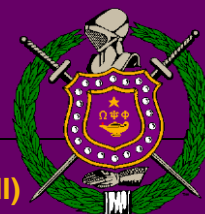




Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

International Committee - Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives (ICFMI)



Volume 4

April – May – June 2017

Number 2

“A Quarterly Publication of the International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring” ©

~~ Brother Fairchild's Corner ~~

Brothers, as we enter this season of **Father's Day** celebrations, we should reflect on the important role and responsibility of the father. Many fathers are unsung heroes working hard day in and day out without thoughts of receiving thanks for what they do. One of the tenets in the Omega Fatherhood and Mentoring effort is Celebration of Fathers. This is something that we should do more of, not just on Father's Day, but throughout the year. A little bit of encouragement goes a long way toward inspiring fathers to be better fathers; it helps to let them know that they are appreciated. Too many times fathers are portrayed in a negative light and not given credit for what they do every day. That's not to say that every father is good and responsible, but I submit - there are more doing good than not.



**Brother Robert W. Fairchild,
Chairman, Fatherhood and
Mentoring Committee**

Our Fraternity gets high marks for mentoring young men and boys. Working with and encouraging fathers, however, brings on additional challenges. I sincerely want to thank those brothers who have stepped up and are working with fathers. A special note of thanks goes to those brothers who have worked with the undergraduates and the **Future Dads Program**. This effort has shown very positive results. There are a lot of young brothers who are dads. They need all the help that they can get to be successful fathers.

Omegas are being recognized all over this country for the work that we are doing with fathers, young men and boys. Brothers, many of us are fathers; through your experiences you have a lot to offer. Therefore, I encourage you, if you have not already done so, please get involved with the Fatherhood and Mentoring effort and help us continue to make a difference.

Happy Father's Day
Bro. Fairchild

**In Friendship Brothers, Remember National Prayer for
Brother Dr. Moses C. Norman, 33rd Grand Basileus!**

Volume 4

April – May – June 2017

Number 2

1

A Quarterly Publication of the International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring

“... about Fathers, Families and Friends ...” www.omegafandm.org ©



BIA's General Manager Sam Black and Brother Keith O'Neale giving opening remarks about aviation careers.

St. Croix, Virgin Islands – April 8, 2017 – Eta Iota Iota initiates its first mentoring program for 13 to 17-year-old young men with a tour of Bohlke International Airways (BIA). Eta Iota Iota in partnership with Delta Sigma Theta's EMBODI mentoring program, coordinated the tour of BIA to expose the youth to careers in aviation. The young men were made aware of various careers that are available to them in the aeronautics industry. During the tour, the young men got to see BIA's airport operations units and a jet aircraft that is used for medivac flights.



ALL OVER THE GLOBE, OMEGA MEN ARE STANDING UP!

Chapter Donates Over £800 (\$1297.28) In Books to the Birmingham, England Children's Hospital



Birmingham, England - Chi Mu Mu Chapter's continued success has historically hinged upon the establishment of positive partnerships with institutions within the community. As part of the activities to celebrate the Chapter's 5th anniversary, **Brothers from the Chapter** as well as visiting **Brothers from the United States, the Bahamas and Germany** participated in a book donation to the hospital. Due to chronic and oftentimes long-term illnesses, many children are away from school for extended periods and this donation would assist the bedside educational tutors as well as the recreational staff with learning resources for the kids.

With the books delivered, the Chapter is developing a strategic plan to launch an ongoing literacy program to complement the educational delivery that already is in place. This social action project was made possible in part by a generous grant from the 13th International District of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

OMEGA MEN, SAVING LIVES ... ONE HANDSHAKE AT A TIME!



“...handshakes are ironclad contracts...”

Brother James E. Clyburn, U.S. Congressman (SC)

FEATURES:

1. BROTHER FAIRCHILD'S CORNER, p1
2. INTERNATIONAL ITEMS, pp2-4
3. IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL, pp 5-6
4. FROM WHERE I SIT: CHILD CUSTODY, pp 7-8
5. “BE YE STEADFAST, UNMOVABLE”: OUR STRUGGLE LIES IN THE STREETS OF LOS ANGELES, CHICAGO, NEW YORK AND EVERY CITY IN BETWEEN, pp 8-10
6. FATHERHOOD AND MENTORING ACTIVITY FROM AROUND THE DISTRICTS, pp 11-23



ALL ABOUT HEALTHCARE: THE “BARBER SHOP” TALK

**Alpha Omega’s Social Action and Scholarship Foundation Fatherhood Institute:
At Work in the Community**

NE Washington, DC –In collaboration with **MedStar Health** and **M&S Barbershop** in NE Washington DC, the Brothers of Alpha Omega Chapter engaged men in the community raising awareness about the importance of fatherhood; they distributed useful information and resources designed to help men become better fathers.

Barbershop Talk is a Fatherhood program of Alpha Omega in partnership with MedStar Health and local barbershops, as mentioned by **Brother Robert W. Fairchild**, Chairman of International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. “This barbershop tour is the beginning of some good work that will occur in other areas like Health and Human Services and the Child Support group in the city,” said Brother Fairchild. MedStar Health combines the best aspects of academic medicine, research and innovation with a complete spectrum of clinical services to advance patient care. Its areas of clinical excellence include cardiology and cardiac surgery, Orthopaedics, cancer, transplantation, rehabilitation, and emergency and trauma services.

There are 30,000 associates and 6,000 affiliated physicians who support MedStar’s patient-first philosophy of care, compassion, clinical excellence, and customer service for more than half-million

patients each year across Maryland and the Washington, D.C., region in hospitals, urgent care and ambulatory care facilities, and physician offices. (<https://www.medstarhealth.org/mhs/about-medstar>)



ALPHA OMEGA ON THE CASE – “TALKING ABOUT IT”

Child Support: I have stated in earlier editions of this column, there are three main components that comprise the issues surrounding the legal status of children vis-à-vis paternity or instances of divorce:



The Honorable
Gregory C. Pittman,
Esq.

"From time to time, I
will share commentary
and thoughts, from a
legal perspective on the
issue of Fatherhood."

Presiding Judge
14th Circuit Court
Family Division
Muskegon County
State of Michigan

**Custody
Parenting Time
Child Support**

Now that **Custody** and **Parenting Time/Visitation** have been **established**, is the issue done and over with? Is the decision that has been reached regarding this issue the final word and the parties are "stuck" with the arrangements that have been put in place.

*Like most things that involve the legal system, the
answer is "it depends."*

General principles of procedure involving this area would dictate that if the parties are satisfied with and are following the terms that have been put into place, there is no need to disturb the arrangements that have been implemented.

As we are certainly aware, by experience or information, often there comes a time when the current visitation schedule simply no longer works for the parents or for the child(ren). Let's take a moment to discuss what that process looks like when the order of visitation needs to be revisited.

First, both parents have the right to petition (i.e., file a motion for hearing or consideration) the court to have the court require the parents to return and revise the terms of the agreement. **Both mother and father have the same right** to get this and virtually all other matters before the court. Often it is assumed and sometimes purposely represented that somehow mothers have some legal right that is automatically superior to fathers...they do not!

As a general proposition, however, whichever party decides to petition the court must show that circumstances have changed in a significant way. The petitioner must show that the best interest of the child is preserved by a change in the current visitation order. So, each party *can* seek a revised

court order, but that revision *must* be necessary due to *significant change of circumstance that* was not foreseeable or reasonably anticipated.

It takes more than the father asserting that "my son needs to be with me now that he's older, so I can teach him to be a man". It is clearly foreseeable that a boy will grow and needs to be taught to be a man. And it is reasonable to anticipate that a father is the best example of manhood for that growing boy. The

law would say that you (parents) should have figured those ideals into the visitation and custody order from the outset.

A common type of issue that *will* get the courts to grant a petition for revision is when the child in question is in a living situation/environment that has become unfit or neglectful, or abusive. There is clear detriment to the child's best interest if that child is forced to remain in such without more significant intervention by the other parent.

As a practical matter, the more reasoned the petitioner in their pleadings to the court, the more likely they will see a favorable outcome!

Another type of situation that will get before the court is where a parent is moving living locations. The travel/logistical considerations involved with such a move will dictate that revisions to parenting time schedules must be made.

Children cannot, as a general proposition, petition the court for any such revision of the parenting time schedule under which they are living. Grandparents have no standing to bring such action before the courts neither for themselves nor on behalf of a grandchild who would ask them to intercede. Stepparents likewise do not have the authority or standing to initiate such court proceedings either.

I close reiterating a common theme that appears in this column. The parents involved have every right to reach agreement independent of court involvement. Whenever possible, please avail yourself of doing the difficult work of negotiating the terms of yours and your child(ren)'s relationship with the two parents involved.

The more control that you take over these matters the less involvement that the courts will have, and that is a good thing!

~~~ Friendship is Essential to the Soul! ~~~

**“Be Ye Steadfast, Unmovable ...”:  
Our Struggle Lies in The Streets of Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and Every City In Between  
By  
Brother Rev. Dr. Rodney Shelton Brooks\*, Tau Tau Chapter, Compton, CA**

**F**or decades men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., have fought nationwide to stem the impact of poverty, unstable families and street violence in the African-American community. The systemic and social issues we confront include gang warfare, pregnancies outside of marriage, drug abuse, domestic violence and youth unemployment.

Within the past fifty years, approximately two generations, a significant paradigm shift has taken place within the Black community. Many biological fathers are abdicating the responsibility of raising their own children. Personal accountability and other traditional concepts such as faithfulness and loyalty appear to be relics of the past. Concepts that at one time kept our families and communities strong have been supplanted by the philosophies of hedonism and personal entitlement.



Brother Rev. Dr. Rodney S. Brooks  
Tau Tau Chapter, Compton, CA



Phrases such as “my baby’s mamma” and “my baby’s daddy” have secured a place in our lexicon. Thanks to popular culture, particularly reality television and society’s addiction to social media, the concepts of shame and humility have also been relegated to a place in 20<sup>th</sup> Century history. As society grows coarser, a lack of dignity, manners and common courtesy abounds. Film, television, and varied genres of music continue to “push the envelope.” Sexually explicit messages coupled with stark and graphic language have contributed to the debilitating state of the African-American family. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century is a new and oft times disturbing frontier.

*“There was a time ... when Black fathers would leave the home for work in the morning. When they returned at night ... they played with their children and ...”*

In *I Corinthians, Chapter 15, verse 58*, Paul tells believers in Corinth, “*Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...*” By application, raising children is also, considered the work of the Lord. In the New Testament, Jesus often addresses His love and concern for the children. We, as men are commanded to be *steadfast and unmovable*; meaning firm, strong and confident. We are admonished to always be engaged in doing the will of God. Today, there are men in our communities who are striving to do good work and we commend and support them; but, there are those who are not willing to live the steadfast and unmovable life for the sake and the souls of their children. We must help them!

There was a time, not so long ago, when Black fathers would leave the home for work in the morning. When they returned at night after a hard day they played with their children and asked their wives about her day. Despite the challenges of personal and institutional racism, Black fathers raised generations of Black children who grew up to be judges, doctors, architects, school teachers, business owners, public servants and military professionals. In a relatively brief period, the paradigm shifted. Too many of our young Black boys and men rejected education and gainful employment in favor of a life of crime and rebellion.

The Brothers of Omega have accepted the challenge and stand in the gap on behalf of African-American men, women and children across America and around the world. The efforts of Omega men include, but are not limited to, youth leadership conferences, scholarship programs, back to school drives, health education programs and life skills training. Young men are taught how to shake hands, make eye contact, tie a necktie and practice chivalry toward women. Through our beloved fraternity our youth spend time with college educated professionals who are the embodiment of sacrifice and service.

I have lived in South Central Los Angeles for thirty-six years. My wife and I raised our six children here. Daily, I witness the positives and the negatives in our community. I have also witnessed the victories and defeats. I see young African-American scholars on their way to school by bus and by foot. I also see groups of young unemployed men self-medicated on marijuana and 40 oz. malt liquors before eleven o’clock in the morning. What stands out to me most are the number of families with children without a father in the home. The mothers, grandmothers and aunts generally lead the homes.

In our elementary and middle schools, many of the teachers are female. Our young men in training have minimal contact with positive Black male role models. In Los Angeles and surrounding counties, schools have reached out to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., requesting the presence of our mentoring program on their campuses. We have accommodated their requests for years. Many of our mentees have gone from elementary school through college under the mentorship and tutelage of a member of Omega

Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Some of our mentees have become members of our illustrious fraternity. Yet the battle is not yet won; we are still pressing forward.

The Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative is a viable method of confronting the incessant problem of absentee fathers while mitigating the devastating impact abandonment has on our community. Implemented by President Barack Obama in 2009, the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., have readily partnered with the White House and others to address the burgeoning crisis of father absence from the lives of their children. By having conferences and workshops with fathers we hope to instill in them life changing values to pass on to their sons.

Life is a succession of choices. It is our desire that future generations of African-American fathers will live lives of personal accountability and responsibility. Hopefully, this will be accomplished by Black men, nationwide, emulating the principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. Our struggle lies in the streets of Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and every city in between. Our mission, among many, is to improve the lives of African-American fathers and their children through our words and deeds. A changing world has cast down the gauntlet; the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., accept the challenge.

Brother Rev. Dr. Rodney S. Brooks  
Tau Tau Chapter, Compton, CA.  
June 2017

**\*Editor's Note: Dr. Rodney Shelton Brooks** was born in Baltimore, MD. He matriculated at Morgan State University, Loyola Marymount University and the California Graduate School of Theology. Dr. Brooks served his country as a Lieutenant in the United States Army and recently retired from the Glendale, CA Police Department as a Detective Lieutenant. He has been married for thirty-seven years to his wife, Renee. The marriage has produced six children and one grand-daughter. Dr. Brooks is an active member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and presently serves our Lord Jesus Christ at Bible Baptist Church, South Bay, CA. Dr. Brooks manages logistics and timeline for the annual Youth Leadership Conference, Tau Tau Chapter/Omega Educational Foundation, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

See our Website:

[www.omegafandm.org](http://www.omegafandm.org)

**Submittal dates:**  
**September 15 for publication**  
**October 1, 2017**  
**Send Information to:**  
**[geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net)**

## Fatherhood and Mentoring Activity from Around the Districts:

### 1<sup>st</sup> District

#### ALPHA NU CHAPTER HOLDS ITS 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION & LUNCHEON

**Stamford, CT - June 17, 2017 -** Alpha Nu Chapter held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Father's Day Recognition and Celebration of Outstanding Father Figures in the community. The event was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Stamford, CT and was attended by approximately two hundred participants.

Four fathers were recognized for the significant role that they continuously play in the lives of young people. Their effort highlights the important role of fathers in the community and focuses attention on the need to express appreciation, gratitude and respect to active fathers.

**Brooklyn, NY -** Brother Thabiti Boone, Former White House Fatherhood Champion and Representative during the Obama administration and co-chairman of the International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring, returned to his former Brooklyn, NY neighborhood to participate in the annual Father's Day Mental Health Walk Against Violence.

This was the 6th annual event where hundreds of Father's, men and young men, walked 5 miles to celebrate Father's, promote the importance of Mental & Physical

Health and take a stand against violence in the community.



**Brother Thabiti Boone (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) back home in Brooklyn with Brothers**

The walk was organized by **Man Up! Inc.**, a community based organization. Marchers included elected officials, members of the Nation of Islam, Fatherhood leaders, clergy and community organizations. There was an award ceremony honoring outstanding community Father's.



**The Walk begins at 8am at Ralph & Sutter Ave and ends at 9am at Robert Venerable Park on Sutter & Lincoln Ave**

#### **Father's Day Award Ceremony**

**After the Walk, we will host our Father's Day Award Ceremony at Robert Venerable Park between 10am and 11am**

**For Additional Information Call:**

**718-498-2320**

**Man Up! Inc.**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> District

#### Fatherhood and Mentoring Connects with External Organizations

**NY, NJ, DE, PA and MD –** The 2nd District has partnered with two civic organizations because of the work Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., is doing regarding Fatherhood and Mentoring in communities.



**Brother David Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring**

Brother David Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman said, "I don't think we truly realize the tremendous impact we continue to have in communities across the 2nd District that impacts the entire family."

He continued, "Our generation can claim an increase in commitment to strengthening families by establishing mentoring



programs for young males to help them reach their full potential as a person, student and/or responsible citizen.”

The 2<sup>nd</sup> District is being intentional about developing programs to help dads and future dads “help their children grow into healthy young people,” he offered. The most recent program initiative introduced by the fraternity is titled: **Future Dads program**. It was announced at the 2016 Undergraduate Summit and was well received by the attendees.

Chapters across the District are encouraged to partner with other like-minded organizations that are intentional about mentoring future dads and helping young men to become better Fathers!

**Big Brothers and Big Sisters National Office** is seeking to partner with Chapters that want to engage with local organizations in communities where there are Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Chapters. Chapter leaders should contact local Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization partnership possibilities.

Teaming with a reputable and honorable National Organization such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters that’s intentional about mentoring young people will enhance Chapters ability to strengthening families across the 2nd District. (Submitted by Donald Williams II, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chairman, Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee.)

### **Dr. Ernest Everett Just Youth Leadership and Life Skills Program**

**Montclair, NJ – “Mighty Mighty”** Eta Pi Chapter, in collaboration with the Greater Essex Community Uplift Foundation engages middle school youth in partnership with the Dr. Ernest Everett Just Youth Leadership and Life Skills program.

Some of today’s youth are facing unparalleled challenges at home and in their communities. These unparalleled challenges are due in part to lack of traditional parental structures, communities dominated by one-parent households, or households where both parents must spend more time at work than they do with their children.

And, children are left to spend much of their idled time with unsupervised social media, television, radio or friends. The amount of negative information in our American Society outweighs the positive information our students receive daily.

Because of these truths, Eta Pi Chapter has joined with other community leaders, educators and professionals to teach our youth how to navigate through the distractions of society. We have resolved to provide them with essential educational, mental and physical life skills.

The Dr. Ernest Everett Just Youth Leadership and Life Skills program (DEEJYLLS) provides young males in grades 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> opportunities to participate in

leadership, character building, career exploration, life skills development, financial literacy, public speaking, conflict resolution, as well as recreational and cultural workshop events.

DEEJYLLS program is designed to help students and parents address everyday issues, such as peer pressure and racism. It will also help students understand the importance of attaining higher academic achievements and serving their communities.

DEEJYLLS program has three components: instructional learning; culture enrichment and personal development; and, recreational activities.

To be accepted into the program, mentees must meet the following criteria:

1. Mentees must be in grades 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and must come from the greater Essex County area.
2. Mentees must submit a 1-page essay stating, how they “will benefit from the mentoring program.” And,
3. Mentees must submit a brief description of their college and/or career aspirations.

An official and acceptable application should include completion of all releases. Parents must agree to serve as active participants in the program’s initiatives, for example, attend orientations, community service and game day. (Submitted by Barry R. Devone III, MPA.)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> District**

**Washington, DC - Alpha Omega Social Action and Scholarship**

Foundation Fatherhood Institute is at work in the community.

In collaboration with MedStar Health and M&S Barbershop in NE Washington DC, the Brothers of Alpha Omega Chapter engaged men in the community raising awareness about the importance of fatherhood. During the Barbershop Tour, they spoke with and distributed useful information and resources designed to help men become better fathers.



Alpha Omega: The Talk

#### 4<sup>th</sup> District

##### 76<sup>th</sup> Annual District Meeting

*"Go Mountaineers" & "Thundering Herd"*

**Morgantown, WV – April 28, 2017** – Alpha Alpha Alpha Chapter hosted a Fatherhood and Mentoring program as part of the 76th Mighty 4th District Meeting.

**Next Deadline: September 15**



This event was a "Lunch & Learn" mentoring session held at the host hotel and was attended by 20 at risk Black young men from Morgantown High School and 3 respective guidance counselors. Meals were provided by the District.

The proceedings were initiated with prayer by past 4<sup>th</sup> District Representative Brother Dr. Gregory Epps. Brother Aaron Greenfield, Fatherhood and Mentoring Program Coordinator, led the introductions of attendees and presentation of the theme: Portraits in Manhood: A Fatherhood Initiative.

Amongst the speakers in attendance were Brothers Daryl S. Cameron, Immediate Past 4<sup>th</sup> District Representative, Bobby Robinson, 4<sup>th</sup> District Representative, and J. T. Thomas, 4<sup>th</sup> District Keeper of Peace/Alpha Alpha Alpha Basileus.

The men of Omega engaged the captivated youths in individual table settings. The young men discussed their individual aspirations, as well as, personal concerns regarding their current

outlooks for the future. Earnest feedback and genuine Uplift was provided by the Omega Men.

The evaluation of the event was positive from all stakeholders. Representatives from Morgantown High School have expressed their desire to participate in this mentoring program through AAA Chapter's Fatherhood and Mentoring Program for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year.

A formal mentoring program has been drafted and submitted to the Monongalia County School District for expansion of this initiative.

The Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative committee wishes to express its appreciation to all who contributed their time, efforts, and resources in making this event a tremendous success. This nationally mandated program will continue to be of benefit to minority youths in the Morgantown area.

#### Giving Back to the Community Football Camp

**Charleston, WV, May 27, 2017** – A host of area youth between the ages of six and 16 gathered at University of Charleston Stadium Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual "Giving Back to the Community" Free Football Camp.



**Brother Mark Mason - the Herd**

Brother Mark Mason, founder of the program, and a 1991 Marshall University defensive player of the year and former all-star linebacker for the Charleston Rockets (semi-pro team), directs this charitable football camp.

The camp's purpose is to provide an opportunity for young people within the community, who may not have the resources, to attend an athletic camp that focuses on teaching values and providing counseling services.

"The first and most important thing is respect. We try to teach the youth to have respect for parents, their coaches and other kids," said Brother Mason. Activities throughout the day consisted of guest speakers, instructions on offensive and defensive techniques as well as counseling services to promote "Stay in School," "How to Succeed in Life," and "Say No to Drugs."

During the "Say No to Drugs" Seminar, Brother Mason brought former inmates in to speak with the youth about what can happen when bad decisions are made. "We try to teach that life is full of choices and by making the right ones they will be able to succeed," he said.

Brother Mason was inspired to start the camp by Shirley Singleton (a lady who worked at the Community Center where Brother Mason grew up). Ms. Singleton challenged Brother Mason to give something back to his community. This challenge led him to found the "Giving Back to the Community" football camp free of cost to all kids.



In addition to Omega Men speaking on various topics and helping with coaching; several former WVU and Marshall University players, WVU Hall of Fame Coach Don Nehlen, Marshall's Bob Pruett, NFL All-Star Troy Brown & NFL All-Star Randy Moss have all been featured at the camp in times past.

A host of organizations contribute annually for this worthwhile event, and multiple Omega men have helped for many years. However, it was in 2009, when the Fourth District Meeting was being hosted in Charleston and Xi Alpha Chapter organized a community service collaboration between Brother Mason's camp and the Fourth District.

Brother Mason said he saw a sea of Black men coming across the street from the hotel to the Community Center some in

business attire, while others had dressed down and were ready to work out with the youth.

This was the inspiration which caused Brother Mason to seek Omega. Now Brother Mason is one of the hardest working Brothers in Xi Alpha Chapter; he was a Brotherhood Award recipient the past two years, he chairs the Social Action Committee and Xi Alpha Chapter is proud of him.

## 5<sup>th</sup> District

### The Manhood Project

**Memphis, TN- May 10, 2017-** The Brothers of Epsilon Phi Chapter, concluded a community action project titled "The Manhood Project". This project was born out of civil unrest surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2016.



Omega Brothers Irwin Todd and Quincy Snider were discussing ways to get involved with helping youth not fall victims to peer pressure, gang activities and civil disobedience.

Brothers Todd and Snider approached Principal Latasha Harris, Riverview Middle School K-8 with their proposal to invest



their time, talent to work with the youth on how to interact with police. Riverview Middle School was selected because it is in the same community where the Omega Fraternity House is located.

The Fall 2016 speaking sessions with the young men made a large impact. The Brothers were asked by Riverview Middle school liaison Ms. Tameka Williams, who works for Communities in Action, to come back in the spring of 2017 and continue to meet with the young men.

The Brothers of the Epsilon Phi Chapter accepted the request and tailored the program to expand beyond how to interact with police. Brothers Todd and Snider wanted to have a “real” conversation with these young men.

Many of the young men do not have their fathers in the home for one reason or another and are raised by women. We knew we had to talk with them like young black men in their familiar language. At that point, we decided to call the next phase of the program the “Manhood Project”. This name symbolized what we wanted to address relative to our real conversations: **How to be a man and what is a man.**

Topics covered included: gangs, personal hygiene, respect for women, careers, self-esteem and how to start a bank account to name only a few. This could not have been successful without the help of a group of Chapter Brothers. Brothers who are members of the Memphis Police Department and Memphis City

Council contributed their time to speak with these young men.

### **Fathers Fishing with Their Families**

**Memphis, TN - June 17, 2017** – “I love this because my grandson has been talking about this since yesterday!!! Thanks for the investment in their lives!!,” Dr. Linda Hughlett.



**Hold that line “Lil brother!”**

Sigma Lambda Lambda Chapter in Memphis, TN held its first event, “Fathers Fishing with their Families,” on June 17, 2017. The goal of the outing was to give fathers one-on-one time with their children. This is one of several measurable benchmarks of the program. This event allowed for more than 120 hours of activity time with the fathers in the program and their children.

The event also opened a discussion for the next meeting. The fathers in attendance disclosed a very familiar deficiency in some communities. Many of the fathers in attendance were from the inner city. Some verbalized the lack of

knowledge as it relates to the activity. However, all were eager to learn.

One of the participants, Jay, mentioned to one of the program staff, “I don’t know what to do. My dad was never around. He never did anything like this for or with me. I will need help teaching my son. He was so excited this morning. I couldn’t believe it. The smile on his face was priceless. Thanks!”

Aulton Green representing the Green family said, that he really enjoyed “fishing with the kids, my dad, and the Ques! It was a great event, MG caught 5, dad caught 4, and Lil AG caught 3.”



**The Green Family**

The fishing event became exciting very quickly. The race began with who would catch the first fish. Then it led to who caught the biggest and so on. The highlight of the day was the image disclosed to the community.

The chapter promoted Fathers bonding with their children. It looked natural seeing them talk and interact while casting, fixing poles or catching their child’s first fish. (Submitted by Brother Oliver Williams)

## 7<sup>th</sup> District

### FUTURE DADS PROGRAM 80<sup>th</sup> Seventh District Meeting



**Fort Lauderdale, FL** - With the full support of the Seventh District Council, The Future Dads Program was introduced district-wide during the 80<sup>th</sup> Seventh District Meeting.

Brothers Earl Wilson, International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee Co-Chairman and Jonathan Gaines - 7<sup>th</sup> District Fatherhood Chairman, conducted the Future Dad's workshop.

Its purpose was two-fold: to engage brothers in a dialogue to bring awareness to the significance of fatherhood, and, to open a dialogue with undergraduate brothers who are fathers or expecting to be a father.

The workshop created a platform where brothers in attendance for first time openly shared their joys and challenges of being and/or fighting still to be a father to their child.

Undergraduate brothers and Advisors were presented with the challenge and opportunity to create

a **Future Dads Program**/Male Support Program on their college campus.

Graduate and Undergraduate Brothers in attendance received a Fatherhood & Mentoring Initiative Guide and Operation Manual to provide needed tools and resources to initiate a program. (Written & Submitted by: Brother Jonathan Gaines – Chairman 7th District Fatherhood Initiative & Mentorship Committee.)

### Omega - Undergraduate Future Dads Panel Discussion

**Atlanta, GA – June 17, 2017** - Atlanta area Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., undergraduate members have answered the call and taken the mantle of leadership to educate students on the impact of absentee fathers on the family.

A panel discussion was held on Saturday, June 17, 2015 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on the campus of Georgia Tech University, in The Klaus Advance Computing Building, Lecture Auditorium.

The empowerment session included subject matter experts discussing the importance of celebrating fatherhood, decreasing premature parenting and understanding the laws that affect fathers, i.e., non-custodial and single parents.

The “free luncheon and details event” was part of the Fraternity's Future Dads programs that engages both male and female college students to be the generation change agents. The groups were

told they could be change agents for their generation by promoting the increased involvement of fathers' in their children's lives.

Judicial officials, attorneys, family advocates, mediators, students and parents engaged in dialogue on topics of: A Father's Value, the Right Father for Your Child, Laws that Affect Single Parents, Both Parents Matter and Non-Custodial Parent Challenges.

The interactive town hall meeting gave attendees life changing information that sought to advance families for generations. For information contact: S. Earl Wilson at [undenied16@aol.com](mailto:undenied16@aol.com) 404-219-6624 or Anthony Kadri, at [anthonykadri.oppf@gmail.com](mailto:anthonykadri.oppf@gmail.com) or by phone at 770-361-7958.

## 8<sup>th</sup> District

### Xi Pi Supports Bricker Elementary School

**Colorado Springs, CO** – The Xi Pi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., started supporting Bricker Elementary School approximately 3 years ago. That support included, but was not limited to, acting as role models and mentoring the fifth-grade male students attending the school. This endeavor has, to date, made a lasting impact on the fifth-grade male students attending the school.

Xi Pi Chapter received a letter of appreciation from Bricker Elementary School principal Jeremy Andrick stating, "we reduced the number of suspension

by 50%, increased the number of boys on the honor roll, and overall positively impacted the young men and the school culture” generally.

The letter also referenced the high poverty environment in which many of the students live, and Principal Andrick keenly observed that these students "do not lack in dreams and aspirations", and noted that they "now know that people believe in them regardless of circumstance."

Principal Andrick stated that he has worked with many individuals and organizations in the past, but none compared to the enduring support and lofty ideals that guide the work of the Xi Pi Chapter. Partnering with the school was the seed for a much larger body of work.



**Principal Andrick and Students**

On March 8, 2017, Xi Pi Chapter Brothers spent quality time at Bricker Elementary School mentoring students. The mentoring included talks about leadership, personal responsibility and giving back. The students' parents were there to hear their sons addressed by the brothers. The Chapter has established a recurring relationship with these fifth-grade boys.

The Chapter's Foundation donated \$1000 to the group, allowing many of the boys to purchase and wear dress shirts and ties to our mentorship meetings.

## 12<sup>th</sup> District

### Fatherhood Initiative 2017 BETA MU MU

Las Vegas, NV - Beta Mu Mu Chapter pursued its Fatherhood Initiative by partnering with existing community programs. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter the chapter participated in Real Talk, a youth intervention program. In May Mr. Alex Bernal, of the Clark County Gang Intervention program, spoke passionately and with wisdom about his gang involvement as a youth. The focus of his message was that only the individual can make the choice to take a different path.

One of the hallmarks of Real Talk is parent participation and attendance at the monthly meeting.



The photograph above highlights the parents in attendance at the June meeting where the topic of "youth suicide" was discussed by Sheree Corniel, founder and Executive Director of Real Talk.

Ms. Corniel recently lost a nephew to suicide and addressed this as an increasing issue among youth. After her talk, four young people approached her and revealed that they had serious thoughts about taking their own life. Her message was one of hope and dreams and the meaning of the "dash" between your date of birth and your date of your death.

Brothers Larry Clarke and Randy Bacon attended these sessions and assisted as needed. In the future, the following Omega Brothers have volunteered to speak at a Real Talk meeting: Anthony Curinton, Monty McCoy, and Stan Chapman.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> Brother Robert Taylor served and participated in the Youth & Justice Forum at Cheyenne High School. Brother Taylor assisted in breakfast preparation as well as serving lunch in the afternoon. Brother Taylor also participated in role play sessions with the youth and officers from the North Las Vegas Police Department and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

The goal of the event was to instruct students on preventative measures to avoid conflict with police if stopped or questioned. Positive attitude and respect were the focal points and the take-aways from the forum.

Several local Greek organizations participated in the event along with law enforcement, government officials, and criminal justice attorneys. Brothers of Beta Mu Mu are working to give back to our communities and to promote



fatherhood by projecting positive involvement. (By Brother Larry Clarke, Beta Mu Mu.)

## Glow Bowl for Kids' Sake

**Phoenix, AZ – Saturday June 10, 2017** – Brothers from Phi Iota Chapter, along with friends, participated in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Glow Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraising event.

Glow Bowl for Kids' Sake is Big Brothers Big Sisters largest national fundraiser, raising over \$20 million annually for children in need across the country. Because of Glow Bowl for Kids' Sake, more Bigs and Littles can be paired up, more friendships can be created and improved outlooks on life can be started.

the program and enjoyed an evening of food, fun, and fundraising with their Littles.

The one day event raised over \$45,000 and all money raised for Glow Bowl for Kids' Sake will go directly towards funding mentor programs.

The Brothers of Phi Iota have been long term supporters of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program by sitting on the Board of Directors, being active Bigs, and supporting various fundraising activities throughout the year.

"Positive Youth Development and enrichment is a major goal for us as Brothers here in the Valley of the Sun and we take it seriously," says Bro. Andrew Davis, Basileus of Phoenix's Phi Iota Chapter.

"Our relationship with BBBS here in Phoenix has allowed us to

## Phi Iota, Alpha Theta, and Omega Youth Leadership Academy: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Living Above the Influence (LATI) Conference.

**Phoenix, AZ** - Living Above the Influence (LATI) summit took place Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on the newly designed and state of art campus, Hope College and Career Readiness Academy. It brought together 60 males of color in grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> from across the state. Lunch, t-shirts, door prizes, and registration packets were included.

Keynote speaker was Brother Dr. Ben Harrison: *Surviving the Police Stop*. Morning workshops included *Social Media* (Brothers Randy Jones & Larry Ross), *Time Management* (Bro. Andrew Davis), *Career Readiness 101* (Bros. Dwayne Ross & Melvin Jones). Special guest was Olympian Gold Medalist Maurice Green.

After lunch Brother Clyde Miller presented on *Healthy Life Choices*. In addition, a Youth Panel discussion on *Civic Engagement* was led by Bro. Marc Sutton. Essay Scholarships were awarded to two youth.

Founded in 2011, the LATI Conference is part of the community collaboration to support President Obama's *My Brother's Keeper Initiative* and the *Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Fatherhood & Mentor Initiative*. LATI has provided service and educational enrichments to over 1000 males of color who have gone



4th from the left are: Curt Magnum Sr., Curt Magnum II, and Andrew Davis. Davis' mentee, Gavin Washington, standing in front of Davis pose with friends of Omega and mentee at Glow Bowl for Kids' Sake.

Glow Bowl for Kids' Sake is a fun and easy way to positively impact a child's life. Many Phi Iota Chapter members are active Bigs in

leverage available resources and programs to reach even more youth in our community."

on to pursue higher education and lead positive and productive lives.

Sponsors and supporters include Gamma Mu Educational Services, HOPE College and Career Readiness Academy, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Iota, Phoenix alumni and Alpha Theta, Arizona State University, Chapters.

### **Fathers, Families and Friends Celebrate 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Zeta Tau Chapter Rose Bowl Walk**



**Fathers, Families and Friends of Zeta Tau Chapter**

**Pasadena, CA – June 17, 2017 –**

For the Fifth consecutive year, men of Zeta Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., have gathered at the famous “*Grand Daddy of them all*” – the Rose Bowl with Families and Friends to celebrate Fathers.

After the 3.3-mile walk, the brothers and their families and friends gathers at the cook out site to engage in fun activity and simply the usual talk.

Brother Harold Reese, coordinator of the event, was pleased with the turnout of families, friends and brothers from across the SoCal area. “We hope

that with these walks, our children will know our love for them,” he added. Harold’s two sons H. Glenn and Brian Andrew were there helping mom and dad by serving as Chefs extraordinaire.

This was an especially great Father’s Day for the Reese family. Their son Glenn just completed his master’s degree from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.



**Proud father Brother Harold G. Reese, Sr., wife Galene, sons Glenn & Brian: “Congratulations Glenn!”**

Brother James Wilson, Chapter Fatherhood Initiative Chairman, was very pleased with this year’s turnout particularly the growth that the pre-Father’s Day walk has seen.

He said, “the Zeta Tau Father’s Day walk affords an excellent opportunity for parents and their kids to experience the beauty of the Rose Bowl complex, enjoy each other, plus a chance to interact with other area parents and kids.”

This year’s walk was the most attended ever. “Zeta Tau plans to make this one the biggest and most respected events in Omega,” said Brother Wilson.

### **14 Years of Consistent Mentoring Work with Youth in SoCal**

**Compton, CA – June 10, 2017 –**

In 2003, brothers of Tau Tau Chapter and the Omega Educational Foundation, Inc., (OEF) resolved to change the narrative for how to successfully mentor young black boys from the city.

These worthy Omega men had just completed their tenth year of producing a successful series of Youth Leadership Conferences (YLCs) that were held on college campuses i.e., Southwest College and Compton College.



**L-R: Brothers James LaFlourche, Kwame Dow, James Banks, Raphael Irving, Ronnie Walker, Anthony Turner, Derrick Delaney, Donovan Carter, Rodney Jones, Byron Castine, Ricky Lewis, James Henderson, and Jeremy Lacewell.**

In the photo above, Omega men are surrounding four of six gleeful mentees who will join the ranks of college students in the fall 2017 with brand new lap tops. A total of 6 laptops were given out. Two of the young mentees could not attend due to prior commitments.





**L-R: Nolan Enrique, California Baptist University; Duke Florence, UC Riverside; Christopher Moret, University of Northern Colorado; David Harvey, San Francisco State University; Brother Ronnie Walker, Mentor Program POC. Rodney Jones (Not shown), Justin Gilmore - Syracuse University (Not shown)**

In the first ten years of the YLC, some students had begun to graduate from high school and go on to college. But, something in the program appeared to be missing; it seemed after being away from the familiarity of home, within a year students would be back at home knocking on mom's door.

The fraternity became concerned about the adjustment students were making when they went off to college, especially out of state. That's when Brother Ricky Lewis, Executive Director of the Omega Educational Foundation, Inc., member of Tau Tau Chapter and former 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., concluded something needed to change.

And things did change. They instituted a mentoring program. Brother Ronnie Walker, who at that time was an officer of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), was asked to lead the initiative. "I gathered a few dedicated Omega men and we

started signing up boys," said Walker.

In the years since 2003, the mentoring program has seen 300 to 400 mentees. Over the past 14 years, some 50 to 100 Brothers of Omega have been involved in delivering thousands of hours of direct services to this initiative. The program continues to increase the parental involvement.

## 13<sup>th</sup> District

### K1 Speed Racing

**Honolulu, Hawaii** - On 3 June 2017, Patrick Provencio (Mentee) blessed Lambda Beta Beta Chapter with a prayer before we indulged into any activities. The Mentees started off by playing some video games while we were waiting on our time to race.



During this time, mentors took the opportunity to converse with each young man about various topics about "LIFE." One was when one of the mentees held a gun from the video game up to his head and jokingly stated that I'm going to commit suicide. Brother Fair immediately corrected him by stating that we don't play like that and you shouldn't ever point a gun at anyone nor yourself.

Brother Fair went on to explain how guns don't kill or hurt people but the individual pulling the trigger does. While on the race course the mentees had the opportunity to experience what a racecar driver experience through go kart racing.

For some, this was their first time driving and it gave them a wealth of knowledge. Some of the technics they learned were the following: location of the gas pedal/brake – proper fitting of a helmet/seat belt - recognition of various flags for safety – how to recover from an accident.

After the races, we went to Outback Steak House for lunch and Quinton Ray (Mentee) blessed the food which we were about to consume. Everyone left with a smile on their face and some life lessons learned.



**"Gentlemen, Start Your Engines!!"**

### Father/Daughter Dance

**Yokosuka, Japan** – On April 15th the "Samurai Ques" of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter held its 3rd Annual Father/Daughter Dance



at the Yokosuka Officers' Club. This event has been a local area favorite for the past few years and this year's event raised the bar even higher. There were over 120 fathers and daughters in attendance and the evening events consisted of a sit-down buffet, face painting, entertainment, professional photos, and of course dancing with dads.

This popular dance for the young ladies and the man in their life – their dad, was nothing short of spectacular! This great opportunity allowed dads to treat their princesses to a semiformal night of dancing and fun.



The Father Daughter Dance provided a great opportunity for dads to spend time with their daughters; in today's busy world that opportunity isn't always present. We continue to have many couples share their enjoyment for this dance and the uniqueness it adds to their memories.

While some Brothers present didn't have daughters, who could be in attendance, we were able to create an environment through this event that facilitated an ideal opportunity for the fathers with daughters to bond and strengthen their relationships.

In addition, as ULL remains firm and committed to Fatherhood and Mentoring, there were several activities and events that brothers oversaw which allowed for an even greater opportunity to have fathers share special moments of teamwork, mentoring, and teaching with their daughter.

Brother Dimitry Vincent was expected to be in attendance with his young daughter. However, his deployment was unexpectedly extended. The brothers rallied around his family and filled in as much as she allowed us, but his daughter made it clear that there's no replacing her dad!



Dimitry Vincent's Wife and Daughters

### SGG Chapter Promotes Dads of Great Students Program By Brother Michael Robinson

**Okinawa, Japan** – Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter participated in monthly volunteering events at Kadena Elementary School in support of their **Watch Dads of Great Students** program.

Brothers Michael Robinson Cortez Pree, Daniel Thompson and Courtney Arnold completed the required classroom training

facilitated by **Watch Dads of Great Students** coordinator and Assistant Principal Ms. Lorri Vallone. She stated the purpose of the program was to get more fathers involved spending time and educating children. The main objectives are:

- 1) To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrated by their presence that education is important.
- 2) To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.



Brothers Cortez Pree and Michael Robinson with Kadena Elementary School students and Mrs. Lorri Vallone Assistant Principal and Watch Dads of Great Students Coordinator.

Brothers enjoyed volunteering and supporting the **Dads of Great Students** program look forward to doing more with students, staff and teachers at Kadena Elementary School.

### Month of Military Child Event By Brother Michael Robinson

**Okinawa, Japan** - Since 1986, the month of April has been observed as the Month of the Military Child. It draws special attention to thank military families and their children

for the daily sacrifices and challenges they face and overcome.

During the month of April, Department of Defense Education and Activity (DoDEA) schools around the world plan special events to highlight programs and services provided for military connected students.



**“Purple Up! For Military Kids!”**

On Friday April 21, 2017 Brother Michael Robinson, Brother Cortez Pree and Brother Keith Rascoe participated in the **“Purple Up! For Military Kids”** event at Camp Kinser Elementary School. Teachers and staff members wore purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices.

Purple was chosen because, it represents the combined colors of all branches of the military – Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine Corps red, and Navy blue.

### **SGG Participate in STEM Event**

By

**Brother Michael Robinson**

**Okinawa, Japan** – Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., participated in the

DoDEA South Pacific District Science and Robotic Fair held on April 28, 2017 at the Foster Field House and Community Center on Camp Foster Marine Corps Base in Okinawa, Japan.



**Elementary student assembling project number 6 for a Laser Gun. It demonstrates how integrated circuits can be changed to exciting space war sounds.**

Elementary, middle and high school students from schools on local military installations participated in presenting scientific displays and robotic presentations.

The Chapter set up a display booth highlighting the need for diversity of women, boys and girls in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Brothers Michael Robinson a government employee engineering technician with the U.S. Air Force and Anthony Gantt, an engineer in the U.S. Marine Corps set up circuit clips for students to gain a better understanding of how electrical devices work in our daily activities.

In addition, a demonstration book was provided for boys and girls to see photos and accomplishments of the top 43

most powerful engineering females in the U.S. technology industry. Brother Kedric Wester, Medical Doctor at White Beach CTF-76 Naval Facility in Okinawa, also demonstrated how robots are being used to conduct medical procedures.

Mr. Michael Thompson, Superintendent of the DoDEA Pacific South District in Okinawa, Japan presented a certificate of appreciation to the Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter for contributions, time, dedication and efforts in promoting STEM careers.

### **About This Newsletter:**

**The goal is:** to include information from each District each quarter about their Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives.

**District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairmen should submit at least one Fatherhood Activity and at least one Mentoring Activity from their District each quarter to:**

**Brother Dr. George D. Taylor:**

[geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net)

**Deadline dates:**

**December 15**

**March 15**

**June 15**

**September 15**

**December 15 of each year.**