis for racial segregation in schools and other public facilities. By declaring that the discriminatory nature of racial segregation ... "violates the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees all citizens equal protection of the laws," *Brown v. Board of Education* laid the foundation for shaping future national and international policies regarding human rights.

*Brown v. Board of Education* was not simply about children and education. The laws and policies struck down by this court decision were products of the human tendencies to prejudge, discriminate against, and stereotype other people by their ethnic, religious, physical, or cultural characteristics. Ending this behavior as a legal practice caused far reaching social and ideological implications, which continue to be felt throughout our country. The *Brown* decision inspired and galvanized

human rights struggles across the country and around the world.

*Brown v. Board of Education* was not the first challenge to school segregation. As early as 1849, African Americans filed suit against an educational system that mandated racial segregation, in the case of *Roberts v. City of Boston*.

Oliver Brown, the case namesake, was just one of the nearly 200 plaintiffs from five states who were part of the NAACP cases brought before the Supreme Court in 1951. The Kansas case was named for Oliver *Brown* as a legal strategy to have a man head the plaintiff roster.<sup>1</sup>

Similarly, a visit to the Howard University School of Law website helped to corroborate the assertion that Mr. W. J. Durham of Dallas Texas played a pivotal role in the chronology of cases leading up to the landmark *Brown v. Board* case in 1954. The case was *Sweatt v. Painter et al.* It was argued before the Supreme Court of the United States on April 4, 1950 and decided on June 5, 1950. The case Rehearing was denied on Oct. 9, 1950. The record is styled 339 U.S. 629, 70 S. Ct. 848, 94 L. Ed. 1114.

Notably, Messrs. W. J. Durham, Dallas, Tex., and Thurgood Marshall, New York City argued the case, for petitioner.

In this case, the petitioner, Mr. Heman Sweatt, filed an application for admission to the University of Texas Law School for the February, 1946 term. His application was rejected solely because he was a Negro. The Petitioner thereupon brought this suit for mandamus against the appropriate school officials, to compel his admission. At that time, there was no law school in Texas that admitted Negroes.<sup>2</sup> The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Petitioner and W. J. Durham was the lead attorney.

W. J. Durham was well known throughout the nation for his able prosecution of a large number of the suits affecting Negro civil Rights. He was born in Hopkins County Texas. His elementary and high school was done in Greenville, Hunt County, Texas. He received the Bachelor's Degree from Emporia College and the Bachelor of Law from University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas. During his tenure as a member of the NAACP legal staff, he was a leader in cases attacking segregation in the south.



Brother W. J. Durham



In the 1940s and 1950s, W. J. Durham was well known in Dallas' legal community as the best black courthouse lawyer in Dallas and maybe anywhere. He practiced for 13 years in Sherman, Texas and for 27 years in Dallas. Durham's unique style extended to his argument of the law to the Court. "He

would never say the law is this or that," says L. A. Bedford, Jr. another great lawyer of the "glory days." He would say, 'Judge, I may be in error but I believe that in volume such and such of the Southwest Reporter, there is a case called such and such and I believe it is right on point. It holds such and such and, if the court wants me to, I would be happy to get the case for the Court's study.'"<sup>3</sup>

Crawford Bernard Bunkley (C. B.) was another stalwart advocate for civil rights in Dallas in the 1950s and 1960s. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1944. That same year, he joined the law firm of W. J. Durham where he obtained his license to practice law in Texas. He was also an integral part of the defense team in *Sweatt v. Painter et al.* Bunkley later ran for public office and established his own practice in Dallas.

In the late forties and early fifties, African-American lawyers were practicing in all areas of the law. There were a number of issues effecting African-American lawyers during these times.

The most crucial issues effecting African-American lawyers in Dallas in the late forties and early fifties were receiving fair treatment from judges. The African-American Lawyers stressed being well prepared, protecting the record in order to appeal their cases, if necessary.

In order to address these issues, African-American lawyers practicing in Dallas met on May 4, 1952. The lawyers present at this meeting were C.W. Asberry, L.A. Bedford, Jr., C.B. Bunkley, Jr., W.J. Durham, Kenneth

F. Holbert, D.B. Mason, Robert Rice, L. Clayton River, U. Simpson Tate, J.L. Turner, Jr., and Romeo Williams. They formed the Barristers Club.

At each meeting, a different area of law would be discussed. Further, the group decided to use the legal venue to dismantle all vestiges of racial segregation as it affected the African-American community.

During the forties, fifties and sixties the members who attended these meetings were lead counsel on every important racial discrimination case in Texas. W.J. DURHAM was the best known of these lawyers. He was lead counsel on the case of *Smith v. Allwright*, 321 U.S. 649 (1944), where the United States Supreme Court held "all white Democratic Primaries in Texas were unconstitutional." All African American Lawyers from all over the State of Texas would consult with Mr. Durham on racial discrimination lawsuits because he was the recognized expert in this area of law during that era.

The involvement of African-American lawyers in Dallas in the forefront of dismantling all vestiges of racial discrimination in Texas and the nation was the basis for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund locating its Southwest Region Office in Dallas in the early fifties. U. Simpson Tate, an original member of JLTLA was in charge of the office. The Southwest Region Office of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund was in charge of cases in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

In 1955, W.J. Durham, C.B. Bunkley, Jr., L.A. Bedford, Jr., Kenneth F. Holbert, U.S. Tate, and J.L. Turner, Jr., all of whom was at the first meeting of African-American Lawyers in Dallas, filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of Albert Bell, to integrate the Dallas Independent School District. In this suit, Robert L. Carr represented the NAACP and Thurgood Marshall represented the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc. The style of the case was *Albert Bell, et al v. Dr. Edwin L. Rippy*, President of the Dallas Independent School District Board. The federal courts retained supervisory jurisdiction of the Dallas Independent School District until 2004 as a result of this lawsuit.<sup>4</sup>

Durham and Bunkley entered Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Theta Alpha chapter in Dallas Texas in the early 1950s. L. A. Bedford, Jr. became an Omega man in 1956.



## Brother James Miller's Recount of the 1965 Civil Rights March to Montgomery, AL

By Brothers James Miller and Lloyd Alston

The televised images of Black men and women under attack in Selma, Alabama both stunned and enraged Jim Miller. How could this be happening again?

A college senior, made in Eta Sigma Chapter in April 1963, Jim had followed the country's civil rights movement closely. He knew of its legal strategies and its boycotts. He was familiar with its sit-ins, its pray-ins and its marches. He had firsthand experience with the changes won by the movement. He was grateful for the moral and physical courage of the brave children, students, women and men who risked life, health, property and livelihood to gain civil liberties for all Blacks in America.

Brother Miller thought he had seen and heard it all. The hope engendered by the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, the gruesome murder of Emmett Till, the perseverance of Montgomery Bus Boycotters, the bravery of the Little Rock 9, the courage of the Freedom Riders, the courage of James Meredith as he enrolled at the then all white University of Mississippi, Bull Conner's viciousness in deploying police dogs, fire hoses, bullwhips, batons and tear gas against peaceful demonstrators in Kelly Ingram Park; George Wallace's defiance of the Federal Government by standing in the door of Foster Auditorium at the University of Alabama and uttering Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever, the determination revealed in King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail, the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church and the nationwide sorrow for the loss of four choir girls there, the triumph of the 1963 March on Washington and the soaring oratory of King's I Have a Dream speech delivered from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, the boldness of Malcolm X's The Ballot or the Bullet speech, the innumerable murders and beatings of Black and White civil rights workers, the assassinations of President John Kennedy and of Malcolm X and finally the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which declared Blacks could no longer be excluded from restaurants, hotels or other public facilities.

But after a decade's worth of halting, backsliding progress, Brother Miller watched the television in anger, revulsion and horror on Bloody Sunday, March 7,

1965, as Alabama state and Dallas County, Alabama police troopers viciously attacked peaceful marchers who had just crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. While the marchers knelt in prayer, the troopers clubbed and beat them using bullwhips, nightsticks and batons. Astonished television news crews recorded the attack. Mounted troopers on horseback charged into the marchers and injured scores by running through and over them. Other dismounted police launched tear gas canisters into the marchers. The troopers chased the marchers back across the bridge to a local Black neighborhood and indiscriminately beat the demonstrators as well as other Blacks who had not participated in the march.

Within hours of the police riot, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. issued a nationwide appeal for marchers to come to Selma to participate in what would eventually become the third march from Selma to the state capitol in Montgomery and to achieve the goal of the foreshortened demonstration. The goal was also to appeal to Governor Wallace to stop police brutality and to call attention to the struggle for Blacks' right to vote.

Heeding Dr. King's call, Brother Miller quickly determined what action he would take. As president of the student body at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO, he led other campus organizers in raising sufficient funds in just 48 hours to charter two buses to transport Lincoln students from their campus to Montgomery, where they would join the marchers as they entered the Alabama capitol.

Brother Miller led approximately 60 students on a 13-hour bus ride that took them from Lincoln University through Memphis, TN, down to Montgomery. In route, the police stopped and detained the buses for three hours just outside the town of Holly Springs, MS. After midnight supposedly, the buses were suddenly improperly registered. Jim recounts his group's good fortune at leaving the scene only annoyed. Their situation was eerily similar to one that resulted in the torching of a Greyhound bus and serious injuries sustained by Freedom Riders, just outside Anniston, Alabama on May 14, 1961.

Despite the delay, Brother Miller and the other Lincoln students joined the march at approximately 10 a.m. on March 25, 1965 just outside Montgomery. Brother Miller relates his impressions from the final portion of the march:



We walked through Montgomery's streets in a sea of people about a mile long. Blacks, Whites, Jewish men, identified by the yarmulkas worn on their heads, Catholic priests and nuns, identified by their collars and dress were all there. We saw a few celebrities to include Harry Belafonte, Sammy Davis Jr. and Joan Baez, who had all performed the evening before on the grounds of the St. Jude Catholic Church. We also saw leaders of the movement to include Dr. Martin L. King Jr., Hosea Williams, John Lewis and Andrew Young.

The tension in the air was palpable; one could feel it. We marchers were taunted, jeered and heckled by local Whites as we walked. Many of the same marchers had been brutalized in Selma about 14 days prior. Any loud noise made people jumpy. We saw Ku Klux Klan and White Citizens Council billboards and dozens of home-made signs like Martin Luther Coon is a Communist, Nigger go home and Nigger lover go home.

We were relieved to see some soldiers along the way until we realized they were federalized Alabama National Guardsman. We didn't really trust them because we felt that many of them were the same guys who had just taken off their sheets. We later saw a unit from the 82nd Airborne Division, which was led by a Black officer. Seeing him and his unit made us feel that if anything happened, we would be OK.

Prior to joining the march, we had to pledge that we would adhere to the movement's nonviolence decree. We had to pledge that we would carry no weapons of any kind, not even a pocketknife. I had problems with that because I wanted to be able to retaliate if the situation warranted it. Rather than not march, I did as the march leaders asked.

The Lincoln students' portion of the march lasted about two to three hours followed by the three to four hour rally on the steps of the capitol building in Montgomery. The speeches were all good. The marchers responded enthusiastically to each speaker despite fatigue. Dr. King capped off the march and the rally by delivering what would become notably known as his "How Long?, Not Long! speech."

Following the rally on the capitol steps, we Lincoln students walked to a nearby restaurant close to the University of Alabama football stadium. On the way there, a jeep filled with Alabama National Guardsman ran several students off the road. While eating dinner

at the restaurant, we learned of the murder of Viola Liuzzo, a White civil rights worker from Michigan and the mother of five children. Mrs. Liuzzo, assisted by a 19-year-old African American, Leroy Moton, used her 1963 Oldsmobile to help drive local marchers home from the recently concluded march. After dropping off her second load of marchers, a car full of Klan members in a blue Ford identified her car, chased her for approximately 20 miles out of town. They then shot at her moving car striking her in the head twice, killing her instantly.

After learning of Mrs. Liuzzo's murder, savoring the day's events was mixed with the dread of a long and dangerous bus ride home to Lincoln. In fact, I had to confront one of our two White bus drivers and order him to get us back on the road that evening.

The experience of marching at that time, in that setting, with my memory of the accomplishments of the movement to that point in time, what ordinary people had sacrificed and accomplished, and what we were doing, is one of the most powerful and moving of my life. The sounds, the smells, the images combined with the promise of a better day, the accomplishments of the then past few years, the danger and the peril of the moment, the worry for individual safety, and the personal pride of being part of a powerful tide of change for the better is a very potent sensation and an indescribable feeling.

My single most vivid and cherished memory occurred as we marched through a Black neighborhood in Montgomery on the way to the rally at the capitol. Elderly Black women including grandmothers, great grandmother and, great aunts stood by the side of the road waving tiny American flags, offering water and their simple but profound gratitude by saying thank you, bless you and thank you for coming here.

Looking back across the years to March 1965, Jim offers these reflections:

Without doubt, the principles and ideals of the Fraternity, in concert with the steady influence of my father, himself an Omega Man, and that of the other Omega Men on campus at Lincoln and in the local graduate chapter in Jefferson City, MO, prepared me and my Brothers for our brief journey to Montgomery long before Dr. King's appeal for marchers to join him in Selma. More importantly, the Fraternity and those Omega



Men prepared me and my undergraduate Brothers for our individual journeys through life. By their example, they taught us that the mantle of leadership falls upon people of character, scholarship, and perseverance, Omega Men, to pilot their families, institutions and communities for their betterment.

The imperative to invest our time, talent, and treasure in substantive ways is just as important now as in March 1965. While I enjoy seeing my Brothers stepping at parties, my life experience insists that our Fraternity must first motivate and encourage Brothers to give priority to stepping up to the challenge of improving the lives of people around them. The documentary, "Eyes on the Prize," illustrates how the men, women, and children of the movement persevered in the face of adversity. Because they were equal to the adversity they confronted in their time, we are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice. Men of Omega, we can do no less.

## **Kappa Iota Salutes Civil Rights Pioneer Brother Rev. Paul A. McDaniel**

By Brother Curtis Collier

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE- If one were to ask people in the know in the Chattanooga, TN community to name one living person who has made the most valuable contribution to the cause of civil and equal rights in the area, the one name you would hear repeatedly is that of Brother Rev. Paul A. McDaniel. Brother McDaniel is a shining embodiment of the Cardinal Principles; Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. His life in this community is a testament to the constant struggle for justice, liberation and righteousness.

Chattanooga, TN was most fortunate that Brother McDaniel chose to make the city his home in 1966. He arrived as the civil rights movement was at its height. Brother McDaniel was among those religious leaders who answered the call for justice in supporting and participating in marches in other cities with the Rev. Martin Luther King.

One example of the courage Brother Rev. McDaniel displayed was when he faced down an angry crowd at Brainerd High School shortly after moving to the city. Because of his deep sense of justice, his quiet courage, and his ability to inspire others, he quickly became one of the leaders in the local Black community.

Over the course of the next few years, he was instrumental in achieving progress in opening up the once closed doors of government and economic opportunities. Brother McDaniel recognized that the levels of government power had to be accessible to Blacks. He fought all the way to the United States Supreme Court to over turn a Tennessee law barring ministers from holding public office. In 1977 Brother McDaniel won a seat on the Hamilton County Commission, which is the top legislative body in Hamilton County, Tennessee. He served on the Hamilton County Commission for eight consecutive terms, three of them as Chairman.

Born in Rock Hill, South Carolina as the youngest of five siblings to Reverend Adam T. and Maggie McDaniel, Brother Rev. McDaniel saw first hand the evils of racial oppression. He attended Morehouse College where he pledged Omega by way of Psi Chapter. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse. Later he obtained his Master of Divinity degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and a Masters of Arts degree from the University of Rochester in New York. He has been a member of Kappa Iota Chapter since his arrival in the city.

After serving as pastor of a church in Rahway, New Jersey, he came to Chattanooga, TN in August, 1966 to pastor the Second Missionary Baptist Church. Since coming to the city, he has distinguished himself as a dedicated leader in all phases of community life. Not only has he used his great talents for the building and development of one of the great churches in town, he has also shown great concern and understanding for the welfare of all people in the area.

Brother Rev. McDaniel has headed up the local effort to honor Dr. Martin Luther King each year. He was the first black minister to serve as President of the Clergy Association of Greater Chattanooga, TN. Brother Rev. McDaniel is also an instructor in the National Baptist Sunday School and B. T. U. Congress and has taught at the Baptist Bible Center in Chattanooga, TN. He is also chairman of the Unity Group, a civil rights organization, a member of the NAACP and People United to Save Humanity (PUSH), as well as serving on many advisory boards for various community groups.

Brother Rev. McDaniel was married to the late Edna Phillips McDaniel. To this union were born Paul Jr., Pamela (deceased), Patricia and Peter. He is now married to Linda Isadore McDaniel.



Brother McDaniel's stellar contributions to the Chattanooga, TN community have been repeatedly recognized. He received the Liberty Bell Award in 1998, the most prestigious award bestowed by the Chattanooga, TN Bar Association. He was a Legacy Award Recipient from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) in 2005. He was inducted into the Alpha Society at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). The Alpha Scholastic Honor Society is one of the University's oldest and most prestigious honor societies. Organized on the UTC campus in 1918 to recognize outstanding achievement. The Alpha Society elects new members annually from graduating seniors, faculty, administrators, distinguished alumni and community members.

## **World War II Military Service Of Brother Arthur V. Taylor**

By Chris K. Welch

Dayton, Ohio- Brother Arthur V. Taylor has been a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity for over sixty years. He received his sixtieth year pen at the Little Rock, Arkansas Conclave. Brother Taylor's recount of history is astonishing and listening to his narrative is enlightening.

Brother Taylor was a student at Wilberforce University in when the United States government voted for the military draft for World War II. He registered at the Xenia, Ohio Draft Board and had the papers sent to Local Draft Board No. 21 North Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on July 30, 1941. The Pittsburgh Draft Board gave him an educational deferment because he was a Wilberforce student.

At the time he signed up for the draft, it was determined by the Dayton, Ohio and Cincinnati, Ohio Draft Boards that an injury sustained from playing football at Allegheny High School in Pittsburgh, PA and Wilberforce University created conditions which concluded he had failed the physical examination for military service. In fact, he had stopped playing football for Wilberforce University and he worked for the school's Athletic Department to maintain his athletic scholarship. However, the military had a different spin on his story.

In June 1942, Brother Taylor graduated from Wilberforce University and began working for Duriron Corporation

in Dayton, Ohio. At that time, he was given three days to report for Army induction at the Local Draft Board No. 21 North Side Pittsburgh, PA on December 16, 1942. After taking his physical examination that day, the officer with ink pen in hand, crossed out the results of his original physical and stated he would make a great soldier. The officer informed him to report for duty on December 30, 1942. He was transferred to the enlisted Reserve Corps at Fort George Meade, Maryland. Brother Taylor reported to sick bay at the Fort Meade hospital and was told by their doctor that his body was in good condition, all colored people had bad feet, and not to come to the hospital again.

Brother Taylor went to basic training at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri in 1943. The pain endured after basic training drills sent Brother Taylor to bed. His feet and legs were sore to the touch; however, he never refused to train.

The Army gave him a first hand lesson of racism. It rented two dormitories at Virginia State College for colored men and hired Black Engineers to teach them. Brother Taylor was offered an opportunity when he signed into the enlisted specialist branch of the engineer school at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He graduated MAY 18, 1943 as a topographical draftsman. Upon graduating from the Engineering School, he was sent to the 926th Regiment (AVN) (AAF) March Field, California. However, upon arriving, the order was changed because the regiment was all white. Brother Taylor was later sent to an all black regiment. At roll call, the black soldiers were told to forget any ideals about attending cadet school. Brother Taylor attended soil mechanic school, was assigned to the drafting department, and became an expert rifleman.

When white women were permitted on March Field, rights and privileges were taken away from Black soldiers. The service club was damaged and Black soldiers (trained or not) were shipped overseas. At that time, Black soldiers began investigating their rights as sick and injured military personnel. Black doctors at March Field determined Brother Taylor was unfit for overseas duty. Capt. Carl Peterson provided him with written documentation to carry at all times indicating the severity of his medical condition. He never refused a state-side assignment and served his country honorably until being discharged from March Field in Riverside California on March 18, 1944.



## The Bridge Builder

By Brother Richard D. Jones  
5th District Representative

"I am building the bridge for him," an excerpt taken from the poem Bridge Builder by Will Allen Dormouse, are profound words that describe one of the world's leading Bridge Builders. His contributions continue to span the world over, through numerous endeavors, to make it a better place to live.

Brother Benjamin Lawson Hooks was born to Robert B. Hooks and Bessie White Hooks on January 31, 1925 in Memphis, Tennessee. He was the fifth of seven children. Being part of a large family, Brother Hooks recalled that his mother was the individual who kept the family together. His father worked as a photographer in his own studio on famed Beale Street, while his mother remained in the home. During the dark and cool days of the depression, food, clothing and shelter were hard to come by. He remembered the hand me down clothes, the buckets of coal and the miracles his mother performed with what little their father provided.

When asked about his education, he recalled that the foundation had been laid early in his life by his grandmother. She was the second black woman in the United States to graduate from college (Berea College in Kentucky). He was encouraged to attend school in hopes of providing a better life for himself.

Hooks recalls his days at LeMoyne College where a pre-law course really opened his eyes. Based upon what he was studying in class did not add up to what was happening in the streets of Memphis, Tennessee. Segregation existed in public restrooms, public libraries, water fountains, and visits to local attractions. The Jim Crow laws were constant reminders of life for blacks (colored only entrances and being able to attend public functions only on certain days). The nightmares of racial injustices became overwhelming. The urge to help his people increased tremendously. Again Brother Hooks sought education as a means to addressing the issue of segregation, but his educational pursuit was placed on hold. Having received a letter from Uncle Sam, jokingly, he stated that his mother never told him about an uncle named SAM. Nevertheless, in the 1943 he was drafted into the Army and again he was confronted with prejudice, segregation and unfair treatment. Black soldiers, who were fighting to defend this country, were treated



Brother Dr. Benjamin  
Lawson Hooks

worse than the prisoners they were guarding. Italian prisoners of war were allowed to eat in restaurants, while black soldiers had to eat food given by the army. But through it all, he rose to the rank of staff sergeant.

After his military tour of duty, Brother Hooks continued his educational pursuit. Racism and segregation continued to overshadow all of his hopes and dreams even in his own home state. When Hooks tried to apply to law school in the state of Tennessee, his admission was denied because of the color of his skin. He then left Tennessee and went to Chicago, Illinois.

Through perseverance, Brother Hooks graduated from DePaul's School of Law in 1948 with his J.D. degree and returned to Memphis, Tennessee. During his time away from the south nothing had changed, segregation, humiliation and prejudice were as strong as ever.

In 1956, Brother Hooks was ordained as a Baptist minister. He began preaching at the Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. By the late 1960's Hooks had excelled as a minister, a lawyer, a judge and a businessman. As if those hats were not enough to keep him busy, he added double duty to his ministerial position. He flew to Detroit, Michigan two times a month to preach at New Mount Moriah Baptist Church while remaining a senior pastor at Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This double duty lasted from 1964 until 1994.

During the early 1950's, Brother Hooks became very active with the civil rights movement. He recalls the development of a lifelong friendship with the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Through his friendship and love for mankind, he served on the board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

As a young practicing attorney in Memphis, Tennessee, Brother Hooks got no respect. Bigotry and prejudice shadowed him daily. He was often belittled by many of his fellow white attorneys and law clerks. Through his consistent efforts and hard work, then Governor Frank G. Clement appointed Brother Hooks to fill a vacancy within the Shelby County Criminal Court in 1965. With



that appointment, Brother Hooks became the first black criminal court judge in the history of the state of Tennessee. The following year he was elected to a full eight-year term. He recalled that the same white attorneys who would belittle him and give him no respect as an attorney, had to enter his courtroom and address him as "Your Honor." This was just the beginning of Brother Hooks' list of being the first. In 1968, he resigned that position only to become the president of a Mahalia Jackson Chicken franchise. In 1972, President Richard Nixon appointed Hooks to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). This appointment lasted for five years. As a member of the Commission, Brother Hooks stated that his major concern was the lack of minority involvement in the radio and television industry.

As he continued to protest, participate in sit-in demonstrations, and march for the betterment of mankind, perhaps the greatest steps were taken in 1977 when he became the Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) succeeding Roy Wilkins who was retiring. As director, Brother Hooks' agenda included increasing membership, voter registration from the African American population, the inclusion of African Americans in American corporate office (the decision making area), the placing of apartheid sanctions in South Africa, fair housing and recognizing the life works of his friend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Through the struggle, Brother Hooks continued for fifteen years as director in what he sometimes referred to as a "killing job." In April of 1990, he retired from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In 1959, Brother Hooks married Frances Dancy Hooks. As the story goes, he was out pushing his ice cart one hot summer July afternoon when he caught her eye. They have been together for more than fifty-five years. Precious moments are spent with their daughter Pat and their grandchildren. Also, there are many outside children they have nurtured over the years. They all say their lives have been blessed and positively impacted through these parents.

With thought of complete retirement, 82-year-old Brother Hooks and his wife Frances currently reside in Memphis, Tennessee. He still serves as the senior pastor of the Greater Middle Baptist Church. His sense of duty and responsibility to mankind remains sharp. Brother Benjamin Lawson Hooks is the recipient of numerous

awards and honorary degrees. The following list includes some of those honors:

Minister (ordained 1956)  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
Spingarn Medal given by the NAACP (1986)  
President of the National Civil Rights Movement  
Benjamin Lawson Hooks Institute for Social change established (1996) at the University of Memphis  
Distinguished Adjunct Professor Political Science and History at the University of Memphis  
Lecturer  
Attorney  
Judge  
Businessman  
Commissioner  
Producer  
TV Host



Supreme Court



Talent Hunt Chair, Kelvin O'Neal and Basileus Danard Smith  
poise with Talent Hunt Winners

## Pi Omega Chapter's 2007 Talent Hunt Competition

Baltimore, MD March 18, 2007

Pi Omega Chapter, Graduate Chapter of Baltimore, MD, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., hosted its 52nd Annual Talent Hunt Competition on Sunday March 18, 2007 at The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, located at 830 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD.

The Talent Hunt demonstration was created in 1945, and is one of the national projects of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Pi Omega has participated in this activity for over 50 years, and many of our talented high school youths have benefited from this project through all-expenses paid trips, U.S. Savings Bonds, trophies, certificates, print and televised media exposure.

Over twenty students were involved in this year's competition. The winners were as follows:

### Vocal Classical:

- (1) Sarita Tompas, Randallstown High School,
- (2) Mashara Hunt, Baltimore School for the Arts

### Vocal Contemporary:

- (1) Bijan Glen, Randallstown High School,

- (2) Haikeem Johnson, Oakland Mills High School

### Instrumental Classical:

- Bryan Alston, Mt. Zion Baptist School

### Instrumental Contemporary:

- (1) David Lindberg, Archbishop Curley High School,
- (2) Quintin Edwards, Woodlawn High School

### Visual Arts:

- (1) Michael H., Woodbourne School,
- (2) Jaleel P., Woodbourne School

Mr. David Lindberg will represent Pi Omega Chapter at the District Talent Hunt Competition to be held at the 2007 59th Second District Conference. This year the conference will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the weekend of May 3-6, 2007.

Brother Dr. Kelvin O'Neal was the chairperson for the 52nd Annual Talent Hunt Competition. Special thanks are extended to the Pi Omega Foundation for providing the funding for this year's competition.



## Theta Eta Chapter Excelling on Campus

Author:

Chibunna Chimezie  
Theta Eta Chapter  
Jacksonville State University  
Jacksonville, Alabama  
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In relation to Greek Life Activities at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville Alabama, The Theta Eta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated are the proud recipients of the Most Improved G.P.A award, as well as the Most Improved Chapter award during the Greek Awards ceremony held April 3, 2007. Theta Eta Chapter bearing a current roster of four active brothers also received The Campus Award of Overall Excellence. This year the brothers have been active in spearheading an HIV/AIDS screening alongside the Career Counseling Service Department at Jacksonville State University. Information on sexual responsibility was distributed by the brothers to the student body and onlookers.

## Brother Benjamin J. Holbert, III 2007 Fourth District Omega Man of the Year

Toledo, Ohio-On May 5, 2007, Brother Ben Holbert was presented the 2007 Fourth District Omega Man of the Year during the District's Annual Founder's Award dinner program. Brother Holbert is an award winning broadcaster who has enjoyed a celebrated career in local television. He has served as news anchor, general assignment reporter, general manager and radio talk show host. He currently serves as the

Basileus of Zeta Omega Graduate Chapter and has spearheaded several Chapter initiatives including the "Bishop Love Spirituality Project" and "Pennies for Prostate Cancer Research."

He was initiated into Omega on May 9, 1980 while attending Kent State University. He also began his broadcast career the same year as he worked as a vacation relief engineer at the former WJKW-TV (WJW). As an undergraduate he was elected as chapter Basileus and 2nd Vice District Representative. He was elected as undergraduate student senator and founded the Kent State branch of the NAACP. Brother Holbert earned his bachelor's degree from Kent State University in 1984.

Brother Holbert has received four Emmy awards from the Cleveland Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as well as a Congressional Certificate of Merit from the honorable Louis Stokes. Kent State University honored Ben as one of sixty Outstanding Journalism Alumni, and awarded him the KSU Community Service Award for his work to address gang-related violence.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees for Partnership for a Safer Cleveland; member of the Shiloh Baptist Church education ministry and Akron Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). Ben received his 25-year fraternity service pin at the 74th Grand Conclave in Little Rock, Arkansas in July 2006.



## Lambda Gamma Gamma "The Capital Region Ques Talent Hunt 2007"

By Michael H. Smith  
Chapter Editor

**Fort Meade, MD** – On Saturday, March 24, 2007, The Capital Region Ques of Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter held one of its most entertaining Talent Hunt competitions. The competition, hosted by Master of Ceremonies Brother Heath Cheek, was held at Meade Middle School in Fort Meade, Maryland. The nationally mandated Talent Hunt program provides exposure, encouragement and financial assistance to talented young people participating in the Performing Arts.

LGG Chapter takes great pride in the display and celebration of some of the Capital Region's most talented high school aged students. Due to an overwhelming response to this year's competition, auditions were held two weeks before the day of the event for the sake of timeliness on the day of competition.

Twenty-Four very talented contestants participated in this year's event and were judged in the categories of Vocal, Dance, Instrumental, Drama, and Visual Arts. The Chairman, Darryl W. Bennett, stressed that the event should be a positive, motivating and learning experience. The contestants were encouraged to just "do their best," without undo stress, no matter how proficient or experienced they are in their respective area.

The winner in the vocalist category was Mr. Nicholas Sneed. Nicholas a student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt Maryland. Nicholas gave the audience a rousing and soulful display of an original piece dedicated to his Mom. He crooned to the ladies in the audience like a seasoned professional.

Ms. Briana Williams, a student at West Lake High School

in Waldorf Maryland, won the dance category by performing a very spirited and energetic tap dance routine to the jazz standard, "I Got Rhythm." Briana's tap dance routine was full of athleticism and was punctuated by a fusion of hip-hop and classical dance movements. Her sassy performance captivated the audience.

Mr. Justin White, the winner of the instrumental category, showed that he is more than a pianist. Justin is truly a very talented musician. His fine rendition of Chopin's Invention Part 2 and Mozart's Prelude displayed not only his technical prowess but also his ability to milk each note, extracting all of the emotional content intended by the composer. Justin is a student at C. H. Flowers High School in Landover Maryland.

Mr. El Jay Johnson, a student at Friendship Collegiate Academy in Washington, DC, was the winner in the drama category. El Jay's heartfelt reading of an original poem, "Assorted Seeds," was a scripture like reference to sowing seeds in fertile soil. The general theme that seeds planted in fertile soil will always allow you to overcome the hardships of life, spoke to the hearts and minds of the audience.

The Visual Arts winner was Mrs Akua Abrah, a student at Annapolis High School. She demonstrated that today's youth sees the world a little differently than the previous generations. The earthy tones juxtaposed with the smooth maternal lines of Akua's, "Mother and Child," painting which displayed a Picasso like touch.

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall winners were Briana Williams, El Jay Johnson and Nicholas Sneed respectively. Each contestant received scholarship funds in the form of savings bonds in addition to cash prizes. The contestants received over \$2,000 in scholarships (bonds) and cash prizes.. The brotherhood also provided a very hearty lunch to the contestants and their families. Lambda Gamma Gamma is proud to have hosted such a forum for the benefit of these very talented students.



## Ted Ginn Sr.

2007 Fourth District  
Citizen of the Year

In 1996, Ted Ginn Sr. was a school security guard at Glenville High School and landed the head coaching job because nobody else wanted it. Today, Mr. Ginn has emerged as one of the most influential figures in Northeast Ohio high school football.

Teenaged players flock to Glenville from all over the city, leaving their neighborhood schools to play at Glenville for Coach Ginn. The Tarblooders have run past the opposition on to championship seasons. Under Ginn's direction, more than 30 Glenville players have earned college scholarships to Division I schools.

He graduated from Glenville in 1974, played football for the Tarblooders, and still lives in the neighborhood with his wife, Jeanette, who is also a Glenville graduate. Their daughter, Tiffany was a track standout for the Tarblooders. Their son, Ted Jr., graduated from Glenville as the most decorated athlete in school history and one of the country's most recruited high school football and track athletes. He was a standout football player at Ohio State University. Ted Jr., is an American football wide receiver who currently plays for the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League.

"Coach Ginn is a father figure," said Glenville offensive lineman Bryant Browning, who graduated in May with a 4.2 GPA. "He does anything for children and spends all his time doing things for other people. Most coaches are only out to win for themselves and their own team, but coach Ginn is trying to help everyone he can."

"Coach Ginn is like an angel on earth," said Jahmal Brown, a former running back at Benedictine High school. "It doesn't matter if you are one of his own children or players, he will try to do something to help you reach your goals."

Ginn says that's what's important to him- keeping his word and doing the best he can for his players. "This has become a 24/7 thing for me, and it's got nothing to do with wins and losses. It's about taking care of the children. It's what God put me on earth to do."



## Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Seated in the center Brother Ernest A. Swain

## Ernest A. Swain Scholarship

**Wilmington, NC-** On November 17, 2006 the Brothers of Omicron Alpha Chapter were successful in endowing a \$25,000 scholarship at the University of North Carolina in the name of Brother Ernest A. Swain. The scholarship will help UNCW attract high school graduates from surrounding school districts with a history of underserved populations. Eligible students must demonstrate academic ability and characteristics embodied by Ernest Swain through his decades of selfless leadership in the African-American community. In addition, recipients must demonstrate leadership through volunteer community service in the communities where they live.

Brother Swain was born April 19, 1915 in Southport, North Carolina. The son of the late, Luvenia and Knox Swain, he attended elementary and high school in the local Brunswick County Community. He graduated from Brunswick County Training School in 1933. Upon graduation from high school he continued his education by journeying to Atlanta, Georgia and enrolling at Morehouse College. After taking off a year from Morehouse College, he returned and graduated with an ABA Degree in General Education and History in 1938. During his tenure at Morehouse, Brother Swain pledged Omega by way of Psi Chapter during the fall of 1934.

Brother Swain return to his hometown of Southport, NC and began a career teaching in the Brunswick County School System. His teaching career was cut short when he was drafted into the United States Army. During his tenure with the Army he decided to enter into holy matrimony with Miss Jeffrey Williams. She remained his devoted wife and great partner for more than fifty years. His tour of duty was completed after 26 months of ho orable service to the Army.

After his return to town, he was offered a position as a Probation/Truant Officer with New Hanover County. He worked as a Probation/Truant Officer for about two years.

Mr. C.S. McDonald, Principal of Peabody and Dudley Elementary, saw great potential in young Brother Swain and offered him the position of Assistant Principal and Coach.

Brother Swain decided to enroll at Chicago University and received a Master of Arts Degree in(Division of Social Science) 1953. He continued his employment with the New Hanover County School System as a respected educator. He became an outstanding later became an elementary school principal. His focus has always been on what's best for children. This journey in the field of education has lasted over forty years.

His community and civic responsibility was also a personal commitment. He served on a number of boards and civic activities in the city of Wilmington, NC and New Hanover County. One of his most proud accomplishments was to serve as Vice Chairman of the New Hanover County Board of Elections. He saw this role as somewhat ironic because he was once a victim of voter registration discrimination in the 1930's when he was initially denied the right to register and vote in Brunswick County. This was a testament to how far our community has grown in respect to equality for all people. He is also a proud member of Omicron Alpha Chapter where he has been a member for over fifty years. Brother Swain is a member of St. Luke African Methodist Zion Church in Wilmington, N.C.





Left to right Brother Damon Harris, DST member, Lashannda Harris, Brother Paco Bryant and Brother Jarrod Gillespie

## Charles Drew Blood Drive By Brother Jarrod Gillespie

**Fort Knox, KY-** XI Chapter of Fort Knox, KY (Gold Vault Qs) along with Armed Services Blood Program conducted its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Charles Drew Blood Drive on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Camp Memorial Blood Bank at Ft Knox.

There was a positive turn out from the Fort Knox, KY community.

Brothers Paco Bryant, Jarrod Gillespie, and Damon Harris passed out flyers which informed individuals of the awareness and importance of donating blood at the PX ( Post Exchange). Lashannda Harris from the Fort Knox Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta also helped pass out flyers at the PX.

Twelve people donated blood and an extra four signed up for appointments with the blood center. Donating blood with the Armed Services Blood Program is important to soldiers and dependents of active duty military personnel. Many of the beneficiaries from the ASBP are our soldiers defending our Great nation in Iraq and Afghanistan. Donating Blood to the Armed Services Blood Program definitely saves lives.



L to R Rico Johnson and Bro. Charles "Chuck" Matthews

## Bro. Charles "Chuck" Matthews Named National Big Brother of the Year By Bro. Al Cornish

**Louisville, Kentucky-** On Monday evening, June 18, 2007, over 100 community leaders, family members and friends joined in a celebration for Brother Charles "Chuck" Matthews for his selection as the **2007 National Big Brother of the Year**. This event was a local event with representatives from the offices of Congressman John Yarmuth, Governor Ernie Fletcher and Mayor Jerry Abramson all bestowing special recognition on Brother Matthews for this historic selection.

The formal award honor was presented at an awards banquet during the 2007 Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America National Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona on July 25, 2007. Brother Matthews, a retired General Electric executive, owns his own consulting company (Matthews Enterprises LLC). He has been in the Louisville, KY area since 1974 with the exception of the years 1986 to 1994. During that time, GE assigned him to positions in New York and Connecticut. While employed with General Electric, he served in operations and quality control management positions.

Upon moving to Louisville, KY, he became involved

with the YMCA Black Achievers Program helping to provide leadership for teens. Brother Matthews became involved in the Big Brothers Program in 2002 and was assigned Rico Johnson. In the beginning, *"Rico was not happy about the whole Big Brother thing"* says Matthews. He was standoffish, angry and mistrustful. Rico had a habit of acting out in school and getting bad grades.

Four years later, Rico, now 15 and a sophomore at Seneca High School, is talking about college and a job as a pediatrician. *"He went from like U's (unsatisfactory), D's and F's to A's and B's,"* says his mother Darlene Johnson. She stated, *"the changes wouldn't have happened without Matthews."* She goes on to say, *"Mr. Matthews has worked wonders with Rico, keeping him busy and focused."* It was because of the impact that he has had on Rico's life over the past five years that he achieved this national honor.

Brother Matthews grew up on a small farm in Alabama. It was there his parents taught him the importance of giving back. His father was quoted at saying, "that you will never know better than what you are able to give to someone else," Brother Mathews stated of the town he grew up, "there was a strong sense of everybody being responsible for everybody else." Responsibility is one thing that he has taught Rico.

Brother Matthews went on to attend and graduate from Alabama A & M University. He also earned his MBA from Webster College. He is a member of First Baptist Church of Jeffersontown where he has served as Sunday School / VBS Teacher, and Trustee.

He is an active member of Theta Omega Chapter where he currently serves as the Chairman of the Achievement Week/85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee. It was through his membership in Sigma Pi Phi Chapter that he became involved in Big Brothers.

Brother Matthews and his wife, Nancy, have two grown children of their own. One is a doctor and the other a lawyer.

## Delta Alpha Chapter Community Service

**Dayton, OH**-Brothers of Delta Alpha Chapter had a stellar year of community service and fundraising activities which aided seven local students with scholarship monies. The Chapter met and exceeded all Mandated Programs. Delta Alpha Chapter continues to strive to remain involved in individual uplifting endeavors of improving and empowering our communities, schools and youths.

The Chapter has participated in Adopt -A- Highway in the Dayton, OH area. This provides the Chapter an opportunity for community service, positive exposure in the community and fellowship with Brothers outside of a regular Fraternity meeting.

Delta Alpha Chapter held its annual Operations Santa Claus Program Christmas of 2007. The Chapter provided over 300 gift-wrapped toys and other presents to 150 needy kids. This program remains a community effort.

The Brothers of Delta Alpha Chapter continue to impact youth with a Tee-ball team and the Chapter's annual Youth Sports Camp. The Youth Sports Camp strives to bring inner city youths out of their comfort zones by involving them in group outings. Last year, there were over 500 youth in attendance for all scheduled activities.







Right to left, Brother Rob Prince, Brother Frank Gaither, Brother Joe Sherman, Brother David Moorer, Brother Chris Norman, and Brother Dominic Thurston, gather for picture during Career Awareness Day at Fickett Elementary School.

## Eta Omega Brothers Participate In "Career Awareness Day" At R.n. Fickett Elementary School By Brother Stedman S. Southhall

**Atlanta, GA**-On Thursday, April 26, 2007, Brothers of Eta Omega Chapter participated in Career Awareness Day at R.N. Fickett Elementary School. Seven Eta Omega Chapter Brothers were among a group of over sixty who gathered at R.N. Fickett Elementary School to speak with interested students about future jobs and careers. The event was presented in a career fair format with presenters spending between ten to fifteen minutes speaking before four to six classes. Career Awareness Day was an excellent opportunity for Eta Omega Chapter Brothers to demonstrate the Four Cardinals in living action, as they sought to inform and inspire today's youth and tomorrow's leaders.

Fickett's enrollment is primarily African-American. The Chapter Brothers, among the other presenters, were physical examples of hard work, determination, inspiration and education. These examples showed that the Black community can produce successful Black Men and Women in today's America who are not entertainers or athletes. The Brothers enjoyed the day as much as the students.

Fickett's School Motto is "Developing successful students for tomorrow, starting TODAY!" Fickett is an Atlanta Public School, located on Rux Road in Southwest Atlanta, Georgia. Fickett offers education in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade classes and enrolls approximately 550 students. The students range from 4 years to 12 years of age. Eta Omega Chapter Brother Dr. Marcus Barber is Principal of Fickett. He has a mission of excellence at Fickett, where student achievement is the top priority.

The seven Eta Omega Chapter Brothers who participated in Career Awareness Day were Brother David Moorer-Information Technology; Brother Dominic Thurston – Insurance; Brother Frank Gaither – Law; Brother Chris Norman – Financial Investment; Brother Joe Sherman – Entrepreneur; Brother Rod Prince – TV Broadcasting; and Basileus, Brother Don Lee – Investigation Services. While the Fickett students met with seven Chapter Brothers for one day, they have the opportunity to observe the excellence of Omega reflected in Principal Brother Dr. Barber everyday.

Eta Omega Chapter's participation in Career Awareness Day was coordinated by Brother David Moorer, chairman of the Chapter's Social Action Committee. Eta Omega Chapter is located in Southwest Atlanta, Georgia and is led by Basileus, Brother Don Lee and Vice Basileus, Brother Joseph Robertson.

## Florida Ques Celebrate 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Political Summit: Push for Passage of the Martin Lee Anderson Claims Bill



Brothers representing various chapters throughout the State of Florida.

**Tallahassee, FL** – On April 20, 2007, Omegas from all sectors of Florida convened at the Florida Capitol to mark the fifth year of advocating issues germane to Florida communities. Taking center stage at the Political Summit were Senator Tony Hill (Jacksonville, FL), Senator Gary Siplin (Orlando, FL), Representative Frank Peterman (St. Petersburg, FL) and Representative Wilbert “Tee” Holloway (Miami, FL), all of whom are Omega Men. The Brothers in attendance advocated passage of SB-2968 by personally visiting the Senate Offices of the Criminal Justice Appropriations Committee members.

Summit lecturers for this year's event included representatives from Amsouth Bank. The topics discussed were credit management, personal investing, and retirement planning. The Brothers also visited the Senate Chamber and were acknowledged from the Chamber Floor by Senate President Ken Pruitt.



Brothers from left to right are: Representative Frank Peterman, Senator Gary Siplin, Senator Tony Hill and Representative Wilbur “Tee” Holloway

The day marked a historic time not only in Florida, but for the nation. On this day, Floridians and all Americans would hear the voice of the Florida Legislature speak to the death of teenager Martin Lee Anderson. The Anderson death made national news in 2006 as video footage captured officers of the Bay County (Florida) Sheriff's Office man-handling the teenager at a juvenile justice Boot Camp. Subsequently, the parents of Anderson retained the services of Omega Man, Brother Benjamin Crump of the Parks & Crump Law Firm of Tallahassee, FL. A law suit was filed against the Bay County Sheriff's Office, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and State of Florida, seeking millions in compensatory damages. In accordance with Florida

law, claims exceeding \$100,000 require Legislative approval through the Florida Senate. Accordingly, SB-2968 was introduced by Senator Tony Hill and co-introduced by Senator Gary Siplin. Later in the day, the Special Master Report was issued in favor of the Anderson Family, and in agreement with the directives of Florida Governor Charlie Crist, totaled \$5 million dollars.

Momentum for the Summit remained steady, and the commitment and dedication to the event was unwavering as Florida's Top Omega Man, State Representative Bobby Harper was once again in attendance. The Summit Committee members include: Brother Sam Oliver-Chair, Brother Randy Nelson, Vice-Chairman, Brother Michael Kinsey, and Brother Benjamin Crump. Special recognition goes out to Brother Darron Toston and the Brothers of Chi Omega Chapter, Chi Theta Chapter (Florida State University) and to Upsilon Psi Chapter (Florida A&M University) for their efforts in making the event a success.



Pictured above are a group of volunteers along with Brothers of Phi Kappa Kappa

## Brothers lend a hand to help build a home

By Brother Marc Styles

**ATLANTA, GA.** - On Saturday, May 19, 2007, eleven Brothers from Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter answered the call of Basileus, Brother Michael Randall to assist with the Habitat for Humanity project located in the



Atlanta, GA area. During a brief introduction by the on-site supervisor, the Brothers learned that the Christian based organization helps families purchase a home for only the price it takes to build it; with no interest. The family must give back 200 hours of service to their home or to other habitat for humanity projects. The Brothers were teamed with a young lady that had gotten in trouble for curfew violation. Instead of having her mother pay a fine she decided to do community service to work it off.

The task for the Brothers on duty was to place the vinyl siding on the home. We were given a quick class on how to install it and then released to start on our assigned walls. Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter was fortunate to have at least one Brother and a crew leader who had prior experience with vinyl siding. The Brothers quickly got the hang of it, finishing two and a half walls before lunch. After lunch, the Brothers placed the small panels due directly under the roof to keep pests out of the house. At the end of the day, the Brothers were given a hand for coming out and helping someone to achieve their goal of home ownership.

## Lambda Iota Launches 2007 Voters Registration Drive

By Brother Marvin Broadwater, Sr.



Lambda Iota Voter's Registration

**Columbus, GA-** The men of Lambda Iota Chapter battled unseasonably cold temperatures on the morning of April 7, 2007 in an effort to conduct this year's first voter's registration. The event was held at the Wal-Mart located at 5701 Buena Vista Rd. There are five such events scheduled for the year. Lambda Iota Chapter Brothers of registered more than 250 voters last year, the goal this year is 300 plus. There were 22 potential voters registered as well.

While registration remains the Chapter's principal focus, the Brothers also give a history of the Voting Rights Act and speak of its scheduled expiration in August of 2007. They also discuss qualifications of voters, the political process (your vote counts), voters with physical disabilities, absentee voting and the new law concerning convicted felons. Lambda Iota Chapter believes registering Black citizens to vote is half the battle of empowerment. The other half is assisting others in getting to the poll sites. Lambda Iota Chapter continually team with local churches and civic organizations to provide transportation to poll sites on Election Days.

## Unique Needs = Unique Donors (A Joint Blood Drive)

By Brother Marc Styles

**EAST POINT, GA-** On June 2, 2007, the Brothers of Chi Gamma Gamma Chapter and Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter joined forces to potentially help save lives by giving blood on Saturday, June 2, 2007 at the Camp Creek American Red Cross blood donor center. The goal of 20 pints was quickly reached and that was a record for the Center in one day.

We learned that as an ethnic blood donor, we may have the unique ability to help patients with special needs. Many African-Americans have rare blood types such as U-negative and Duffy-negative, which are distinctive to our community. Also in strong demand from African-Americans are types O and B blood.

Type O-negative blood is the universal blood type, which means that any patient of any blood type can

receive type O-negative blood. That is why it is in such high demand by hospitals, and is always in short supply. It was determined in a 2001 Red Cross study that more African-Americans and Latin-Americans have types O and B blood than other populations. Because of this, an African-American patient that has sickle cell anemia is less likely to have physical reactions to blood donated from other African-Americans.

We also understood that there is a need for blood platelet donors within our communities. Platelet donors can donate every week, where as blood donors can donate about every eight weeks. Donating platelets requires that the donor be hooked up to a machine that separates and returns the blood back to the donor while keeping the platelets. Another fact learned that day was that donors who are CMV-negative or A-positive have blood that is used in hospitals to treat premature babies as well as other babies in need of blood. The Center also recognized Brother Leon Robinson for making at least 200 combined donations of blood and platelets. Please give the Gift of Life by donating blood and platelets at your local blood donation center.



Picture above are the winning team with a score of 61: Brothers Don Cobb and Albert G. Duff, Sr. (Psi Xi Chapter), Mr Charles Vivian and Mr. Stan Duffy

## Psi Xi Chapter 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

**Oxnard, Ca-** On April 14, 2007, Psi Xi Chapter's held its 10th Annual Scholarship and Benefit Golf Tournament at the River Ridge Golf Course. The Ventura County community has been generous in their

contributions and has made this event a successful endeavor. Forty-Eight golfers participated including Brothers from other Twelfth District chapters. Last year we were able to award 15 scholarships to deserving applicants, and we look forward to supporting this year's recipients. To date, Psi Xi Chapter has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to local area students.

Recipients are required to submit a package including an essay on current or relevant issues. This worthwhile event was underscored by a grand time for all the participants, with dinner and an awards ceremony.

## Rho Delta Delta Chapter's Year End Report

By Chapter Advisor Derrick Brewster

**Troy, AL-** The Brothers of Rho Delta Delta ended the 2006-2007 academic year with a number community service projects. The Chapter has been active in reading to the Troy Elementary School children at least two times a month. The Chapter has also co hosted the Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood drive and the Talent Hunt with the following nearby chapters during the spring semester: Omega Iota Iota Chapter, Gamma Sigma Chapter and Sigma Phi Chapter (all located in Montgomery, AL).

The Chapter has provided a Carter G. Woodson Educational Session program to help the students of TROY University further understand the significance of educating themselves about Black history. To end the semester, they participated in a campus cleaning program, Relay for Life, Special Olympics, Sickle Cell Anemia, Enterprise Disaster Relief, and a canned food drive.

## Rho Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter Holds Health Fair By Brother Milbert O. Brown

**Chicago, IL-** Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter held its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Health Fair at the Korle Bu Medical Center on Chicago's South Side as part of the Chapter's major



summer social action event. In April, the Chapter was chosen as the Tenth District's "Graduate Chapter of the Year," because of its outstanding social action activity in the Chicago metropolitan area.

On June 30, 2007, over 45 people participated in the Saturday Health Fair. The day-long fair also featured health information provided by the Kidney Foundation, the National Stoke Association and the American Cancer Association.

The Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter Health Fair provided testing stations for cholesterol, diabetes and kidney health screening. Several also participated in bone marrow registration as well as HIV/AIDS testing.

The Chicago Department of Public Health provide extensive prevention and treatment information about how to fight HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. The Black Nurses of Chicago organization conducted the Chapter's blood pressure and prostate cancer testing stations. Several Brothers were screened for prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is one of the leading causes of death for African American men.

Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter has been able to combine its increased interest in facilitating a more effective blood drive with this year's health fair. Over 10 units of blood was donated to Lifesource, a Chicago blood bank organization. "The Omega Brothers were very enthusiastic and positive about their approach to community health care," said Keela Gray, supervisor of Lifesource's blood drive. Gray also said that she has worked with the Chapter several times during blood drive events. She also said that the "Omega's are always professional and are a great group of people."

Claudia Barthelemy-Wells, the marketing manager for the Korle Bu Medical Group, said her Center has established a solid working relationship with Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter in the field of community health care and service. "Our health fair was very successful because the Chapter wanted to take an active role in promoting better health solutions

for our community. Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter is always trying to forge stronger partnerships with health care organizations," said the Chapter's Social Action chairman, Brother Michael Johnson.

Other organizations that were supporters of this year's health care fair included the University of Illinois at Chicago's sickle cell testing group and the American Health Association.

## Theta Omega Chapter and Theta Omega, Inc. 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Men of Quality Lifestyles Choices Forum

By Brother Al Cornish, Chapter Editor

**Louisville, Kentucky-** The members of Theta Omega Chapter and the Board of Directors of Theta Omega, Inc. held their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Men of Quality - Lifestyles Choices Forum on March 15, 2007 on the campus of the University of Louisville in the Student Activity Center. Over 600 young men from the Jefferson County School System participated with 12 middle and 15 high schools represented.

The Men of Quality's Lifestyles Choice Forum began in 1996 and was the brainchild of Chapter and board members, Brothers Audwin Helton and Lester Sanders. Both had a vision of creating a program based on the Fraternity's cardinal principles - Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. "We believed that we needed to provide the young men of Louisville, KY with positive role models and alternatives to life as many were experiencing it" said Sanders. "We took our idea to the Chapter and they overwhelmingly endorsed it. We then spoke with the Jefferson County Public School's Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Lucian Yates III. Dr. Yates endorsed it and worked with Sanders and Helton in developing the program. The program was later reviewed by the State Board of Education and they endorsed it.

"So we were off and running", said Brother Helton. When asked has the program been a success, they both emphatically said "Yes" and "It has been very fulfilling and many young men have been impacted." When asked to estimate the number of young African American youth that have been touched by the program, Brother Audwin said, "it numbers in the thousands." Last year's program attendance was approximately 550 and this year over 600 participated.

This year's program included topics that range from Conflict Resolution, Closing the Achievement Gap, Health Issues Facing Black Men, Building Wealth (Budget and Credit), Career and Goal Setting, The Way In, The Way Out; The Media's Misperception of African America Men and Responsibilities as a Student Athlete.

This year's program was co-chaired by Brothers Lester Sanders and Kevin Wigginton. About his involvement, Brother Wigginton says, "This is the highlight of my year. For me to see so many young African American men gain so much that will assist them in their life's journey and for many it will be a life changing event!"



L to R Brothers Furman Glenn, Lester Sanders, Kevin Wigginton and Al Cornish



Keynote Speaker, Hasan Davis



Students getting ready for the day Metro Council Member Honorable Brother David Tandy brings greetings.



Students intently listening to a workshop presenter.





Brothers of Zeta Rho Chapter with the Mayor of Long Beach, CA at the Long Beach AIDS Walk

## Zeta Rho Chapter Continues Key Health Initiatives

By: Brother Earl H. Jones, Jr.

**Los Angeles, CA** – Zeta Rho Chapter and the Zeta Rho Foundation have collaborated with community agencies on two key health initiatives in the Los Angeles Area – AIDS and Prostate Cancer.

**AIDS Walk and Fundraising.** Each year Zeta Rho Chapter supports the Annual Long Beach, CA, Aids Walk. AIDS Walk Long Beach helps men, women, children, and families in the greater South Bay and Long Beach, CA area who are living with HIV/AIDS. Services through the beneficiary agencies include food, transportation, housing, emergency financial assistance, kids and family programs, mental health counseling, support groups and HIV education and prevention services.

The 2007 AIDS Walk was held on June 23, 2007, and the Brothers of Zeta Rho Chapter once again showed their support by walking and assisting in the registration process and hosting an information booth to show support for the Long Beach Aids Foundation and to distribute literature about the impact of AIDS/HIV in the African-American community.

Zeta Rho Chapter also provided support to the Long Beach Aids Foundation by participating in the Foundation's Annual Casino Night Fundraiser on March 24, 2007. This very special event was held at the Museum of Latin American Arts and was enjoyed by more than one thousand patrons of the Long Beach Aids Foundation and the Southern California area. The Brothers of Zeta Rho Chapter exhibited professionalism and efficiency in management of the various aspects of the event, including sales and cash management. The event included a museum tour and live entertainment, dancing, a silent auction and Brazilian Samba Dancers.

## Zeta Rho Chapter Prostate Cancer Screening

**Los Angeles, CA**-Zeta Rho Chapter renewed its commitment to partner with The Real Men Cook Foundation (RMCF), USC Norris Cancer Center, and Trinity Baptist Church along with other fraternities and civic organizations in the annual Prostate Screening at Trinity Baptist Church in Los Angeles. Zeta Rho Brother, Earl Jones, has been the principal planner and coordinator of this event each year. Over the past four years these free prostate screenings have examined over 1,000 men.

The screening are conducted each year in November during Veterans Day Weekend. The incidence of prostate cancer is especially high among African-American men and this screening program is saving many lives. The screenings in 2007 will be conducted on November 3rd, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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Brother Rodney Martin

## Brother Rodney Martin Receives 2007 State of Kentucky Executive Director of the Year Award By Brother Al Cornish

**Louisville, Kentucky:** Brother Rodney Martin, District Executive Director for the Chestnut Street Family Branch of the YMCA was named the State of Kentucky Executive Director of the Year. Brother Martin was awarded the prestigious honor at the YMCA Annual Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky during June 2007.

Brother Martin has been the Executive at the Chestnut YMCA since 2006 moving to Louisville from Beaumont, Texas where he was Chief Executive Officer of two branches there. In receiving the award, Brother Martin was lauded for his exceptional leadership skills and overall progress that has been made in expanding programming at the Chestnut Street YMCA. He has increased memberships and contributions in one of the most distressed parts of the city.

Brother Lee Bowman (5<sup>th</sup> District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative), Chairman of the Chestnut Street YMCA's Board of Directors states that *"Rodney is the consummate professional. He understands how to manage the branch and the resources that he has been given. His leadership has been nothing less than stellar. His enthusiasm and vision for the branch has been right on target and contagious! We are delighted that he has been recognized with such an honor!"*

When asked what this award means to him, Brother Martin states *"It is confirmation and validation of my efforts since moving to this branch and that I am on the right track. The future is bright for the branch and I look forward to leading further change that will benefit the community!"*

Brother Martin is an active member of Theta Omega Chapter where he serves on a number of committees. He and his wife, Tonya have two daughters. In addition to his fraternity involvement, he is a member of St. Stephen Baptist Church and the Association of YMCA Professionals.

In 2006, Brother Martin was one of thirteen individuals selected from around the country to be in the "First Annual YMCA Multi-Cultural Executive Development Institute." He was also selected to coach in the YMCA Executive Development Institute and he is the 2006/2007 President of the Louisville Downtown Expressions Toastmasters Club.

When asked why he chose a service career through the YMCA, he stated, *"I enjoy having the opportunity to service. I am blessed to have the chance to help others, as I have been helped by those before me."*

## Lambda Gamma Gamma Brother James Clyburn Speaks at Middle School Black History Month Program

By Brothers Reginald E. Vance, Ph.D.  
Michael H. Smith, Chapter Editor





**Hyattsville, MD.**— On February 5, 2007 Nicholas Orem Middle School (NOM) celebrated Black History Month with special guest speaker, the honorable James Clyburn (D-SC), a member of the United States House of Representatives and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Representative Clyburn was first elected to Congress in 1992 from the 6<sup>th</sup> district of South Carolina—that state's only majority Black district. As a result of overwhelming mid-term election successes in 2006, Democrats took back control of the House. Shortly thereafter, Clyburn was elected by his party to serve as the Majority Whip. As the Majority Whip, Clyburn is considered the third most powerful member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He is only the second Black to ascend to Majority Whip. In that role he assists the Speaker of the House and Majority Leader to rally support for proposed legislation.

Brother Clyburn spoke to an auditorium filled with students, parents, teachers, school board members, local and national legislators, as well as many other attendees. His message was clear “children are our future” and “don't ever give up”. Clyburn, an educator turned politician, reminded the audience, especially the students, that dreams do come true. He shared his experiences of a humble up bringing in South Carolina; how he had to overcome some of the challenges of growing up in the South; and his dedication to education and matriculation to South Carolina State University, where he pledged the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Brother Kenny “K.C.” Calvin (pictured far left) is the principal at NOM. According to Calvin, “having a member of Congress like Brother Clyburn speak was inspirational for the students and teachers.” In two short years, Brother Calvin has reformed a once denounced Nicholas Orem Middle School into a model that other Prince Georges County schools are trying to emulate. NOM is also the host school for the Lambda Gamma Gamma (LGG) Assault on Illiteracy Program (AOIP), chaired by Brother Reginald E. Vance, Ph.D. (pictured third from the right).

Ms. Mary Alvarenga, the Black History Month Program Coordinator (pictured second from the left) said “This

is so exciting! I think the entire program went well. It was great having the Congressman from my state and district (South Carolina, 6<sup>th</sup> District) come speak to the students. I think they really enjoyed him.” Judging by the extended rounds of applause and smiling faces, I agree the students as well as the teachers, parents and other audience members were thoroughly impressed with Brother James Clyburn, United States House of Representatives, Majority Whip.

## Gamma Pi Chapter's Ques Night In Annapolis

**Annapolis, MD.**—Despite a daylong snow that coated areas roads, the men of Gamma Pi chapter demonstrated the commitment to the Cardinal Principle of Scholarship by coming out in force on March 7 for its first-ever “Ques Night in Annapolis.” The meeting with key African American State legislators marked the beginning of Gamma Pi's effort to become more involved in improving opportunities for Prince George's County residents through helping to shape the state's legislative agenda. The evening meeting at the State Capitol was highlighted by a legislative update from State Sen. Ulysses S. Currie, who represents Prince George's County and is a member of Gamma Pi chapter.

Education was the cornerstone topic for this inaugural event, spanning the spectrum from the county's public schools to the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Over food and drink in the shadow of the historic Capitol Dome, about 30 Gamma Pi members participated. In fact, Gamma Pi provided with the legislators with its own “wish list” for the 2007 General Assembly session, calling on the State Legislature to accomplish four things: Fully Fund the State's Public Education Commitment;Cap Increases in Tuition at Public Colleges and Universities and Increase State Support for Need-Based Scholarships and Other Financial Assistance Programs;Increased Financial Support for Bowie State University in Three Critical areas: repair and renovations; Fine Arts Building construction, etc.; andEnactment of the School Board District Bill.

That ambitious agenda attracted the participation of two other distinguished Omega men in Maryland higher education — Dr. James Lyons, the new Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and Dr. Mickey Burnim, the new President of Bowie State University. Also in attendance were Maryland Legislative Black Caucus Chairwoman Sen. Verna Jones from Baltimore; Earl Adams, a Gamma Pi member who is an official for new Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown and Dr. Luther Burse, also of Gamma Pi and an official with the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. Dr. Lyons, former Bowie State president, is rejoining Gamma Pi and Dr. Burnim has said that he will affiliate with the chapter.

“We are starting out in a very modest way,” said attorney William Blakey, Gamma Pi’s Legislative Chairman who organized the successful event. “These are Ques from Gamma Pi chapter. But eventually we are going to be Ques from all over Maryland and, ultimately, we will include others from Black Greek-letter organizations.”

“It was an excellent event, one that not only signals our leadership to legislators in Annapolis, but is consistent with the vision of our beloved Founders.

## Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter “The 8th Annual Easter Egg Hunt”

By Brother Michael H. Smith, Chapter Editor



**Fort Meade, MD** – On Saturday, April 7, 2007, The Capital Region Ques of Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter in conjunction with Ft. Meade’s Child & Youth Services held it’s 8<sup>th</sup> annual Easter Egg Hunt.



The annual event Chaired by Bro Aaron D. Combs (NE/81), was open to all children under the age of 13 years of age. The brotherhood eagerly awaits the dawn of spring in anticipation of this very gratifying activity geared specifically to our young children. In addition to the Easter Egg Hunt, the children participated in an Easter Art Contest and other fun children’s activities. The children were amazed and thrilled at the sight of the Easter Bunny.

The children were also treated to Easter baskets and various other Easter themed toys and candies. The winner of the Easter Egg Hunt was treated to a very colorful Easter basket. Lambda Gamma Gamma is honored to be a positive influence in the lives of our children.

## New York Metropolitan Chapters Host 11th Annual Carter G. Woodson Memorial Awards Program

**NEW YORK, NY.** – The New York City Metropolitan Chapters of Omega Psi Phi hosted their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Carter G. Woodson Memorial Awards Program and Celebration on Friday, Feb. 02, 2007. The event was held in the City Council Chambers of City Hall at 1 City Hall Plaza, New York, NY. With more than 300 individuals in attendance, this event was the largest tribute to Dr. Woodson in the New York City area.

The event opened with greetings on behalf of the City



Council brought by Council person Helen Foster of the 16<sup>th</sup> Council District Bronx, NY. The celebration reflected on Woodson's legacy and promoted the continuance of his dream to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history. This year's theme was "A Celebration of Excellence: Recognizing the Outstanding Achievements of African-Americans." The event emcee was David Ushery, noted anchor and reporter for WNBC, New York. The celebration honors individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to perpetuate the goals and ideas communicated by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and whose work is aligned with the cardinal principles of the fraternity; Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

Attendees acknowledged the presence of State Supreme Court Justice Theodore T. Jones, Jr. and his recent appointment as an Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals under Governor Eliot Spitzer. Also, Metro Omegas presented \$1000.00 check to Dr. Otis Hill and the Black Male Initiative of Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn. NY. Guests, friends and family packed the city council chambers to honor this years awardees; Robert T. Johnson, Bronx District Attorney, Hugh J. Scott, Scholar in Residence at Pace University, Jerri DeVard, former Senior VP of Marketing and Brand Management for Verizon Communications, and Thomas J. Watkins, Jr. Publisher and CEO of the Challenge Group. Their remarks on Black History, the work of Omega, their place in history and that of Dr. Woodson were reflective, humorous, poignant and thought provoking.



## Brother David Ushery Nu Omicron Honors WABC News Anchor Brother David Ushery



Brother David Ushery

**Queens, NY-** On February 1, 2007 the Brothers of Nu Omicron Chapter presented Brother David Ushery with a plaque during the annual Carter G. Woodson Black History Month program at City Hall. The program was sponsored by the Metro Chapters of New York City. The plaque was given to recognize Brother Ushery's work in touching the

lives of millions through media. Brother Ushery joined NewsChannel 4 in August of 2003. He is the co-anchor of "Weekend Today in New York," the station's No. 1-rated weekend morning news programs and also files reports for WNBC's various newscasts.

Brother Ushery came to NewsChannel 4 from WABC-TV. An 11-year veteran of that television station, Brother Ushery held various anchoring and reporting positions throughout his tenure at WABC-TV, including primary fill-in anchor on the station's evening newscasts and full-time anchor of the early morning and noon editions of "Eyewitness News." His many reports for Channel 7 included extensive coverage following the September 11 terrorist attacks, reports from Toronto and Africa on Pope John Paul II's visits to those areas and coverage of the recent Space Shuttle disaster. He also reported extensively on Haiti, traveling several times to the island to cover the area's political and economic climate.

Prior to his work at WABC-TV, Brother Ushery served as reporter for WFSB-TV in Hartford, CT. He has also reported for the *Hartford Courant* and *The Los Angeles Times*.

Brother Ushery is the recipient of a National Association of Black Journalists Award for a series of reports on children and violence and was honored by the Israeli Consulate for his dedicated reporting and commitment to the community. Brother Ushery also works as a volunteer at St. Charles Borromeo in Harlem and has volunteered as a tutor for local preteen students.

He graduated from the University of Connecticut with a B.A. in journalism and political science. He was initiated into Omega by way of Omicron Eta Chapter in 1986.



President of KY CPA Society and  
Brother Michael Wade

## Brother Michael Wade Received Cpa Licenses

**Fort Knox, KY**-Brother Michael Wade, Basileus of Xi Xi Chapter, was recently honored at the Kentucky Society of CPA's Spring Banquet. Brother Wade is one of few in the state of Kentucky to receive the organization's approval as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). One of the world's leading licensing examinations, the CPA Examination serves to protect the public interest by helping to ensure that only qualified individuals become licensed as Certified Public Accountants (CPAs).

Brother Wade works as a Finance Supervisor with United Parcel Service in Louisville, KY. He is responsible for completing and submitting all financial reports as well as giving financial advice to company's Louisville, KY based Contractor Team.

This team consists of five other airlines that transport material and personnel for the Department for Defense. Because of a limited number of military aircraft, the government depends on various commercial airlines to transport military personnel and equipment to Iraq, Afghanistan and other places around the world. Additionally, Brother Wade serves as a Lieutenant

Colonel in the US Army Reserves. After 9-11, he was called back to active duty for a two year assignment at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. as the Officer in Charge of the Army's Logistics Operation Center. Brother Wade continues to serve at the Pentagon on an as needed basis. He is the son of Rev(1SG Ret) and Mrs. Erskine L. Wade in Drakesboro, KY.



## Omega Iota Iota Chapter Welcomes Three New Brothers To The fold of Omega

By Brother Derrick Brewster

**Montgomery, AL**-On April 12, 2007, three new Brothers crossed the burning sands of Omega by way of Omega Iota Iota Chapter. They are Brothers Marcus Osborne, Chris Johns and Darrel Barlow.

Brother Marcus Osborne has a Bachelor of Science in Marketing Ecommerce from the University of Alabama and he works for the Social Security Administration in Selma, AL. Brother Chris Johns has a Master of Science in Counseling from Auburn University in Montgomery and he works for the Human Resources Development Institute in Montgomery, AL. Brother Darrell Barlow has a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Southern University and he works for Montgomery Department of Human Resources in Montgomery, AL.

- As part of the Membership Selection Process, the candidates helped with the AIDS Outreach Walk in Montgomery, AL. They assisted with lining up



the walkers as well as providing refreshments for the participants. Please extend Omega's everlasting hand of friendship to our three newest members. Through their dedication and perseverance, they have earned the right to enter the sacred halls of Omega

### Theta Eta Chapter Excelling on Campus By Brother Chibunna Chimezie

**Jacksonville, AL-** Theta Eta Chapter is the proud recipients of the Most Improved Grade Point Average award, as well as the Most Improved Chapter award during the Greek Awards ceremony held on April 3, 2007. The Chapter also received the Campus Award of Overall Excellence. This year the Brothers have been active in spearheading an HIV/AIDS screening along with the Career Counseling Service Department at Jacksonville State University. Information on sexual responsibility was distributed by the Brothers to the student body and onlookers. Theta Eta Chapter has a current roster of four active Brothers

### Feature Brother Michael David Stitts

Brother Michael David Stitts has recently completed the requirements set forth by the University of Phoenix for the Master of Business Administration. Brother Stitts participated in the commencement exercises on June 24, 2007 at Severance Hall. While congratulations for completing this rigorous program are important, it should also be mentioned that this was an accelerated program, and Michael completed the program with a Grade Point Average of 3.73 in the allotted time given.

Michael completed his undergraduate degree, Bachelor of Science in Engineering at Tennessee State University in 1989. After being away from school for 16 years he decided to make a commitment to further his education at the University of Phoenix. His dedication and commitment to excellence are reasons that Michael has completed this rigorous program.

Michael worked diligently alone and with team members to complete assignments.

University of Phoenix provides the working adult instruction that bridges the gap between theory and practice through faculty members who bring advanced academic preparation along with skills that come from the current practice of their profession. This approach allows the students to bring their real world experiences to the classroom, and in return, apply what was learned in the work environment. We are pleased that the business community is enriched by University of Phoenix graduates whose commitment to education and excellence enhances their ability to raise the standard for Ohio. Brother Stitts pledged Omega by way of Zeta Omega Chapter in April of 2006.

Manhood  
Scholarship  
Perseverance  
Uplift

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Brother Curt Bernard Walker

## Brother Curt Bernard Walker Omega's Life Journey

**M**emorial Services were held for Brother Curt Bernard Walker on May 3, 2007 at Greenville Avenue Church of Christ in Richardson, TX. Brother Walker pledged Omega by way of Theta Alpha Chapter in Dallas, Texas in the spring of 1996.

Brother Walker graduated from Tuskegee University with a degree in accounting. At the time of his passing, he owned and operated an accounting firm, "Walker and Associates."

During his time in Omega, he served in many different capacities. He was a member of the Theta Alpha Executive Committee, Scholarship Committee, Talent Hunt Committee and he also served as the Keeper of Finance.

Brother Walker was a personal friend and little Brother to many in Theta Alpha Chapter. He came to be noticed in the Chapter as a pioneer member of "Theta Alpha 38" and subsequently the, "Fabulous Four," whose responsibilities were to promote, support and implement any and every Chapter event to the Brother-

ers, the local media and the public at large. Brother Walker had the will of a giant and the heart of a fighter. This is what made him extraordinary in the eyes of the Brothers who knew him well.

Brother Walker was 34 years old and is survived by his wife, Tiffany, and infant daughter along with his mother and numerous family members. He was a proud member of Omega and served the Fraternity well. Brother Walker will be greatly missed by all who called him Friend.



Brother Todd Elliott May

## Brother Todd Elliott May

By Brother Walter Hunter

**L**os Angeles, CA – Brother Todd Elliott May was born on September 25, 1970 in Vallejo, California. He entered Omega Chapter on May 19, 2007. He was the third child of Marshall O. May and Dr. Gloria Keyes May. Brother May attended University High School where he was a standout athlete and was named captain of the football team in his senior year.

After graduation from University High School in 1988, Brother May matriculated at Howard University in Washington, D.C. While at Howard, Brother May was a regular contributor to the "Hilltop", Howard University's acclaimed newspaper. Brother May graduated from the School of Communications at Howard University with a degree in Public Relations in 1992. Brother May immediately moved back to



Los Angeles and soon began his life in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Brother May pledged Omega by way of Tau Tau Chapter in Compton, California on December 18, 1993. Brother May was devoted to Omega from he beginning.

As a member of Tau Tau chapter, Brother May served in the official roles of Vice Basileus (2002-2003) and Basileus (2003-2005). Brother May served as the Chairman or member on various committees at the Chapter level to include: Reclamation and Retention, Social Action, Public Relations, Fundraising, Achievement Week, Voter Registration, Cultural Symposium, and Talent Hunt.

Brother May was honored as Tau Tau Chapter's Omega Man of The Year, 2005.

He served on committees at the District level including, Reclamation and was chosen to serve as the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual 12<sup>th</sup> District Marshal. He also served on the International Committee as Social Action - Vice Chairman (2004-06). Under his leadership, as a member of the Executive board of Tau Tau chapter (2002-2005), Brother May played an integral part toward the success of the Tau Tau Chapter which received the following awards, International Chapter of the Year 2002, 2003, 12<sup>th</sup> District Chapter of the Year, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005.

Brother May published numerous articles in the Oracle, the Tau Tau Chapter newsletter, and the Tau Tau Chapter Business Directory - "Spending Omega Dollars With Omega Men." He was in regular attendance at the following events, Annual Chapter Summit Retreat, Annual Black Tie Gala, Annual MLK Day Parade Float, Annual Easter Carnival, Annual LA Area BB Que, Annual Compton Turkey, Giveaway, Diabetes Walk, Charles Drew Blood Drive, Watts Summer Games, Omega Sweetheart Night, Youth

Leadership Conference, Meals-on-Wheels, UNCF Walk-A-Thon, Revlon Breast/Cancer Walk, Florence Griffith Joyner Career Day, Aids Walk and Habitat For Humanity.

Brother May was baptized in 1993 at West Angeles Church of God in Christ. At the time of his passing he was a member of First African Methodist Episcopal Church, FAME.

Brother May was an educator, entrepreneur and the ultimate Ambassador. He was a man of conviction who firmly believed in giving back to his community. He worked tirelessly for Omega and his zeal for life was arguably unparalleled. Even in his final hours, Brother May made time to attend Tau Tau Chapter's general body meeting where he spoke so powerfully to those Brothers in attendance inspiring them about his vision for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual 12<sup>th</sup> District Meeting.

On the day of his passing, Brother May attended the UNCF Walk-A-Thon in the morning and Lambda Omicron Chapter's Jazz Brunch in the afternoon and passed a way a few hours later.

Brother May is survived by his loving wife, Shedonna, whom he often said was his anchor. He was employed with the Compton Unified School District and taught at the Elementary and Middle School level for twelve years. His final teaching assignment was with William Jefferson Clinton Elementary School.





**Brother Earl W. Byrd,  
Initiated 1949 Upsilon Phi,  
Newark, NJ.  
Led Hudson County  
Vocational-  
Technical Schools**

Brother Earl W. Byrd

Newark, NJ- On February 20, 2007, Brother Earl W. Byrd passed into Omega Chapter of complications from Alzheimer's disease at the Veterans Administration Hospital Center in Perry Point, MD. The Brothers of Upsilon Phi Chapter remembered Brother Byrd at their annual Memorial Service on March 9, 2007. Brother Byrd was 76 years of age at his passing into Glory.

Born in Hackensack, NJ, Brother Byrd grew up in Jersey City, NJ and lived there before moving to Harve de Grace, MD. He was a 1948 graduate of Lincoln High School and earned All-County honors in football. He attended Morgan State University on an athletic scholarship at the encouragement of his mentor, Basil Frazier. He earned a bachelors degree in physical education and letters in football and basketball as well as earning his master's degree in education from Trenton State College. He was captain of the 1951-52 football team and played on the 1949 team which was undefeated. The team was later inducted into Morgan State University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1975.

A member and six-time elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Jersey City State College, he also served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Hudson County Community College, Chairman of the Education Opportunity Fund Directors Association and the Hudson County Congress of Racial Equality, Vice Chairman of the Jersey City Civil Rights Commission,

First Vice President of Jersey City NAACP and Chairman of the Jersey City Board of Education's Education Support Team. He was a life member of the Morgan State University Alumni Association and the NAACP. He was area vice president for the State of New Jersey for Morgan's Varsity "M" Club.

He was an elementary and high school physical education teacher. While at Snyder High School he was the first black head coach of high school football in Hudson County. He was later appointed as Executive Director of Jersey City's Community and Neighborhood Development Organization (CAN-DO), which sponsored and administered such programs as Neighborhood Youth Corps, Meals on Wheels, On the Job Training Program, Jersey City Head Start and Upward Bound.

A former director of the Dartmouth College Learning Center and the St. Peter's College Education Opportunity Fund, Brother Byrd began his tenure as superintendent of the Hudson County Area Vocational-Technical Schools in 1979. Named in his honor, the Earl W. Byrd Vocational Technical School, Jersey City, NJ, was built and developed under his stewardship. He retired in 1990.

An army veteran, serving from August 1952 to August 1954, he taught at the Signal School, Fort Monmouth, and provided troop entertainment, traveling the East Coast with basketball and football teams.

Brother Byrd was a member of Clair Memorial United Methodist Church, Jersey City, and St. James AME Church. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, his daughter, Evelyn Joetta Byrd, his four sons, Joel Alan Byrd, Matthew Travis Byrd, Peter Wesley Byrd and Daniel Warren Byrd, his two sisters, Jean Byrd Stewart and Winifred Byrd Givens and nine grandchildren and two great-grandsons.





Brother Claudius D. Walker

## Brother Claudius D. Walker, Omega Chapter.

Brother Claudius D. Walker was born on April 26, 1931 and died on March 31, 2007. For Brother Walker, his Omega was not merely an ending but a beginning. Omega became a way of life and a life long experience. Brother Walker's journey to Omega was a natural transition. His upbringing, make-up, and life style made him a perfect fit with the ideals and principles of Omega.

Brother Walker's career as an Omega man began on the campus of Tuskegee Institute where he was initiated into the folds of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. by way of Lambda Epsilon Chapter on April 4, 1951. While at Tuskegee, Brother Walker demonstrated his Omega qualities through his leadership and service in several ways, both within and beyond the Fraternity. He became the Chaplain of Lambda Epsilon and its Editor to the Oracle. He taught Sunday School at Tuskegee, was a member of the campus branch of the YMCA, and was a representative to the Student/Faculty Council.

As he continued along his path of life, Brother Walker's undergraduate deeds translated into a profitable career, a life long alliance with the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and a commitment to community

service. He was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and became a member of the 59<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron. Professionally, he became a research chemist helping to seek cures for such a devastating illness as cancer.

When he took up residence in the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area, Brother Walker discovered Gamma Pi Chapter and instantly became an active member. During his tenure in Gamma Pi Chapter, Brother Walker chaired or co-chaired several committees and programs, including Achievement Week, Mardi Gras and the Annual Senior Citizen Banquet. He was elected and served two terms as Vice Basileus.

Brother Walker's greatest contribution to Gamma Pi Chapter was in his role as Chaplain. This was a position he held at the undergraduate level. He was elected to the position on many occasions and served in the position longer than any other Brother. When he was not in the position as an elected official, Brother Walker stood in as Chaplain when called upon. This dedication resulted in Brother Walker achieving the distinction of "Chaplain Emeritus", the first such emeritus in the Chapter. As an ordained elder, Brother Walker was the spiritual leader and conscience of Gamma Pi Chapter. He was always available and was always willing to serve. On his retirement from the civilian work force, Gamma Pi Chapter presented him with a proclamation designating that day as the "Claudius D. Walker Day".

Brother Walker was a loyal servant of Omega for over 55 years. He attended many Omega functions, District Conferences and Grand Conclaves. He received his 50 Year pin at the 2002 Grand Conclave. As a life member of the Fraternity, his devotion and dedication epitomized the tenets and true spirit of Omega. Through his humble and meager beginnings, his desire to succeed, and his Christian life style, Brother

Walker pursued his dreams as he traveled through the various stages of his life. He was MANHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP, PERSEVERANCE, and UPLIFT to the highest degree. He was a friend to all and he indeed made friendship an essential element of his life.

Brother Walker will be remembered for his deeds, his humor, his sacred words, and his friendliness. He was a husband, a father, a brother, an uncle, a grandfather, a neighbor, a friend, a Christian, an activist, a professional, and an Omega man. As a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, he had dignity, class, reverence, and love.



Brother Dr. Gerard W. Lee, Jr.

## Brother Dr. Gerald W. Lee, Jr. – Bridge Builder Omega Chapter

**N**ew York, NY- On March 7, 2007 at the age of 64, Brother Dr. Gerard W. Lee, Jr. entered Omega Chapter at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. A formal Omega Memorial Service was held on Monday, March 12, 2007 at 7:30pm.

Brother Dr. Lee was born on August 25, 1942 in Newark, New Jersey to Girard W. Lee, Sr. and Willa Mae Sidney Lee. He attended the Newark public school system, graduating from Weequahic High School in 1960 before matriculating to Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. While at

Shaw, Dr. Lee participated in the momentous 1963 March on Washington led by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Brother Dr. Lee, affectionately known as “Omega Bill” began his long, arduous journey toward the light of Omega during the spring semester of his freshman year at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1961. After three semesters of blood and sweat, and many dark nights traveling through the valley of tears, he was initiated into the folds of Omega by way of Delta Psi Chapter on April 27, 1962. He was second on a line of two. His pledge period made such a profound impact on Delta Psi Chapter, at least 18 Brothers were initiated the following year. Omega Bill served as their Dean of Pledges.

Upon his graduation from Shaw, he returned to Newark, where he was blessed to meet his loving wife, Wilma J. Lee, and the pair was bound in matrimony on October 14, 1967. To this union, Brother Bakari was born on November 26, 1970.

During his early post-collegiate years, Brother Dr. Lee embarked upon a long and fulfilling career in education and community service. Some of his early endeavors included teaching in the Newark public school system, working as a counselor with troubled youth at the Job Corps Training Program at Camp Kilmer in Edison, New Jersey, and working with nonprofit community outreach programs in Elizabeth, including the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Bond-a-Bond. Brother Dr. Lee continued his education at Newark State College, now Kean University, earning his Master of Arts in guidance and counseling in 1971. Thereafter, he attended Rutgers University, graduating as a Doctor of Education in 1980 with a concentration in counseling psychology. During these years, Brother Dr. Lee worked as director of counseling at Roselle High School. From Roselle High School, he became the Director of the Equal



Opportunity Funding Program at William Paterson College. He left William Paterson College in 1981 to become the Dean of Student Affairs at Essex County College. While at both William Paterson College and Essex County College, Dr. Lee was responsible for managing over 85 college employees, ensuring the continuing education of numerous minority students and the matriculation of many students to four-year colleges and universities.

Prior to relocating to Plainfield from South Plainfield in 1987, Dr. Lee moved on to the Plainfield public school system in 1985 as a senior guidance counselor, where he remained until 1988 where he became the supervisor of guidance for the East Orange school district until his retirement in 2004. During his years in the East Orange public school system, Dr. Lee co-founded the LST Group Inc., a consulting firm that provided, among other things, law enforcement sensitivity training, rites of passage programming targeted at middle school age African-American boys, and family management training for low- and moderate-income housing residents.

Among his most important values was his passionate belief that African-Americans identify with their cultural African heritage. Toward that end, Brother Dr. Lee lead several groups of family, friends and students on extended trips to Africa, beginning with his trip to Senegal in 1983. Thereafter, Brother Dr. Lee organized and chaperoned two separate trips to Accra, Ghana for students enrolled in his Black Male Institute rites of passage program. Lastly, in 2006, he coordinated what he termed the "Trip of a Lifetime" to South Africa, which included his long dreamed-of safari to Kruger National Park.

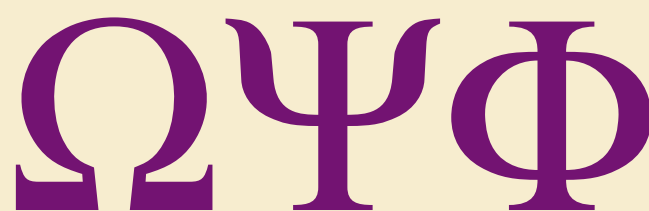
Other achievements consisted of his certification from the Pennsylvania State University for successful completion of the 1985 Sports Psychology Symposium, recognition from the University of

Pennsylvania's Center for Cognitive Therapy, and successful completion of the Executive Management Program for State and Local Governmental Executives from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Additionally, in 1995, his Family First housing training program was lauded and nationally recognized by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Dr. Lee was a past President of the New Jersey Association of Black Psychologists and was previously elected to the office of President of the New Jersey chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. He also served as a Democratic Committee member and was the first chairman of the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority (PMUA), leading the PMUA for ten years, establishing a record of superb service in the City of Plainfield that continues to this day.

Brother Dr. Lee was reclaimed into the fold of Omega through the initiation of his only son, Brother Bakari Gerard Lee, by way of Upsilon Phi Chapter in April, 2000. He later joined the Nu Lambda Lambda Chapter in Jersey City where Brother Bakari serves as First Vice Basileus.

He is survived by his cherished wife of 39 years, Wilma J. Lee, his only son, Brother Bakari Gerard Lee, Esq., and a host of beloved family and dear friends.





Brother James W. Gaines

## Omega Chapter Brother James W. Gaines July 1, 1935 – July 24, 2006

Brother James W. Gaines entered Omega Chapter on July 24, 2006. Brother Gaines served over 50 years as a member of Omega Psi Fraternity and over 42 years as a member of Zeta Rho Chapter. Those close to him called him "Jim."

Brother Jim was a life member of the Fraternity since 1976. During his years with Zeta Rho Chapter, he served as Basileus three times. He also served as Vice Basileus twice, Chaplain five terms, Talent Hunt Chairman three terms, Dean of Pledges three terms and was honored as Omega Man of the Year three times. He was also Zeta Rho Chapter's Citizen of the Year in 1978. In 2004, Brother Jim received the Superior Service Award for both Zeta Rho and the 12<sup>th</sup> District.

Brother Gaines was born on July 18, 1935, to James and Lutisha Gaines in Pineville, Louisiana. He was the sixth of seven children. James accepted Christ and was baptized at Bright Morning Star Baptist Church in Pineville, Louisiana.

He graduated from Peabody High School in Alexandria, Louisiana. He received an Academic scholarship to Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana, and graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor

degree in Political Science. He continued his education in California, completing Degree Requirements for a Masters degree in Correctional Administration in 1981 from Chapman College. He entered into Holy Matrimony with his high school sweetheart, Shirley Blazio in 1954. Three children came from that union: Toni, James, and Chantee. James and Shirley were married a long and loving 52 years. Brother Gaines joined the armed forces was honorably discharged from the Army on the 30th day of November 1964. Brother Gaines was also a Prince Hall Mason, President of the Carson Association of Satisfied Homeowners, and coached Junior All-American Football teams for five years.

Grant AME Church was a major factor in his life. He attended Grant for many years and served in several lay leadership roles. Brother Gaines was employed with the Los Angeles County Probation Department for 33 years. He was a well respected employee who was known for having a solid work ethic. Brother Gaines had many hobbies to include fishing, traveling, camping, cooking, photography and helping others.

Brother Gaines was a guiding force in the Zeta Rho Chapter. His commitment to Omega, his friendship and his wisdom will be sorely missed. He is survived by his loving wife Shirley, his three children: Toni Hernandez, James Gaines, and Chantee Gaines, seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild.





## "Let's Be the Leaders We Proclaim To Be" "Coaches VS Cancer"



Brother Dr. Charles  
Christopher, MDSurgeon General

My Brothers,

We greet you in the powerful name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who with His grace and mercy orders our daily steps. The steps we must take are the ones that offer assistance to mankind and strive to enhance the well being of humanity. We are soundly anchored by a steadfast and unmovable principle of "Uplift", despite the obstacles we may have to overcome. It is our hope that if we are faithful over a few things, we will become rulers over many things. We must remain faithful and unwavering in our call to service.

We have taken on this philanthropic project called "Coaches VS Cancer" that will test our true allegiance to one of our cardinal principles. Every Brother of Omega must step up to the plate and assume individual ownership of this project. There must be a sense of pride for self and for the Fraternity. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has to set the pace for all Greek letter organizations and others must become envious of us because of our outstanding work. You, my Brothers, are the catalyst that moves this mighty vessel over the hills and valleys, rivers and streams. You are the Noah, who builds the Ark and provide refuge for your neighbors, friends and Brothers. Let us not forget that many are depending on us to assist with worthy causes. We can and must be the leaders we so proudly proclaim to be.

We ask you to join hands and relentlessly move forward in this pursuit to raise no less than \$2,000,000.00. It's not about going to Madison Square Garden for a public show, but it's about knowing that we have given our best effort for a cause that we strongly support and believe in.

I join the Grand Basileus in humbly requesting that you participate in this Fraternity history changing undertaking. Omega has always stood for brotherly love, uplifting mankind and giving one hundred percent. Let us not fall short of our commitment and suffer the embarrassment of not being successful. We know that as a fraternity we can and will do this.

Therefore, in the true spirit of brotherhood, lets unite as one and reach the mountain top. We can see the promise land, yet we may not dwell there yet. Ephesians 4:13 reassures us that, "We can do all things through Christ, who strengths us." The race is given to those who endure to the end!

Fraternally,

Charles A. Christopher, MD, Surgeon General



## *Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc*

*Office of*  
**Warren G. Lee Jr.**

**GRAND BASILEUS**

**3951 Snap Finger Parkway**

**Decatur, Georgia 30035**

**Phone 404-284-5533**

**Official web site: <http://www.oppf.org>**



July 15, 2007

Dear Brothers of our Beloved Fraternity;

I would first like to commend Gamma Chapter for the outstanding achievement and accomplishment on the celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. As 38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; I am extremely proud of your chapter's steadfast "Legacy of Leadership" within our great fraternity.

I commend Brother Richard L. Taylor, Honorary Chair; who served as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Grand Basileus under Former 28<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus – James Avery; and Brother Vernell Baker, Basileus of Eta Phi - Graduate Chapter for hosting this Reunion.

One of the honors of being elected Grand Basileus of this great organization is following in the footsteps of such great Omega Men, as our 23<sup>rd</sup> Grand Basileus – the Honorable Herbert E. Tucker, Jr. I have agreed to attend the Gamma Chapter 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion in Boston, August 23<sup>rd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>, 2007; and serve as Keynote Speaker for the Scholarship Gala named in his honor.

To this end I encourage all Brothers throughout the world to support the fundraising effort which will endow Former Grand Basileus Tucker's – Scholarship Fund. To further support a mission which was so dear to Former Grand's wishes, will truly pay honor and respect to his Family, his Friends, and his Fraternity. Visit the web site @ [www.gammachapter1916.org](http://www.gammachapter1916.org) to pledge your support.

I also encourage Brothers throughout the country to join us in Boston; for there lies the roots of our Country, our Fraternity, and our Friendship. I look forward to seeing you there. "Friendship is essential to the Soul."

Fraternally Yours,

Warren G. Lee, Jr.  
38<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus



# Ω Omega's Clarion Call

Chapter	Chapter Name	First Name	Last Name
000002	Beta	Dana	Armstead
000005	Epsilon	Julius	Smalls
000007	Eta	James	Keener, Jr.
000016	Pi	Tarrance	Green
000017	Rho	Taurus	Turner
000019	Tau	Reginald	Harris
000026	Gamma Psi	Cedric	Howell
000027	Delta Psi	Galen	Houston
000029	Zeta Psi	Robert	Hood
000032	Iota Psi	Foday	Kenneh, II
000033	Kappa Psi	Edward	Muhammad
000037	Xi Psi	Theodore	Hamilton
000038	Omicron Psi	Anthony	Tillman II
000043	Upsilon Psi	Brian	Harris
000044	Phi Psi	Domonick	Crane
000046	Psi Psi	Steven	Jacobs
000049	Gamma Sigma	Desmond	Foster
000053	Eta Sigma	Brandon	Kendrick
000056	Kappa Sigma	Christopher	Weathers Jr.
000059	Nu Sigma	Kevin	Little
000072	Gamma Epsilon	Brian	Davis
000075	Zeta Epsilon	Dominic	Day Sr.
000076	Eta Epsilon	Steven	Fisher
000080	Lambda Epsilon	Dennis	Robinson, Jr
000082	Nu Epsilon	Willie	Johnson Jr
000094	Alpha Gamma	Antoine	Stewart
000095	Beta Gamma	Isaac	Moore
000096	Gamma Gamma	Jamar	Whitehurst
000097	Delta Gamma	Tandon	Mardis
000098	Epsilon Gamma	Walter	Virgil Jr.
000101	Theta Gamma	Leslie	Davis
000108	Omicron Gamma	Calvin	Rice
000109	Pi Gamma	Eugene	Gibbs, Jr.
000110	Rho Gamma	Chandler	Blakely
000119	Beta Theta	Cleyton	McDonald
000120	Gamma Theta	Ricky	Waters Jr
000124	Eta Theta	Tracy G	Gilbert
000135	Sigma Theta	Benjamin	Bailey
000137	Upsilon Theta	Jermaine	Cooper
000139	Chi Theta		
000141	Omega Theta	Alvin	Shaw
000142	Alpha Beta	Geoffrey	Taylor
000148	Eta Beta	Lyndon	Baskin
000149	Theta Beta	Daryl	Grayer Jr.
000150	Iota Beta	Christopher	Wright, Jr.
000153	Mu Beta	Henry	Hayes
000155	Xi Beta	Quieran	Burnett
000158	Rho Beta	Brandon	Colligan
000165	Omega Beta	Bakari	White
000168	Gamma Delta	Lawrence	Williams
000190	Alpha Zeta	Keon	Morning

Chapter	Chapter Name	First Name	Last Name
000191	Beta Zeta	Joray	Wright
000195	Zeta Zeta	Jamie	Downs
000201	Mu Zeta	Randy	Crawley, Jr
000203	Xi Zeta	Sifiso	Mkhize
000211	Chi Zeta	Jamison	Simmons
000215	Beta Eta	Charles	Johnson Jr
000216	Gamma Eta	Stephon	Latham
000217	Delta Eta	Adrian	Ross
000221	Theta Eta	Preston	Waller
000235	Chi Eta	Leroy	Fields III
000241	Delta Kappa	Stephen	Holmes, Jr.
000254	Rho Kappa	Antwonne	Pierce
000271	Kappa Lambda	Justin	Walton
000278	Rho Lambda	Maurice	Sanders
000280	Tau Lambda	Marcus	Hairston
000283	Chi Lambda	Xavier	Purdy
000308	Psi Mu	Brian	Newland
000315	Zeta Delta Delta	Kordia	Hardy
000317	Theta Delta Delta	Creston	Burse
000326	Rho Delta Delta	Albert	Williams Jr
000328	Tau Delta Delta	Julian	Marchi
000333	Omega Delta Delta	Robert	Patterson
000335	Alpha Delta Zeta	Charles	Brady, Jr.
000338	Chi Tau Tau	Byron	Washington
000339	Alpha Delta Iota	Jason	Riles
000501	Alpha Omega	Marvin	Hart
000502	Beta Omega	Orrin	Ellis
000503	Gamma Omega	John	Hughes, IV
000505	Epsilon Omega	Frank	Mundy
000506	Zeta Omega	Benjamin	Holbert
000507	Eta Omega	Donald	Lee
000508	Theta Omega	Warren	Shelton Jr
000510	Kappa Omega	Arthur	Dickinson
000511	Lambda Omega	Anthony	Knight
000513	Nu Omega	Steven	McReynolds
000515	Omicron Omega	Franklin	Harris
000517	Rho Omega	Lawrence	Anderson
000519	Tau Omega	Sean David	Young
000521	Phi Omega	Daren	Thomas
000522	Chi Omega	Zollie	White Jr
000523	Psi Omega	Billy	Nichols
000524	Alpha Phi	Larry	Forest
000525	Beta Phi	Allen	Little
000526	Gamma Phi	Leonard	Webster
000528	Epsilon Phi	Earl	Young
000529	Zeta Phi	Charles	Johnson
000530	Eta Phi	Vernell	Baker
000531	Theta Phi	Wade	Rice
000532	Iota Phi	Kenneth	Minefield
000533	Kappa Phi	Frederick	Green
000534	Lambda Phi	Win	Roshell
000535	Mu Phi	James	Melvin

Chapter	Chapter Name	First Name	Last Name
000536	Nu Phi	Henry	Emanuel Jr
000538	Omicron Phi	Charles	Marshall
000541	Sigma Phi	Farrell	Duncombe
000543	Upsilon Phi	Bruce	Harman
000545	Chi Phi	Theron	Labrie
000546	Psi Phi	Gregory	Bradsher
000547	Alpha Alpha	Michael	Brice
000548	Beta Alpha	Andre	Brown
000550	Delta Alpha	Eric	Stephens
000551	Epsilon Alpha	Howard	Robinson
000552	Zeta Alpha	Robert	Gorham
000553	Eta Alpha	Robert	Robinson
000554	Theta Alpha	Patrick	Smith
000555	Iota Alpha	Adronicus	Thomas
000557	Lambda Alpha	Calvin	Beal
000558	Mu Alpha	Daryl	Grigsby
000561	Omicron Alpha	Cedric	Dickerson
000563	Rho Alpha	Bobby	Dennison
000564	Sigma Alpha	Peter	Harden
000566	Upsilon Alpha	Michael	Epps
000569	Psi Alpha	Gregory	Thompson
000571	Beta Iota	Robert	Wilson
000573	Delta Iota	Tyron	Eason
000574	Epsilon Iota	Cletus	Wilkins
000578	Iota Iota	Eric	Fairfax
000579	Kappa Iota	Dwayne	Young
000580	Lambda Iota	Abdur	Hassan
000581	Mu Iota	Leon	Adams
000582	Nu Iota	Ardis	Wright
000583	Xi Iota	Alfred	Wilson
000584	Omicron Iota	John	Edwards
000585	Pi Iota	Michael	Wilson
000586	Rho Iota	Larry	Patterson
000590	Phi Iota	Melvin	Jones
000591	Chi Iota	Darryl	Kelly
000592	Psi Iota	Charles	Moore Jr
000594	Beta Omicron	John	Veasley
000595	Gamma Omicron	Windell	Bonner
000596	Delta Omicron	Herbert	Inman Jr
000598	Zeta Omicron	Waymon	Foster
000599	Eta Omicron	Frederick	Polite
000600	Theta Omicron	Joel	Cummings
000601	Iota Omicron	Henry	Dorsey
000602	Kappa Omicron	Victor	Antoine
000603	Lambda Omicron	Eddie	Conner
000604	Mu Omicron	Terry	Nettles
000605	Nu Omicron	Robert	Stevens
000607	Omicron Omicron	Kenneth	Barnes
000609	Rho Omicron	Eldridge	Simon
000616	Alpha Upsilon	Kirk	Wilkinson
000617	Beta Upsilon	John	Williams
000618	Gamma Upsilon	Curtis	Whitten

Chapter	Chapter Name	First Name	Last Name
000619	Delta Upsilon	Larry	Lewis
000620	Epsilon Upsilon	Kevin	Hook
000624	Iota Upsilon	Jerry	Peterson
000625	Kappa Upsilon	John	Jenkins
000626	Lambda Upsilon	Benjie	Wimberly
000628	Nu Upsilon	Carlton	Lampkins
000629	Xi Upsilon	Sylvester	Pace
000630	Omicron Upsilon	Henry	Jennings
000633	Sigma Upsilon	Melvin	McWilliams
000636	Phi Upsilon	William	Anderson
000639	Alpha Chi	Michael	Angeletti
000640	Beta Chi	Kelvin	Coaxum
000642	Delta Chi	Ronald	Copes
000644	Zeta Chi	Michael J	Jenkins
000645	Eta Chi	Henry	Jackson
000646	Theta Chi	Rodney	Louis
000647	Iota Chi	Everton	Mandley
000649	Lambda Chi	Thomas	Jones
000650	Mu Chi	Anthony	Scrusse
000651	Nu Chi	Marquie	Board
000655	Rho Chi	Samuel	Baynes
000659	Phi Chi	Tyrone	Williams
000660	Chi Chi	Bruce	Little
000661	Psi Chi	Berry	Davis
000666	Delta Tau	Kemp	Oubre, Sr.
000668	Zeta Tau	Williams	Thomas
000669	Eta Tau	Julius	Green, II
000670	Theta Tau	Johnny	Harris
000671	Iota Tau	Woodrow	Doby Jr.
000672	Kappa Tau	Corey	Grubbs
000673	Lambda Tau	Dwight E	Jordan
000675	Nu Tau	Harl O	Fisher
000678	Pi Tau	Bobby	Burkes Sr
000679	Rho Tau	Marvin	Burruss
000680	Sigma Tau	Charles	Ellis
000681	Tau Tau	Walter	Hunter
000682	Upsilon Tau	James	Sanders
000684	Chi Tau	Tony	Greene
000685	Psi Tau	Willie	Peale, Jr.
000686	Alpha Rho	Keir	Abrams
000687	Beta Rho	Elmus	Stockstill
000688	Gamma Rho	Ryan	Lloyd
000689	Delta Rho	Phillip	Lemmon Sr
000690	Epsilon Rho	Robert	Browne
000692	Eta Rho	Frank	Brunson
000693	Theta Rho	Oshea	White
000695	Kappa Rho	Rodney	Sessoms
000698	Nu Rho	Printice	McGlory Jr
000700	Omicron Rho	Samuel	Cox
000701	Pi Rho	Garry	Biggers
000703	Sigma Rho	Maurice	Brown
000705	Upsilon Rho	Andrew	Smith





# Omega's Clarion Call

Chapter	Chapter Name	First Name	Last Name
000706	Phi Rho	Regenald	Byrd
000710	Beta Nu	Hubert	Ellis
000712	Delta Nu	Willie	McIntosh Jr
000713	Epsilon Nu	Loretto	Fowler
000715	Eta Nu	John	Williams Jr
000716	Theta Nu	Willie	Minor
000717	Iota Nu	Norman	Wilderson
000720	Mu Nu	Bobby	Juett
000721	Nu Nu	Mamon	Bey
000723	Omicron Nu	Tony	Goodrich
000724	Pi Nu	V.	Williams
000725	Rho Nu	Byron	Williams
000726	Sigma Nu	Keith S.	Mathews
000728	Upsilon Nu	Cecil	Shorte
000731	Psi Nu	Joseph	Neal
000732	Omega Nu	Joseph	Washington
000733	Alpha Pi	John	Humes
000734	Beta Pi	Robert	Welch II
000735	Gamma Pi	Teddy	Taylor
000736	Delta Pi	Marlowe	Gilmore
000739	Eta Pi	Anthony	Hayes
000740	Theta Pi	Shamann	Walton
000741	Iota Pi	Oscar	Neal, Jr.
000742	Kappa Pi	Jerry	Witherspoon
000744	Mu Pi	Melvin	McDaniels
000746	Xi Pi	Marcus	Gipson
000747	Omicron Pi	Talmadge	Varnado
000751	Tau Pi	Samuel	Foster
000754	Chi Pi	Raysean	Khalif
000757	Alpha Xi	Carlton	Buckhanon
000759	Gamma Xi	Michael	Banks
000760	Delta Xi	Henry	Ross
000766	Kappa Xi	Damon	Hodge
000768	Mu Xi	Timothy	Tyler
000769	Nu Xi	Wilbur	Johnson
000770	Xi Xi	Michael	Wade
000772	Pi Xi	Eugene	Horton Jr
000773	Rho Xi	Jeffery	Williams
000774	Sigma Xi	James	Anderson
000776	Upsilon Xi	Nathaniel	Birdsong Jr
000778	Chi Xi	Michael	McKinley
000779	Psi Xi	Timothy	Melton, III
000780	Omega Xi	Saeed	Henderson
000785	Beta Alpha Alpha Gamma Alpha	Bruce	Tolbert
000786	Alpha	Charles	Whittaker
000787	Delta Alpha Alpha	Ernest	Jones Jr.
000790	Eta Alpha Alpha	James	Wilson Jr
000793	Kappa Alpha Alpha Lambda Alpha	James	Brown
000794	Alpha	Edwin	Ross
000795	Mu Alpha Alpha	Eric	Bell
000796	Nu Alpha Alpha	Russell	Hollis

Chapter	Chapter Name	First Nam	Last Name
000797	Xi Alpha Alpha Omicron Alpha	Christopher	Williams
000798	Alpha	Tarzza	Williams
000806	Psi Alpha Alpha	Kenneth	Younger
000808	Alpha Beta Beta	Charles	Govan
000809	Beta Beta Beta	Willie	Williams
000811	Delta Beta Beta	Marcus	Ballard
000816	Iota Beta Beta	Jeremiah	Green
000817	Kappa Beta Beta	Diego	Howard
000818	Lambda Beta Beta	Gustavo	Perez
000819	Mu Beta Beta	Lewis	Brunner
000821	Xi Beta Beta	Harvey	Batten
000822	Omicron Beta Beta	Emmit	Bryson
000823	Pi Beta Beta	Louis	Robison
000824	Rho Beta Beta	Vernon	Weakly
000825	Sigma Beta Beta	Bernard	Eyssalenne
000828	Phi Beta Beta	Michael	Haynes
000829	Chi Beta Beta	William	Crutchfield
	Gamma Gamma		
000834	Gamma	William	Weeden
	Epsilon Gamma		
000836	Gamma	Chevalier	Duncan
	Zeta Gamma		
000837	Gamma	James	Cain
	Eta Gamma		
000838	Gamma	Ninevah	Crowley
	Theta Gamma		
000839	Gamma	Leslie	Davis
	Kappa Gamma		
000841	Gamma	Albert Jay	Blankenship
	Lambda Gamma		
000842	Gamma	Angelo	Riddick
000843	Mu Gamma Gamma	Alvin	Rew
	Omicron Gamma		
000846	Gamma	Van	Newborn
000847	Pi Gamma Gamma	Earl	Berry Jr
	Rho Gamma		
000848	Gamma	Michael	Ward
	Sigma Gamma		
000849	Gamma	Bryant	Jones
	Tau Gamma		
000850	Gamma	Conrado	Morgan
	Upsilon Gamma		
000851	Gamma	Marvin	Jennings
	Phi Gamma		
000852	Gamma	Antonio	Sampson
	Chi Gamma		
000853	Gamma	Benjamin	Hill Jr
	Omega Gamma		
000855	Gamma	Willie	Robinson Sr
000857	Beta Iota Iota	Melvin	Scott, Jr.
000861	Zeta Iota Iota	Darryl	Hicks
000864	Iota Iota Iota	William	Smith

Chapter	Chapter Name	First Name	Last Name
000865	Kappa Iota Iota	Lloyd	Boxley Jr.
000866	Lambda Iota Iota	Herbert	Washington, Sr.
000869	Xi Iota Iota	Ronald	Humphrey
000870	Omicron Iota Iota	Stanley	Moss
000876	Phi Iota Iota	Rodrek	Williams
000877	Chi Iota Iota	Reginald	Howell
000878	Psi Iota Iota	Charles	Sansbury
000879	Omega Iota Iota	Rodney	Zeigler
000880	Alpha Kappa Kappa	Kevin	Hester
000881	Beta Kappa Kappa	Leotis	McNeil II
	Epsilon Kappa		
000884	Kappa	Archie	Smith
000886	Eta Kappa Kappa	Johnnie	Ross
	Lambda Kappa		
000890	Kappa	Matthew	Butler
000891	Mu Kappa Kappa	Marion	McWilson
000892	Nu Kappa Kappa	Jojuane	Porter
	Omicron Kappa		
000894	Kappa	Darryl	McMurray
000895	Pi Kappa Kappa	Bertrand	Harry
000898	Tau Kappa Kappa	Gerald	Wilder
	Upsilon Kappa		
000899	Kappa	Taurese	Edge
000900	Phi Kappa Kappa	Michael	Randall
000901	Chi Kappa Kappa	Mack	McCrane Jr

Chapter	Chapter Name	First Name	Last Name
000902	Psi Kappa Kappa	Alonzo	McGhee
	Alpha Lambda		
000904	Lambda	Jahari	Crawford, Sr.
	Delta Lambda		
000907	Lambda	Charles	Carter
	Epsilon Lambda		
000908	Lambda	Steven	Smith
	Zeta Lambda		
000909	Lambda	Christopher	Swan
	Eta Lambda		
000910	Lambda	Anthony	Whitaker
	Theta Lambda		
000911	Lambda	Levi	Robinson
	Kappa Lambda		
000913	Lambda	Pedro	Edwards
	Lambda Lambda		
000914	Lambda	Harvey	Woodson
000917	Xi Lambda Lambda	Dennis	McGloster
000919	Pi Lambda Lambda	Harvey	Woodson
	Tau Lambda		
000922	Lambda	Granville	Johnson III
	Upsilon Lambda		
000923	Lambda	Isaac	Crawford
	Chi Lambda		
000925	Lambda	Terry	Chambers



An aerial photograph of Birmingham, Alabama, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous skyscrapers and buildings. The city is set against a backdrop of rolling hills. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Grand Conclave – Summer 2008  
July 9th through July 17th

Birmingham, AL “The Magic City”

“Friendship Is Essential To The Soul”