



# Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

## Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring (FIM) Newsletter



Fatherhood Initiative

Youth Leadership Conferences

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

*Project Manhood*

*Brother, You're on My Mind! ©*

*My Brother's Keeper*

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No. 1

*"Quarterly Publication of the International Committee on Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring" ©*

### Message from the Chairman:

#### "Why Mandate Fatherhood and Mentoring?"

**A**s the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., assembles for its 83<sup>rd</sup> Grand Conclave in Charlotte, North Carolina in July 2022, it seeks to answer the question; *"Why should Fatherhood and Mentoring become a fraternity mandated program?"*

The answer is simple, **fatherhood** and **mentoring** are embedded in the fraternity's DNA. The fraternity was born by examples of the work of fathers and mentors. A faculty member who, older and wiser, and one of the world's most prodigious science thought leaders of the time, was our first example as he advised and mentored three scholarly undergraduates. These students and their mentor envisioned bringing about an organization consisting of men of like minds that would always matter to black Americans and the greater society.

In the beginning, our founders etched mentoring into the fabric of the fraternity as they laid out four *cardinal* principles to guide the development and structure of our organization. Those four cardinal principles began with Manhood and ended with Uplift – two of the four cornerstones that to this day guides the focus of the fraternity. Our founders, early on, championed issues that adversely affected our communities. Whether the issues were racial injustice,

housing discrimination, voting rights, educational inequities or lack of access to public accommodations, Omega men were there – the issues were real, the issues were championed.

Today, one of the nation's most pressing challenges is the narrative of young black men and black fathers estranged from being fully engaged in the lives of their children and families. In 2020, U. S. Census data revealed there are 4.25 million single black mothers who are head of household – an increase from 1990 levels, when there were about 3.4 million black families with a single mother as head of household and single black fathers in 2020 totaled 1.23 million.

To address these issues, our fraternity joined in partnership with president Barack H. Obama to tackle the critical importance of valuing Fatherhood. By focusing on the whole male experience from childhood to adulthood, we are helping men become better fathers and mentors. This work is important and critical to our society as well as to our fraternity.



**S. Earl Wilson, Chairman  
Fatherhood Initiative and  
Mentoring Committee**

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THE LAST THREE GRAND BASILEI (Ray, Knox and Marion) made Fatherhood and Mentoring a top priority of their administrations. They extended funds and resources to this noble cause. Fatherhood and Mentoring as a mandated program will offer the fraternity the opportunity to increase its range of impact and funding capacity. It will provide the Fraternity with stronger buy-in from the Brotherhood (*Graduates and Undergraduates*) that will continue to change the narrative and trajectory of fathers, men and young men for years to come. In words expressed by our undergraduate representative brother Elliott Kelly, Jr., “*mentoring is a life-style.*” It is also life-saving.

Several Chapters are already engaged with youth mentoring and assisting fathers with life skills. Fathers involved and interacting in communities is a powerful source of support that brings men closer together and sets the stage to expand the range for solving community issues. Year after year, we continue to receive encouraging comments from constituents including parents, youth, cities, communities around the world, and members of the Fraternity as *we too* are part of the family of fathers, men and boys.

Commenting on one of our recent virtual Youth Leadership Conferences, **Ms. R. Garcia wrote:** “*The Omega Youth Conference provided a lot of interesting information. I particularly enjoyed the college admission and acceptance pointers which I was not aware of ... and the segment [Fatherhood] you introduced. There are so many children who do not have a father in the picture. It is very sad yet a reality. But it is people like you and your brothers who make a difference, so thank you. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, it changes lives ...*”

As we teach and work externally with mentees and communities, we learn to be better fathers, men, and

boys in reverence to our cardinal principal – *Manhood*. All parties – *Fraternity and community* – benefit from our efforts. We aide our constituents with challenges they face in school and in life through these specific programmatic initiatives: Fatherhood and Mentoring, Project Manhood, Youth Leadership Conferences and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

The Fraternity is strategically positioned and uniquely prepared to continue our partnerships with others (community organizations, public agencies, school districts, corporate, governmental, civic, and private entities), who share the same values in a direct and expanded way. Our annual Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring’s **Congressional Black Caucus Forum** enhances the fraternity’s brand and expands its political, social, economic, and public outreach capacity. Moving Fatherhood and Mentoring to a Mandated Program allows for increased *attention, focus, and funding* (AFF). Thus, our Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring efforts will be at the forefront of our fraternal interest for years to come.

To that point, when former mentees attend college, they are likely to join the fraternity with the knowledge of what the organization stands for. After college, they will return to assist with mentoring future mentees. As we teach and work externally with the community of fathers, men, and boys, we also, work internally with and mentor Omega men, those who are young as well as the more mature. Learning is lifelong and we learn to be better fathers, men, and boys in reverence to our cardinal principal – Manhood. We agree with brother Kelly, *mentoring is a life-style*.

O’ hear the voices of our Founders – “*There is a place for mediocrity in society, but not in Omega!*” – Bishop Edgar A Love.

## **Brothers, Save the Date, Save the Date!**

**Our 2nd Annual International Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Father’s Day Virtual Celebration “Fathers Celebrating Fatherhood” will take place June 19, 2022. We look forward to having all of you present with your family and friends to share this precious and unforgettable program with all of you. More details to follow.**

**In Friendship,  
Bro. Francois Fils-Aime, Former 1<sup>st</sup> District - DR  
Committee Chairman**



# International Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee

See the Websites: [www.omegafandm.org](http://www.omegafandm.org)  
[www.i-ylc.org](http://www.i-ylc.org)



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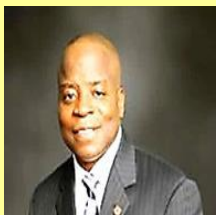
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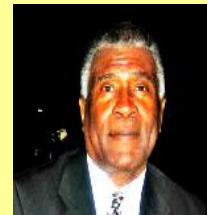
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## Telling Our Story...

**G**reetings Brothers, some years back we started this Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter to get at "Telling Our Story". At that time, I had a conversation with Bro. George Taylor about putting together a newsletter so that the brothers in the Fraternity and the outside communities would know about all of the great work that we were doing. I would like to applaud and thank Bro. Taylor for his work in doing an outstanding job in producing the newsletter.

I also applaud and thank the chapters and brothers that send in information about the work that is being done with Fatherhood and Mentoring through Project Manhood, My Brother's Keeper, Youth Leadership, Brother You're on My Mind, Future Dads, Big Brothers Big Sister, and Group Mentoring, all aimed at working with Fathers, Men and Boys.

The Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring committee's effort is a little different from other committees in that it is a year-round ongoing effort reaching out into the communities. It also has had the effect of changing the mindset of many people who were on a path to self-destruction. The feedback that we have received from mothers about their sons and men who say that we saved their lives by helping them to change their direction is noteworthy.

Brothers, this type of involvement in many areas has had an impact on us also. Sometime some of us forget that we are also men with problems and have sons that need help. As indicated by the aphorism "*a rising tide lifts all boats*," when we provide this type of service to our communities, we are also helping ourselves.

As a member of the "Talented Tenth", we have a responsibility to reach back and help our community, especially the male population. Our efforts have been applauded by other organizations for doing just that. Every single brother has something that he can contribute to this effort because of past experiences. Our Founders would be proud and pleased with what we are doing. If you have not done so, please join in this effort so that you can be a part of the good work and share in "Telling Our Story".



In Friendship,

*Brother Robert W. Fairchild*

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

**June 15, 2022**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022, Information for April, May, June, 2022**

**Our Goal: Publish Information from each District, each Quarter; Fatherhood and Mentoring Programs, Youth Leadership Conferences, Project Manhood, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Brother You're On My Mind.**

**Submit articles to: [geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geodtaylor@sbcglobal.net)**





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**FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS**



**March 9, 2021**

### **Support Nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson**

The nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on February 25, 2022 to become the 116th Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court is both historic and long overdue.

I think President Biden summed it up well when he said, “For too long our government, our courts, haven’t looked like America.” It is time, he added, “that we have a court that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation.”

Judge Jackson’s extensive experience and distinguished service, including eight years as a trial judge on the Federal District Court in Washington before her elevation to the U.S. Court of Appeals, make her an ideal candidate for the nation’s highest court. She has valuable experience as a public defender and a keen understanding of our criminal justice system. Judge Jackson also has a proven track record of attracting bipartisan support in the Senate. She’s been confirmed three times on a bipartisan vote – and there’s no reason to not expect the same as she is now considered for the Supreme Court.

Her Senate confirmation hearing begins March 21, 2022. I urge you to write to your U.S. Senator in support. Her unwavering commitment to equal justice under the law is needed, now more than ever.

In Friendship,

David Marion, Ph.D.  
Grand Basileus  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



## **NBA, NY Knicks promote Black History Month, Community Anti-violence Initiatives.**

**T**his past February, 2022, the NBA and its 30 affiliated NBA Teams across the country and abroad joined in the celebration of Black History Month by hosting its annual Black History Month activities during arena games and through its community Social Impact Initiatives.

During the Month of February, the NBA recognizes the historic accomplishments of former Black Players who have been, not only pioneers of the game, but also voices of the Civil Rights movement. Boston Celtics Bill Russell was the first NBA Black Head Coach. He followed in the footsteps of Earl Lloyd, the first Black athlete to play in an NBA game, Chuck Cooper, first Black player to be drafted into the NBA and Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton, first Black player to sign an NBA contract, signing with the NY Knicks.

Black History Month arena activities included highlighting historic moments that have impacted the Country, recognizing past and current notable figures for their contributions, hosting arena panels, HBCU and Black Fraternity/Sorority game nights and community events promoting the importance of Black History Month.

NBA, during All-star weekend in Cleveland, launched its inaugural HBCU Basketball game, **Howard University vs. Morgan State**. The Game was promoted to increase exposure and support to HBCU's. Each University received a \$100,000 gift from the NBA. International Representative Brother Boone, as a member of the NY Knicks, played his part by helping to organize HBCU/Fraternity/Sorority game nights, hosting Black Fathers at Knicks games and supervising NY Knicks Saturday Night Lights anti violence community initiative in partnership with NYC YMCA's, keeping young men off the streets in a structured basketball environment. ///



**Brother Thabiti Boone,  
International Representative**



## **THE NBA CONTINUES TO STRIVE TOWARDS SOCIAL IMPACT, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

1st Photo L-R: Coach Billy Singleton, NY Knicks; NYC District Attorney Eric Gonzalez; Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso; NY Knicks staffer Brother Thabiti Boone, at NYC YMCA Saturday Night Lights program. 2nd photo Brother Boone with Omega Brother Sgt Major Jackie Wilson, Rho Chapter '65, Nu Omicron Chapter, Queens, NY at Jr. Knicks social impact program. 3rd photo Brother Boone hosting Father & Son for Black History Month with our Tickets Together Fatherhood Program.







**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  
14<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court  
Family Division  
Muskegon County  
State of Michigan**

***(Selected from a previous issue)***

**About Child Support:** Brothers, there is not a more disconcerting issue involved with parents who are estranged from their children than the issue of Child Support (CS).

Child Support is the short hand term for the statutory requirement that the material needs of children of estranged families must be provided for. State legislatures have made it the law that when parents divorce or when children are born outside of wedlock, those children must be provided for by the mother and father who have decided to go their separate ways.

There are some basic, general concepts that should be acknowledged at the start of our discussion:

- Every child has the right and the need to be provided for materially until they are considered to be recognized as an adult. In virtually every state the age of adulthood is considered to be 18 years.
- It is the responsibility of the two legal parents to ensure that those material needs are sufficiently met.
- When legal parents are divorced or have never married, the non-custodial parent (NCP) is usually looked to be required to contribute money, insurance coverage to the household where the child(ren) reside.
- As I have continually emphasized, parents have the right, generally, to agree to establish their own terms/agreements between themselves. Child support is no different. The more parents can agree to between themselves, the less the court system is required to intervene and call the shots about what happens!!
- Neither parent has the authority to negotiate away a child's right to receive financial support from the NCP.
- Failure to provide sufficient child support, whether established by court mandated order or by stipulated agreement of the parents, is actionable in court. It is considered contempt of court to fail to pay court ordered child support. A finding of contempt can result in loss of state issued licenses and could result in being incarcerated.

In the State of Michigan, and I would imagine most other states, CS follows the child. That means that procedurally, support payments are paid by the NCP to the caretaker of the minor child, for the benefit of the child. Normally that means that the Custodial parent receives the payment. As an example, in situations such as a child being placed in a legal guardianship with a third person (i.e. neither parent has the legal or physical custody of the child), the support must be paid to the legal guardian. It is also appropriate in that type of situation that both parents must contribute to the support paid to the third-party caretaker.

As we move forward, there is no better antidote to the difficulties that plague our families and communities in this realm, than clear, accurate information.

***Brother Gregory C. Pittman, Esq.***

**\*\*\*\*\* Around the Districts \*\*\*\*\***




**“Managing Your Mind, Health, Wealth, and Education During Pandemic”**  
Iota Chi Chapter,


**Iota Chi Chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Presents**

# **MANAGING YOUR**


**Mind, health, wealth, and education during the pandemic within our communities.** *Part 2*




**VP of Consumer Banking Sales and Service Coach , Boston, District**  
**Mr. Chris Sylvestre**




**Thierry M. Desir PA-C, B.S. M.S. Internal Medicine/ Behavioral Medicine**




**Dr. Greg Benoit**  
Lecturer Mathematics Education  
Assistant Director of Earl Center for Learning and innovation  
Boston University Wheelock College of Education




**Deondre Kennard**  
Master CPT NASM, Owner and Operator DungeonLife Athletics LLC, Licensed Nutritionist



**Alvin Cooper**  
School Leader  
Conservatory Lab



**Anthony Lilley**  
Clinical Social Worker



**Guest Moderator**  
**Mr. Francois Fils-Aime, M.Ed**  
Executive Director Cornerstone Collaborative/MA

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022 AT 7PM EST. VIA ZOOM**  
**<https://tinyurl.com/IXmanaging2>**

**Submitted by Brother IPDR Francois Fils-Aime**

**Cambridge, MA** - On February 17, 2022, brothers of Iota Chi Chapter hosted a virtual panel discussion for fathers on how to manage your mind, health, wealth, and education during the pandemic within our communities. This was a follow up to a panel discussion which took place last year. Expert panelists included our First District Fatherhood and Mentoring Chairman, Brother Anthony B. Lilley. This event was attended and viewed by record numbers. Guests left

informed, educated, and uplifted. Guests look forward to the third installment coming fairly soon! ///

**SEE OUR WEBSITES:**

**<http://omegafandm.org/briefing-room/fatherhood-and-mentoring-newsletter/>**

**[www.i-ylc.org](http://www.i-ylc.org)**

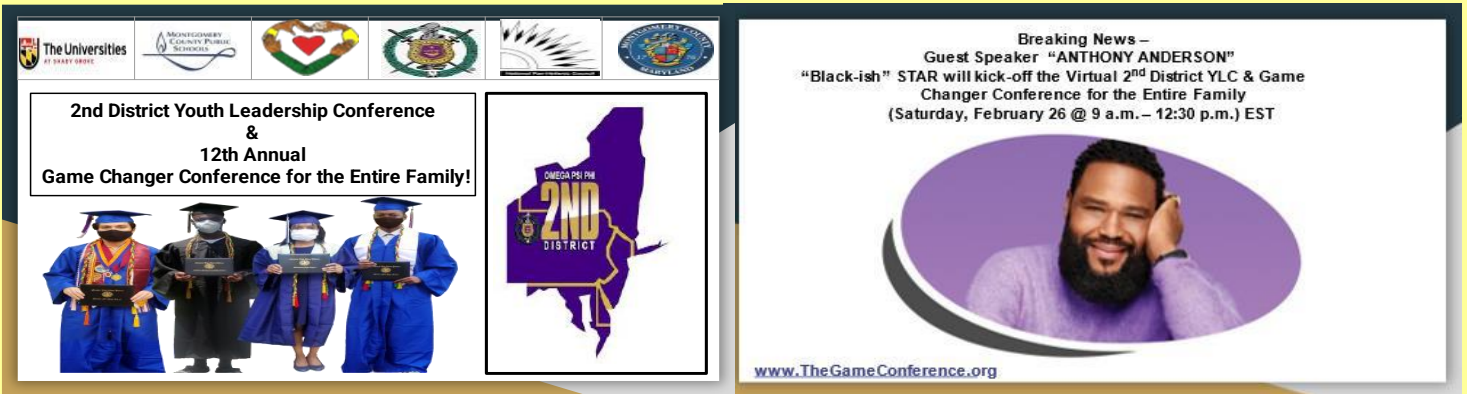




## 2<sup>nd</sup> District: Brother Donald Williams, II, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

### Game Changer Conference

By Donald Williams II, 25<sup>th</sup> Basileus, Mu Nu Chapter



**S**aturday, February 26, 2022, the 2<sup>nd</sup> District hosted its second virtual YLC Game Changer Family Conference that started at 9 a.m. (EST).

The breaking news that buzzed throughout the district was the special guest would be **brother Anthony Anderson**, star from TV show **Black-ish**. Brother Anderson lives in California; his day started at 6 a.m., on the west coast to pour into our youth and parents; it ended late at night as the host of the NAACP Awards. Brother Anderson was outstanding. We are grateful for a wonderful delivery which kicked-off the conference. He kept it real while interacting with the young people; his comments provided inspiration and information to communities across the district.

The 37<sup>th</sup> District Representative, brother Kelvin Ampofo was responsible for securing the motivational speaker and conducting an excellent interview with thoughtful questions from the youth.

The purpose of the mentoring conference was to uplift families and bring together 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chapters across the five states and stakeholder groups, i.e., students, parents, community leaders, supporters, local

churches, fraternities and sororities, and other like-minded individuals. The objective was to raise awareness of the challenges faced by black and brown students of color, especially our male students who are struggling to excel in this global COVID-19 pandemic.

In the words of the District Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Ronald Williams, *"Lives will be better because of the meaningful information provided to families."* He asserted that together we impact and uplift the world.

The Virtual Conference featured the following: D.J. Mr. Young Fresh Prince, sophomore at Richard Montgomery High School; Ms. Carla Dickerson, known as the Scholarship Lady, USA; Student Open Mic (How to be a Friend in this Moment); Student Poem Competition; Dr. Keith Boykin (Safe Practices Surviving COVID-19); Two Panels: Military Career Pathway and focus to Increase Applicants to Service Academies and Nu Upsilon Chapter's Fatherhood Barbershop Conversation (What does Fatherhood mean to you?); Author Mat Stevens – Summer Employment Tips; Parent Advocacy Roundtable (School Safety, How to Be Advocate and finally, Middle School Preparation). ///

**THANK YOU, Dr. Lorenzo Prillman**, our Master of Ceremony extraordinaire. We are grateful to all presenters' and participants that sacrificed their time to uplift, equip, encourage, and empower our community with important, meaningful and impactful messages. In attendance were several dignitaries from Education and Military service: Brother, Lieutenant General R. Scott Dingle the U.S. Army's Surgeon General and the Commanding General (Support) U.S. Army Medical Command, Col Nicci Rucker (USAFR), Captain (Retired) Clarence Thomas Jr. (U.S. Navy), LTC French Pope III (U.S. Army), Amir Shareef (U.S. Navy Academy Graduate) and Baltimore County Superintendent, Dr. Darryl Williams.

**Mentoring Matters!** Our students need to see Omega Excellence as teamwork makes the dream work!



## Mentoring in the Midst of a Crisis



**T**he Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee's (FIMC) program theme was "Mentoring in the Midst of a Crisis." On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, QUES ON THE MOVE Podcast featured African American male leaders in the Education profession.

Three educators discussed major challenges of educating today's youth. Brother Dr. Carlton Lampkins, retired Deputy Superintendent in Delaware; Brother Dr. Gorman Brown, Principal from Prince Georges County; and Dr. Leroy Evans, Principal from Montgomery County are concerned about the loss of learning due to the pandemic.

2<sup>nd</sup> District FIMC Chairman Brother Donald Williams opened the conference saying, *"mentoring and education are like a pair of gloves – they go hand and hand!"* Many Chapters across the District partners with public schools in their respective community to help student reach their full potential. The pandemic has impacted the mentoring relationships with students as well as learning due to the isolation of students navigating the pandemic.

Brother Jeff Diggs, Podcast co-host, asked the guests to share their insight on what they are seeing regarding academic performance, mental wellness, school security and safety? This segment spotlighted the "silent crisis" that our young people are experiencing because of the last two-years of the pandemic.

Dr. Lampkins kicked-off the conversation stating that no one is talking about the *"silent crisis"* of

student's loss of learning the past two years as the result of the pandemic. He shared, "the last two years had more of an impact on our young people than we like to admit." He believes a part of student development is interaction with their friends and adults that are teaching them. *"Social interaction is important; it centers on how children learn, grow, and develop into future leaders,"* he said. The issue is, he continued, *"learning loss; the challenge is how do we catch up our young people from the two years they lost in the pandemic!"* Dr. Lampkins, retired in 2016 as Deputy Superintendent, Delaware Public School System; he served in several roles as an educator for 36 years. He is the Executive Director of Communities in Schools of Delaware.

Dr. Gorman Brown agreed that we are in a midst of a silent crisis. The ultimate goal of education, he said, *"is to prepare young people for college readiness and career readiness. The two years of learning loss has arrested the development of all students, even if they did well academically. The last two years stunted student's natural development because of limited interaction in a school setting."* Dr. Brown said that students are struggling with a number of skills needed to function effectively in a learning environment, i.e., organization skills, social emotional skills, conflict resolution skills. The reality, he opined, is that last time students learned those skills they were in middle school and now they are struggling sophomores in high school! We are in a "silent crisis" and we will not get to educated students until we address these mental wellness issues.





Dr. Brown currently is the Principal of Charles Herbert Flowers High School, in Prince George's County. He is a product of a family of educators from Chicago, Illinois where he grew up.

Dr. Leroy Evans is the Principal of Col. Zadok Magruder High School in Rockville, Maryland. He recently experienced a student shooting in his school that resulted in school lockdown for more than three hours. Dr. Evans states that wellness and safety go hand and hand. Wellness, he said, is born out of a nurturing environment that is safe and resourceful. Learning can't occur, he said, unless students are in a safe environment that includes physical wellness and creating a safe place for learning. Schools must go beyond emergency practice drills. He suggested that, *"school administrators must establish home to school partnerships, meeting students where they are, and having a better understanding of where students live and how they live. Taking time to learn what's going on with them and having partnerships with various community agencies."*

Key factors are communication and student involvement, valuing what students say and listening to them. Dr. Evans counseled for stakeholders to be "slow to speak and quick to listen." What is most important for students are establishing trusted and meaningful relationships with adults, pre-k through 12 grades. Dr. Evans leads one of the best consistently thriving schools academically and socially with a diverse population in Montgomery County. He has been an educator for over 40 years with 30 years as an administrator.

The podcast airs every Tuesday at 8 p.m. (EST) for a half-hour segment where you hear directly from different chapters about the incredible community engagement and mentoring work that Omega Men are doing across the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, comprised of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

Please check out the UTUBE station for full conversation about the Silent Crisis in Education. ([https://fb.watch/bvrzl\\_yilo/](https://fb.watch/bvrzl_yilo/)) ///

### 3<sup>rd</sup> District: Brother Michael Frazier, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring



**Kappa Iota Iota, Fort Eutis VA** | The Young Men of Distinction (YMOD) is the mentoring arm for the Kappa Iota Iota (KII) Chapter's Fatherhood and Mentoring program. Through an initiative between KII and four other chapters, the Hampton Roads Walmart donated over \$37,000 in toys from the Williamsburg, Virginia distribution center. Brothers from all the chapters met on a Saturday and had a festive morning of exercise and fellowship off-loading the truck, owned and driven by an Omega Man.

On February 20, 2022, thirteen young men from YMOD ranging from sixth graders to seniors went to dinner followed by The Black Violin concert at Chrysler Hall, Norfolk, Virginia. During dinner, the

young men and chaperones from KII and Achievable Dream Middle/High School, Newport News, VA had the opportunity to talk about Black History Month and hype up the show to follow. Needless to say, the excitement from the young men was overwhelming. ///

#### SEE OUR WEBSITES:

<http://omegafandm.org/briefing-room/fatherhood-and-mentoring-newsletter/>

[www.i-ylc.org](http://www.i-ylc.org)





**KII FIMC** felt this was a great opportunity to see young men of color who chose their own route and passion to be successful in life. This was also reinforced during the concert when the two leads of the Black Violin gave their back story challenging those in the audience to not be afraid to break the norm and try something different. ///



**Kayden Jarman, Nizjohn Humphrey, Jaden Alexander, Hopeton Bailey, Harris Graham, Raekwon Perry, Kashad Brown, Kuman Humphrey, Justin Gray, Alexander Lewis, Lamont Pounds, Jamel Diggs, Nigel Driver. KII Brothers Baron McKeithan (GE-78), Bob Smith (GE-78), and Lloyd Boxley (GE-82)**

**KII-YMOD** held its monthly training session February 11, 2022. The class discussion, led by Ms. Taveyia Combs, was on Money and Budgeting. At the end of the session, the young men were amazed how much stuff costs. She used the skill learning game “Kahoot!” to facilitate the training. The game encompassed skittles, score sheets, and questions. The class had to decide how to spend their limited resources. ///

**Pi Lambda Lambda, Prince William County, VA |** On January 22, 2022, the Omega U Program had a STEAM presentation called “Share My World: A Photo Documentary of Me.” The guest was Mr. Ross Oscar Knight, an international photographer and

speaker. In his photography, he captures lifestyle images and documents culture. His commissions include work for Verizon, Lululemon, Random House Publishing, and Southwest Airlines.

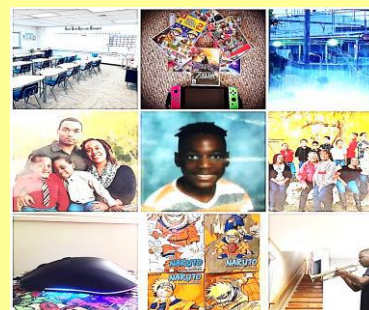
Ross currently serves as the Director of Photography for Syracuse University. The exercise for the students was to capture nine (9) images of what their world looks like on a 3x3 frame (images can be shot by phone or photo camera). The exercise was for students to name what type of emotions are being expressed in the images displayed. ///



Chase Burks 10<sup>th</sup>



Bro. Jeffrey Allen, Basileus



Nate Myers 6<sup>th</sup>



Donald King 9<sup>th</sup>

**Psi Alpha Alpha – Fairfax, Virginia | The MANUP Program** hosted its first annual Black History Program at John Lewis High School in Springfield, Virginia on February 11, 2022. The program featured Brother Clarence Demory giving a riveting oration and history of Black History. Bro. Demory explained Black

History and its importance to society. Students learned about Carter G. Woodson, Kemet (also known as Egypt) contributions to civilization, and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).





Students engaged in answering questions and learning about the beginning of Black history and understanding that Black history did not begin with slavery. Students were exposed to teachings on Kemet, widely recognized as the birthplace of mankind and the cradle of civilization. Kemet has given the world knowledge of spirituality, medicine, science, agriculture, architecture, and science. The program

concluded with a healthy and lengthy engaged dialogue between students, members of Psi Alpha Alpha, and administrators of JLHS. Students shared their thoughts and feelings on Black History, recapped the teachings of Brother Demory, and gave uplifting testimony on their diverse backgrounds and desire to continue to learn more about Black History. ///



**MANUP Black History Program | John Lewis High School | February 2022**

**Gamma Xi, Chesapeake VA** | On February 28, 2022, Bro. Abdul Wallace, Gamma XI FIM Chairman, and his beautiful wife were invited and attended the Salvation Army, Hampton Roads Adult Rehabilitation (ARC) Center dinner. The “Level-Up Dinner” is a monthly event where the organization celebrates the men who completed one level of the program as they move up to a higher level within the program. The invite came from Bro. Damond Graham (Kappa MU MU 2016).

Captain Brother Graham and his wife, Captain Jennifer Graham are the first African American couple or African American persons period to ever hold the positions of the Salvation Army Southern Territory Commander. Bro. Graham Relocated to Virginia Beach in June of 2021. Bro. Wallace was able to speak and continue the collaboration efforts between the Golden Fold Mentoring Program and Salvation Army of the Hampton Roads area. ///



**Capt. Damon & Capt. Jennifer Graham**



**Bro. Capt. Graham, KMM 2016**



**Damon Graham is with Abdull Wallace in Virginia Beach, Virginia.**  
Just now · 🌐

Brother Abdull Wallace (1-94-XiXi) we really appreciate you for stopping by to inspire the men to be great. All of the men were very attentive and your uplifting message was well received. Thank you!!!!





**Gamma XI** – The Golden Fold, Gamma Xi mentorship program, worked to build a better and cleaner community with Gamma Xi Adopt-a-Highway initiative and partnership with The Mount Church in Virginia Beach, VA Food drive in January 2022. ///



#### 4<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Jerry Leftwich, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring



### Zeta Omega Brothers Mentor Youth at Third Annual 1,000 Ties Program

Brother Damon Scott, Chairman

**CLEVELAND, OH**—On a brisk winter Saturday morning during Black History Month, the Warrensville Heights High School auditorium, its adjacent corridors, cafeteria and several nearby classrooms are abuzz with young African American boys, some of whom are not yet old enough to be in the school when classes are in session during the week. Hence, the reason for the excitement coming from the youngest among their ranks; this is the first time, for some of them, physically stepping foot inside a high school.

They begin their day being treated to a continental breakfast and a performance by the school's band, after which, they file out the doors heading for the

auditorium and the start of the day's program. Some of them are distracted by colorful neckties that have been carefully rolled and placed on tables they pass on their way toward the exit. A few can be overheard making exclamations like "I want that one" and "Oooh . . . that purple one is gonna be mine!"

The event is the Third Annual *1,000 Ties Program*, which brings together elementary, middle, and high school students and scholars from local area schools with mentors who have been working together for several weeks during the school year. The topics they discuss include respect for themselves, their parents and family, teachers and other adults, as well as conflict resolution, which is the theme for the event.





In addition to the workshops where these conversations take place, other resources include free books and hygiene items and, as a sign of the time we currently live in, personal protective equipment (PPE) that is still needed for continuing life in a pandemic. There is even a separate workshop for moms to meet, talk, and become resources for one another.

The Brothers of Zeta Omega, who have served as mentors since the program's inception, became involved through the efforts of Brother Jermel Carr (1994 Xi), who serves as chapter liaison. Brother Carr leads the discussion in one of the workshops about the Omega Cardinal Principle of Manhood and how it helps brothers address and handle conflict.

In other workshops, the Men of Omega discuss how the boys must accept accountability for their actions and make smart decisions when it comes to conflict. They provide examples and scenarios of how actions, coupled with reactions, can produce consequences, both positive and negative. The young men listen attentively and engage when it's time to ask and answer questions. Some are a bit shy around their peers with whom they are not familiar, but eventually warm up to the idea of participating with some encouragement from the mentors.

The liveliest part of the day occurs when a group of younger Zeta Omega brothers, who are not too far removed in age from the young mentees, perform some traditional march down/hop routines, complete with age-appropriate Omega marching songs. The young men are clearly excited by the enthusiasm displayed by the brothers on stage, and return the energy in kind.

In the culminating event for the day, the young men pair up with a mentor who first shows them how to properly tie a necktie, and then helps his mentee with learning to tie his own tie, which he gets to keep and take home to continue practicing, and hopefully wear. The look of accomplishment and smiles on the faces of the young men when they tie it properly is proof that the hours on this Saturday, and all the previous sessions, is time well spent!

"The time and work you men have put in with our young boys is priceless," commented a principal from one of the schools that participates in the 1,000 Ties Program. Feedback like that is gratifying music to the ears of those brothers of the FIMC who spend a lot of time, energy, and effort in mentoring our youth.

One of the mentors participating is Brother James Wingo (1970 Phi Sigma), who is co-chair of the Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Committee (FIMC), for both Zeta Omega Chapter and the 4<sup>th</sup> District. Brother Wingo also operates his own consulting firm and is a published author. His book, *The Manners Playbook*, teaches school-aged boys and young men the skills they need to transition into Manhood. One of the book's chapters details what he calls "*etiQUeTte*," which includes table manners, proper attire, appropriate conversation topics and table settings for formal dining.

Another aspect of Brother Wingo's consulting services includes the Positive Changes Program, which collaborates with the 1,000 Ties Program; it teaches many of the topics covered in *The Manners Playbook*. Program presenters have included local community leaders, such as attorneys, judges, and the director of the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative. One of the Zeta Omega members participating is Brother George Golden (1972 Phi Sigma), who is the Director of Closing the Achievement Gap (CTAG) program for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

According to Brother Carr, who is CEO of Project Forward Marketing Solutions, LLC, "When Ms. (Jowan) Smith (1,000 Ties Program CEO) first discussed the program with me, I immediately said Omega is on board because it is aligned with our Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. And it allows us to have a positive impact on young men, like so many in our fraternity have been impacted by brothers who came before us."

"... Friendship is Essential to Life and it is because we were born as a Fraternity of brothers and friends, always love each other..." Bishop Edgar A. Love



## Xi Alpha Virtual Black History Program

**Charleston, WV** – The Brothers of Xi Alpha Chapter annually host a Black History Program for the community. We believe it is fitting since **Brother Dr. Carter G. Woodson** had strong roots in West Virginia, and was an academic dean at West Virginia State University. Hence, we provide a platform for multiple young people to demonstrate their understanding of Black History, through artistic demonstration, dramatic interpretation, speeches, quotations, singing, dancing, and various intellectual presentations of the amazing contributions African Americans have made to the world.

Because of COVID-19, we had to secure videos and splice things together, for the second year in a row. We had participants from: the Partnership of African American Churches, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. - Xinos, Martin Luther King, Jr. Male Chorus, Zeta Sigma Chapter performed a march, Leisha English, and a host of famous Omegas were highlighted throughout the month in celebration of



African American History Month. Brother Mark Mason chaired the event, and Brother Eric Jackson emceed.

Throughout the years our Social Action Committee attempts to structure activities to impact the needs of our community. Xi Alpha has participated in multiple mentoring programs to encourage and assist many young minds to display their gifts and intellect. These worthwhile endeavors align with the Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiatives of the Fraternity. The Brothers of Xi Alpha are father figures, role models, coaches, and mentors to many youths in the Charleston area. We regularly read to elementary school aged children, and mentor middle school and high school students.

Xi Alpha Brothers esteem others (especially youth) more highly than we do ourselves as we demonstrate our cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. This demonstration of service is what our beloved Fraternity stands for, and Xi Alpha loves the privilege to serve others. ///



### 5<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Michael Milliner, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

**Fifth District  
Brother Sam McKinzie, Fifth District  
Representative**

**5<sup>th</sup> District's Version of Get Out  
The Vote (GOTV) Campaign  
Joint Communication  
Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring  
Committee and ...**



## ... Voter Education Registration and Mobilization Committee

### The 10 Characteristics of the Politically Aware Black Father (PABF) and Father Figures

1. He is registered to vote based upon his current address.
2. He assures that each eligible member of his family is registered to vote based upon their current address.
3. He understands voter registration eligibility criteria including identification requirements.
4. He reads, understands, and discusses the Sample Ballot/Voter's Guide with eligible family members well before Election Day.
5. He votes in all local, state, and national elections.
6. He understands the procedure for voting an absentee ballot.
7. He votes an absentee ballot if unable to make it to the polls on Election Day and encourages family members to do the same.
8. He knows and confirms his voting poll location well in advance of Election Day and encourages family members to do the same.
9. He assures transportation to the voting polls for eligible voters in his family.
10. He participates in political activities in his geographic area.

**BE A PABF, TODAY! M2M**

To register to vote, verify you are registered, see your local ballot,  
click here: <https://www.vote411.org/>

#### Rites of Passage Mentoring Program Explores Black Music History

Nashville, TN - Gamma Phi Chapter of the Fifth District sponsored a field trip to the National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) in Nashville, in late February 2022 with students from H. G. Hill Middle School. Under the leadership of Brother Julius Hill (IYLC Chair - Fifth District) and Brother Bernard Ray (Faculty Advisor) - Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc., continues to increase awareness and opportunities for young men in our community.

NMAAM is the only museum dedicated to preserving and celebrating the many music genres created, influenced, and inspired by African Americans. The museum's expertly curated collections share the story of the American soundtrack by integrating history and interactive technology to bring the musical heroes of the past into the present. ///

#### Black Fatherhood Rap Session: Caring for Our Elderly Parents

On Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> the Monthly Black Fatherhood Rap Session (sponsored by Gamma Phi Chapter, Nashville, TN) focused on the issue of caring for our aging parents. According to Chapter FIMC Chair Brother Michael Bennett, "Everyone on the call had something to offer and learn about regarding the challenges that our parents (and we) must be better prepare for."

Part II will be presented in April and will continue with information regarding housing, estate planning, pre-burial, long term care, and the emotional-social impact of dealing with end-of-life issues. The Session was well attended, and the discussion was led by Dr. Tyrone Miller (Gamma Phi), Associated Director of Tennessee State University Honors College. ///





## **Congratulations to Our...**

### **2021 -2022 Fatherhood Initiative & Youth Mentoring Service Award Nominees**

Winners will be announced April 9<sup>th</sup> during the 85<sup>th</sup> Seventh District Meeting.

Bro. J. Gaines - 7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman

**B**elow are the distinguish 2021 - 2022 Seventh District Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentoring Service Award Nominees submitted by each State FIMC Chairman. This year will make the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the Seventh District will honor Omega Brothers and Local Chapters for their outstanding work in the service area of Fatherhood Initiatives and Youth Mentoring.

As 7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman and on behalf of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council, I am privileged as this year will be the first year to honor service award winners in person during the district meeting. Also, I extend a congratulations to all Omega Brothers, Graduate and Undergraduate Chapters throughout the 7<sup>th</sup> District for their commitment to Fatherhood Initiatives and Youth Mentoring Program.

#### **Father of the Year Service Award Nominees – Large Graduate Chapter.**

- Bro. Troy Brown, Sr., Beta Rho Chapter - Itta Bena, MS
- Bro. Anthony D. Reyes, Eta Nu Chapter - Pompano, FL
- Bro. Alexander Shannon, Chi Gamma Gamma - Marietta, GA

#### **Father of the Year Service Award Nominee - Small Graduate Chapter.**

- Bro. Quavante McGregory, Iota Omicron Chapter - Clarksdale, MS

#### **Fatherhood Initiative Service Award Nominees - Large Graduate Chapter.**

- Beta Rho Chapter - Itta Bena, MS
- Chi Gamma Gamma Chapter - Marietta, GA

#### **Fatherhood Initiative Service Award Nominees - Small Graduate Chapter.**

- Nu Xi Chapter - Natchez, MS
- Lambda Tau Chapter - Brunswick, GA

#### **Youth Mentorship Service Award Nominees - Large Graduate Chapter.**

- Beta Rho Chapter - Itta Bena, MS
- Chi Gamma Gamma Chapter - Marietta, GA

#### **Youth Mentorship Service Award Nominees - Small Graduate Chapter.**

- Nu Xi Chapter - Natchez, MS
- Lambda Tau Chapter - Brunswick, GA

#### **Fatherhood Initiative & Youth Mentorship Nominees - Undergraduate Chapter.**

- Beta Theta Chapter - Itta Bena, MS  
Mississippi Valley State University
- Upsilon Psi Chapter - Tallahassee, FL  
Florida A&M University

#### **Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentorship Nominees - State of the Year.**

- State of Mississippi
- State of Florida
- State of Georgia





2022 - 7th District Winter Council Meeting

## 7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COUNCIL SUPPORTS RECOMMENDATION FOR FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE AND YOUTH MENTORING TO BECOME A MANDATED PROGRAM

Bro. J. Gaines - 7th District Chairman

**T**he 7<sup>th</sup> District Council held its first in person winter council meeting in two years under the leadership of the 24<sup>th</sup> Seventh District Representative - Bro. Reginald Harris. The council engaged in many discussions in preparation for a successful upcoming 85<sup>th</sup> Seventh District Meeting to be hosted April 6 - 10 in Atlanta, Georgia. As the 7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman for Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentoring Committee, it was again with great enthusiasm to report the outstanding work of our Graduate and Undergraduate Chapters throughout the

7<sup>th</sup> District on carrying out Fatherhood Initiatives and Youth Mentoring Programs.

Also, it was with great enthusiasm to bring before the council the International FIMC Committee Recommendation for Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentoring to become a Mandated Program of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. that is to be voted upon during 83rd Grand Conclave in July. It's with the consistent great leadership of the council and committed work of Omega Brothers that have positively impacted the many lives, and local communities across the district. The 7th District Council stands resolute to go on record in support of the International FIMC Committee Recommendation. The Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentoring Mandated Program Recommendation has been received by all Local Chapter KRS for chapter review and understanding via the 7DKRS. ///

## MAN TALK SESSION

Zeta Chi Chapter - Fort Lauderdale, Florida



THE OMEGA BROTHERS OF THE ZETA CHI Chapter hosted the first of many to come in person Man Talk Session with their Omega Lamplighters Youth Mentoring Group. Bro. Herb Roach – Chairman stated the session was very successful and excitement of future sessions. We had a great time learning, bonding and eating together after good period of not meeting in person. The Omega Mentors connected with the Lamplighters and the Lamplighters connected socially with each other sharing the whole experience of being in person. The Public Speaking activities were fun causing the beginning of hopefully life long friendships. Lamplighters were sharing IG and snap chat handles between themselves. I am sure the Lamplighters are definitely looking forward to the next one on January 17th. Parents, mentors, guest speaker and Lamplighters thank you! ///







## Omega Lamplighters Receive their Green Goats.

### Chi Omega / Upsilon Psi Chapter - Tallahassee, Florida

Omega Lamplighters beamed with distinction as being (4) among (14) Male High School Senior Students in Leon County, Florida to be selected to participate in the 12th Annual - Tallahassee Chapter of The Links, Inc. Beautillion. To mark the occasion and honor, each of the four selected Omega Lamplighters received their Distinguish Gentlemen Green Coat courtesy of The Links -Tallahassee Chapter. Standing (left to right): Omega Lamplighters - Jabari Johnson (Lincoln High School), Gabe Nance (James S. Rickards High School), Darell Williams (Florida A&M University Developmental Research School) & Jeremiah Williams (Robert F. Munroe Day School). Standing behind is Bro. Royal King. ///

## UPLIFT TO MY FELLOW MAN

Pi Iota Chapter - Tampa, Florida

It is not always our promising and gifted youths in need of guidance to reach their full potential in life. It is a committed balanced to also uplift our youths that have gone a stray to also provide them uplift and guidance. Brothers Gibson and Augustin of the Pi Iota Chapter took the opportunity to visit and uplift multiple young men at the Hillsborough Juvenile Detention Center. They spoke and socialized with the young men and provided life changing lessons to let them know that life get better with a positive mind, attitude and actions.



## OMEGA SPARKS TOUR NEWLY EXPANDED EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE LEGACY MUSEUM

Sigma Phi Chapter - Montgomery, AL

Bro. Albert Ike Jr. - State of Alabama

Bro. James LoveJoy - Military Affairs / IYLC

On February 25, 2022 the Omega Sparks toured the newly expanded Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) Legacy Museum in Montgomery, AL. This tour was part of their Black History Month travels. This new expansion of the EJI Legacy Museum – From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration – gives the museum considerably more space to extend its narrative. It begins its narrative from the TransAtlantic slave trade until today's present mass incarceration. It provides a first hand narratives of slavery's effect on all of the America's.





The expansion also details the role played by northern U.S. cities such as, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York in subsidizing the slave trade and making it part of the American economy; it shows how that continues to impact different regions of the nation. This museum has been visited by many since its inception 2018.

The Omega Sparks Youth Organization is a mentoring program sponsored by the Manhood, Inc., and the Sigma Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for young men ages 14 – 18. The acronyms, “SPARKS,” means Scholarship People Always Rise; Keep Soaring. Sparks are G.R.E.A.T – Generous, Respectful Educated, Articulate, Tenacious. ///



## SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK AT LANIER HIGH SCHOOL, MONTGOMERY AL

MANHOOD INC, set up a Voter Registration table at Lanier High School in Montgomery AL during their "Social Justice Week" program. It shared the NAACP Youth Program's importance, its future role and how vital the youth voice matters. Brothers Robert Thomas ('08) & J. Lovejoy ('14) recruited 2 future Omega Sparks and shared about the program. GOAL: Assist with equipping students with Diploma & Voter Registration Card in each hand as they cross graduation stage. #prepared ///

## Mississippi Gulf Coast Omega Lamplighters Iota Upsilon and Sigma Alpha Alpha Chapter – Mississippi Bro. J. Gaines - 7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman

Omega Brothers of Iota Upsilon and Sigma Alpha Alpha Chapters formed a collaborative partnership in conjunction with Uplift Foundation to initiate the Mississippi Gulf Coast Omega Lamplighters Youth Mentoring Group. The 7<sup>th</sup> District continues its collective commitment having 92% of Graduate and Undergraduate Chapters participate in some form of a Fatherhood Initiative and Youth Mentoring Project.

The two Local Graduate Chapters are the latest to start a Youth Mentoring Program. Omega Brothers from both chapters have participated in previous mentoring projects such as at the Mississippi State Organization Meeting where they advised young men of life lessons and educational opportunities. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Omega Lamplighters have an upcoming “Save the Date Mother to Son Brunch” event scheduled for April 30, 2022.

As 7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman, it is honor to see and report on the great work of Omega Brothers, and how local chapters are positively impacting their local communities across the district. I look forward to following and reporting the progress of the two local chapters on their new collective endeavor with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Omega Lamplighters Youth Mentoring Group. ///



## Omega Lamplighters Open New Home at Railroad Village

Chi Omega / Upsilon Psi Chapter – Tallahassee, Florida  
Bro. Royle King II | Executive Director & Founder

**JAYLEN EZEKIEL**, ONE OF THE STUDENTS in the Omega Lamplighters mentoring program, was asked to speak during a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening of the first permanent home for the organization. He ran off a list of at least five places where the group had met, giving the impression that what he was there for Sunday afternoon was surreal. Jack McLean Park was the usual meeting place, although they gathered at several other places.

“It’s truly a blessing,” he said of being able to see the day that the organization moved into its own meeting space. “I never thought we would be here,” he said. “I thought we would be stuck at Jack McLean all my life.” They’ve named the space the Light House.

Royle King, executive director/founder of Omega Lamplighters, spent the last 10 years searching for the ideal spot. They came to terms earlier this year with the owner of Railroad Village off Mill Street for about 700 square feet in a warehouse structure. They transformed it over the last three months, with contractor **Harold Lyons, owner of Covenant Building Corporation**, leading the renovation. He recruited several major companies to join in the effort to offer in-kind assistance.

The interior was transformed from bare concrete walls and plywood to something that captivated the attendees. It is decorated with black sofas, a big-screen television, a gaming area and a small computer room. “Seeing Omega Lamplighters start from a dream that Royle had and bring it to fruition is really something wonderful,” Lyons said. “Everything you see in here is a labor of love. I’ve been in business since 1994 but this, without doubt, has to be the most satisfying project I’ve ever completed.”

A ribbon cutting highlighted the ceremony. It also featured a performance by the Lamplighters’ step team. “It feels like it’s the confirmation of something that has been in my heart for over 10 years,” King said. “I believe that God rewarded the sacrifices to do



something for these kids. This is just the starting point.” Speakers included Willie Williams, a board member, and pastor Rudy Ferguson.

With this new milestone in the history of the Lamplighters, what has been their impact on the youth and community? Williams, who ran the Future Leaders Academy summer job program for the city before he became director for Pace Center for Girls, said his son has had a life-changing experience being in the Lamplighters program. Ferguson, pastor at New Birth Tabernacle of Praise, said the Lamplighters program gives young people hope at a time when gun violence is taking lives.

*“If you look around you see so many of our young Black boys are dying due to gun violence, but I’m so encouraged when I come to things like this. It reminds us that there are strong men leading our young Black boys into the future,”* Ferguson said. *“Parents, I commend you for making sure that your boys are into something positive. If we don’t get a hold to them the prison system will, or the grave. But today we are not celebrating that; we are celebrating the Light House.”*



Midway through the ceremony, King appealed for fund-raising assistance. The goal of \$10,000 would help to fund the programs they provide for the teenagers. “We need your support,” he told the crowd. “We need your resources. Whatever you have, just give it because the one small thing that you do makes a huge difference.”///





**Upsilon Omega Chapter's Omega Squires Mentorship Program:  
Building Mentorship Around Today's Young Men's Needs**

Submitted by Brother Darren Keith Henderson, (Omicron Sigma Spring 2006)



**A**s we transition from an environment that has kept most of us distant in a virtual world away from friends, family, and brotherhood, Upsilon Omega is excited about the future of its Squires Mentorship Program led by Committee Chairmen Brothers Verne Wilson and Darren Henderson.

There are new committee members who are excited and have fresh ideas on how to move the program to the next level to ensure that it will be around for years to come. The Chapter has set an aggressive goal to have 40 plus active members by the end of 2022.

Committee member, Brother Mike N. Jones (Omicron Sigma Spring 2009) who is leading the recruiting strategy and process, has come out the gate strong. In the first month after the committee met and agreed on the 2022 goals, Brother Jones recruited about 10-12 new talented young men within the first month.

The young men come from different backgrounds which includes, grade levels, public schools, private schools and home schooled. Some of our young men are excellent in the classroom, student athletics, and playing musical instruments. The goal is to continue evolving the program such that it will enhance their interest and knowledge.

To build the program around the young men The Chapter will focus on community service, social events, fun outings, and leveraging the Omega Psi Phi

brotherhood's talents, education, and skills as well as the Fraternity's mandated programs. Recently, the Upsilon Omega Squires had an opportunity to participate in an "Upsilon Omega College Student Athlete Forum."

The College Student Athlete's Forum was hosted by Brother Mike Jones. The panel included young brothers who are/were student athletes in college: Brothers Jevan Glover (Omicron Sigma, Spring 15), Cam Conner (Omicron Sigma, Spring 15), Cortland Dunlap (Omicron Sigma, Spring 15), and Mike F. Jones (Omicron Sigma, Fall 2009).

Also in attendance were several Omega Squires, Omega men and a few parents. The goal of the forum was to give the young men a better understanding of the life of a college student athlete; share challenges they may face; and, provide advice on how to overcome the challenges. Some of the panelist shared their fondest memories of college life. The Omega Squires and other attendees had an opportunity to ask questions.

Overall, this was a successful event and is only one of many opportunities the Omega Squires will have to gain knowledge and learn more about the roads and bridges they may face on their journey in life. This is just the start of an exciting year planned for the young men who are members of the Upsilon Omega Squires Mentorship Program. ///







Phi Xi Basileus Brother Ivy Williams Father's and Father Figures program Mentoring young men as they transition from high school to college. Brother Williams mentoring Bobby Washington as he enlisted in the United States Navy.



Phi Xi Father's and Daughter's Expectation Program and Dealing with diverse Culture.

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



**THE OMEGA GENTS OF MU MU NU CHAPTER** aka North Houston Ques is a youth mentoring program that has four pillars that services our mentees. They are: 1) monthly meetings, 2) social outings 3) community service projects, and 4) bi-weekly phone calls by our Mentors with their assigned Mentee. We are proud and excited at the early success of our program. We want to share one of several highlights of the program.

Last semester before Texas increased the COVID threat level, we had the pleasure of conducting a monthly meeting with our Gents. The theme of the meeting was **PUBLIC SPEAKING 101** where Bro. Bill Minix (6-Spr 84-Beta Sigma, Southern Univ.) gave a class on the dynamics of effective public speaking. After the students looked and listened to the **HOW**, they were asked to apply and demonstrate what they learned.



For the remainder of the meeting one after the other, our Gents stood at the podium and shared with the audience a brief two-minute introduction of themselves. The Gents were given ten questions that prompted them to elaborate. Examples of the questions were; what is your name, what school do you attend, what's your favorite Hip Hop group, what do you want to be when you grow up.

These questions not only enabled the Gent to talk and share about himself but the audience learned a lot about the person speaking. The feedback we received from the Gents about this experience was very enlightening. Some were curious to learn about their

peers, some never spoke in public before a group of people, and some spoke with confidence; we also learned who the potential comedians were.

Finally, we were blessed to have another induction ceremony to add more Gents to the program. We are extremely grateful to our mentees and we are thankful to their parents for trusting us to assist in their son's growth and development. Working together as a team we can and will be able to prepare our mentees for the next level – whether it be in college, the military, or the workforce. ///

RQQTU RQQ to the Good Bruhz.

## 10<sup>th</sup> District: Brother Cyrill Weems, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring

### Bowling with Our Future

NU CHI CHAPTER'S PROJECT MANHOOD mentors treated their mentees to a fun bowling outing on February 12, 2022. The group bowled three games filled with competition, laughter, pizza, and beverages. In the end, mentee Joseph Cox (pictured back row second left) earned special congratulations for his skill in rolling the top score of the day.

The outing was enjoyable for everyone and provided a great forum for camaraderie and team building. This event gave the mentors an excellent opportunity to interact, bond, and foster mentor-mentee relationships. The mentees and mentors alike praised this activity as a success. ///



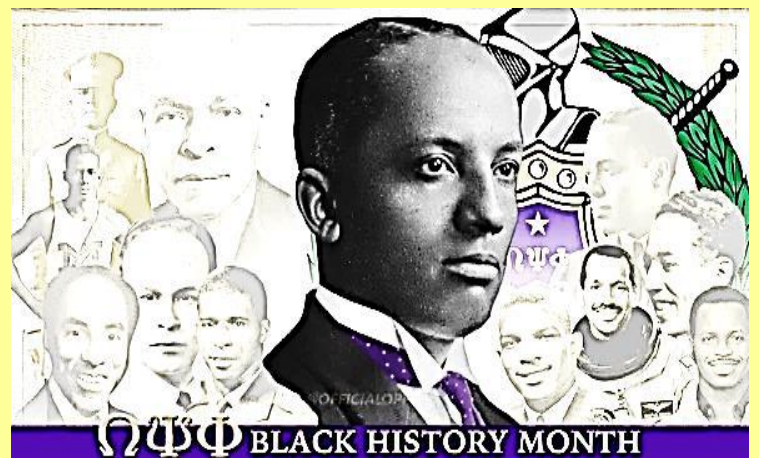
Mentors Pictured: **Left Front:** Brothers Brian Lang and Otis Scott; **Back Row:** Brothers Rev. Ken Johnson, Darrell Stewart, Ken Hill, Ameer Mico, Mark Wright, Dakari Shelby, Tee Brown, Quinton Bellamy (NX Basileus); **Right Front:** Brothers Nick King, Jimmie Jacobs, and Mel Holland. Bro. Delano Redmond is not pictured.

### Omega's Impact on Black History

Mel Holland, Nu Chi Chapter,

**East St. Louis, Illinois** - To recognize Black History Month, Bro. Dr. Mel Holland, Project Manhood Chairman, opened the February Project Manhood education session with an overview on the purpose of Black History Month. During his reflection, he underscored the great work of Bro. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the "Father of Black History." He lauded Bro. Dr. Woodson's tenacity and impact on African American life, culture, and history.

Bro. Dr. Otis Scott followed with an outstanding presentation on the famed World War II heroes of the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, the Tuskegee Airmen. He talked about their significance in military and American





history. He shared insight into their educational achievements, how they overcame racial discrimination, as well as their heralded feats while flying fighter combat missions for United States Army Air Corps bomber operations across Europe. Bro. Dr. Scott noted that in addition to pilots, Tuskegee Airmen worked as administrative, logistics, maintenance, and medical personnel. He also highlighted that many Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., were Tuskegee Airmen who served our nation with honor and bravery.

The mentors in attendance were invaluable to the session. Each shared historical insights, experiences,

and personal stories with the mentees which were quite impactful for mentors and mentees. The mentees showed a heightened interest in understanding the challenges, unfair practices and marginalization the Tuskegee Airmen faced in the United States before, during, and after their military service.

Bro. Dr. Scott and the mentors did a fine job of answering the mentees' questions. This session was needed as some mentees had not heard some of the stories before this lesson/discussion. ///

## No Time Like The Present to Shape The Future

**Ann Arbor, MI** - In partnership with Ypsilanti, Michigan's Community Family Life Center's (CFLC) Youth Enrichment Program, Sigma Rho's Project Manhood Washtenaw County Chapter (PMWCC) provides a male mentorship program for K-12 young men. PMWCC consists of mentors from the Sigma Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and upstanding men from the community. The program is led by two Coordinators Bro. Derrian Cooley and Antonio Junior-Robins.

The program is centered on the Uplift and Development of young males in during their growth and transitions from children to adolescents to adults. The program's foundation for its premise and content is our four Cardinal Principles (Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift) which guide the curriculum. The program is held every week on Thursdays for 2 hours. Each session consists of tutoring, physical fitness, and group discussions. Each session offers



students time for tutoring and homework help, mentorship, free time, and ends with dinner and a family prayer. Students will be evaluated on behavior, effort, and growth while in the program. We aim to cultivate students' leadership and initiative skills through opportunities to lead projects.

Recently, students had leadership opportunities through Black History Month Presentations and volunteering with the CFLC Food Pantry. After only a month, the future is bright for PMWCC and we are excited for just how far the students and the program can go. Bro. Dana Greene (Basileus), Sigma Rho Chapter. ///



# Mentoring with Art Therapy

Bros Lynn Sanders & Rashaun Rucker, Tau Mu Nu Chapter

**Macomb County, MI** - In a time when there is a peak need to have positive mental health for our youth, the brothers of Tau Mu Nu found a way to mentor and provide a therapeutic impact in a single activity during their recently launched male mentoring program.

With the support of world renown artist Bro. Rashaun Rucker, the brothers held a session to leverage the natural skillsets and creativity of the mentees to paint mask. The activity was structured to have the young men creatively depict how they believe people see them on the outside of the mask and then artistically design the inside with items they don't want people to know about them. *"Wow, can you imagine what you would put on the outside and inside of your mask?"*

Interestingly, this "art" project grew into a discussion on self-image, personal brand, self-confidence and self-privacy. It also gave the brothers an opportunity to share a history lesson on blacks in America and the negative impacts of low self-esteem and self-confidence throughout our history. They shared literature resources like "The invisible Man" and "Native Son" to show our young men that these issues are not new and can be overcome. The young men received uplift in black art and taught the names of artist and their contribution to our lives and communities.

The session allowed the mentees and mentors to share personal wins, concerns, fears, failures and challenges in a safe and supporting environment while also sharing various levels of creativity and skills in designing their individual mask. As you would expect, everyone had a differently designed mask, a slightly different view of the world and a slightly different perspective on life itself that was unique to them. That's called a "win-win" for Que Psi Phi and the young men that participated because everyone was



reminded that *our individual differences make us collectively stronger.*

Who new painting a mask during Mardi Gras month would not only be fun to do as an activity with our young men, but also provide a therapeutic and positive thought-provoking environment that fosters camaraderie and personal growth. *OK, you guessed it, the Ques did!!!*

Don't forget that we have a responsibility to use diverse teaching methods and tools such as Art to reach students that learn in a visual and creative way. *You never know – that may be how you learn best, too.* ///





## OMEGA-YES Mentoring Program Morgan Park Cohort Winter 2022

Lemarr T. Ketchens, Rho Gamma Gamma

**Chicago, IL** - Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter's OMEGA-YES Mentorship Program began its Fall cohort with **Morgan Park High School**, a Chicago Public School. This joint venture is part of a great partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. OMEGA-YES is the brainchild of Golden Bridge Builder, Brother Michael Parham Sr., while facilitated by the Coordinator, Brother Christopher Burney.

This cohort meets weekly on Thursdays for one hour. The brothers involved with this cohort are enthused and have encouraged more brothers to get involved. The mentees meet at Morgan Park High School (MPHS) in person. In response to the increased risk of the Omicron variant, meetings have been virtual.

OMEGA-YES is fully compliant with the COVID-19 protocols, as brothers are fully vaccinated, wearing masks, and social-distancing. There are seven mentees in the MPHS cohort. Brothers engage with them weekly on such topic as: Job Shadowing, Critical Thinking and Self Reflection. Uniforms consist of OMEGA-YES polo shirts and khaki slacks and are provided to the MPHS cohort. This is another way to encourage other young men to become mentees in the future.

The committee collaborated with the Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter Food Pantry Committee, in December (2021), at Morgan Park High School, where there were 500 bags of food distributed to families in need. The activity was a great venue to show the mentees what Omega men do. The OMEGA-YES brothers are looking forward to starting the Spring 2022 cohort,



which will resume weekly on Saturdays for two hours. The Spring cohort is scheduled for 10-weeks, ending with a graduation ceremony where the mentees will receive a purple blazer.

*"Show me a successful individual and I'll show you someone who had real positive influences in his or her life. I don't care what you do for a living—if you do it well, I'm sure there was someone cheering you on or showing the way. A mentor."* – **Denzel Washington** ///

**Santiago** was a curious boy, open minded, one who valued his freedom highly, which was why he became a shepherd and why he was reticent to get involved in things which threatened his freedom. In the end, he came to realize that playing it safe is often more threatening to his freedom than taking a risk. **Mel-chi-ze-dek**, the king of Salem, a mysterious and far-off land, this old king tells Santiago about the **Soul of the World** and his Personal Legend. And he gives Santiago magical stones that would bring him great wealth. And he tells Santiago, *"When you really want something to happen, the whole universe conspires so that your wish comes true."* From, *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho





## 12<sup>th</sup> District: Brother George D. Taylor, EdD, Chairman, Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring



### 35 Years of Alive & Free/Omega Boys Club

**San Francisco, CA** – Since February 26, 1987, thousands of people have embraced Alive & Free and thirty-five years later its message still fits. The 35<sup>th</sup> Virtual Celebration brought together current students, collegians, alumni, staff and community members-all of whom shared special memories of the organization that has made a lasting impact on their lives.

At **ALIVE & FREE**, they work to change beliefs, values, attitudes and actions that contribute to what the Center refers to as "*The Disease of Violence*". They identify and address factors that put young people at risk.

On February 28, 2022, the City of San Francisco honored Jack Jacua for his 35 years of continuous service in the city for helping to keep young people Alive and Free in San Francisco and surrounding communities.



**L-R: Jack Jacua, Community Outreach, Co-Founder and Brother Joseph Marshall, Jr., PhD, Executive Director, Alive & Free-Omega Boys Club, Co-Founder.**





Led by Brother Dr. Joseph Marshall and Jack Jaqua, the Center has been relentless in its intent to save lives and help youth and young adults get a healthy start in life. The Center held a virtual celebration on March 1, 2022, to which this writer was invited and enjoyed.

I saw the evidence first hand of the results of the work of these two dedicated men of the community and a steady and interminably dedicated staff who know that *they have found the right prescription* for this dreaded *disease of violence* that's trying to impale our thriving inner cities.

**ALIVE & FREE** says no to the disease of violence and no to the diminishing of high aspirations among those who have found hope and a better way of life by affiliating with the Center. One such individual who benefited from his experience in the Center was **Ayinde Chism** who said, "Alive and Free taught me to **trust the process** and not let my circumstances dictate my behavior," Ayinde Chism, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT., U.S. Air Force, Tuskegee University. This writer heard many testimonies from as far away as Atlanta and places "across the pond" who praised the work done by Alive and Free. gdt///

**We celebrate with Alive and Free; you continue to do the good work that the times mandate - keeping us ALIVE, FREE and, of Course, well educated! gdt**

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## **Sigma Iota Chapter: Youth Mentoring Program attend Black College Expo 2022 Submitted by Brother Tony Anderson**



**Picture 1: Sigma Iota Vice Basileus Karl Harris talking to young men about the Gents Program; Picture 2: Brothers Lenwood Hunter, Karl Harris, Tony Anderson, Aaron Hamilton, Spencer Hollie at Black College Expo Gents information booth; Picture 3: Omega Gents attending Black College Expo Oakland Convention Center.**

**Oakland, CA** - The Omega Gents of Sigma Iota Chapter have been enjoying an outstanding year of mentorship with a series of planned activities. The goal of the program is to teach and encourage young men to plan and define the direction for their future. Important components of the program are monthly educational workshops, quarterly social or cultural events, counseling, coaching and networking.

On February 26, 2022, the brothers of Sigma Iota Chapter took a number of the Gents to the Black College Expo held at the Oakland Convention Center. The Black College Expo is an annual event that highlights Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other post-secondary institutions. It provides admission and scholarship information to students and parents. In addition, career information representatives share opportunities for employment.



The Gents attended interesting workshops including: How to Find Money for College, Why Attend an HBCU, How to Think and Grow Rich and The Student Athlete.

The brothers of Sigma Iota and Alpha Rho secured a booth where informational flyers and recruitment material was handed out to potential Gents and their parents. The material was well-received by scores of young men and their parents who expressed their

appreciation to talk to the brothers about the Gents program. The Sigma Iota Chapter Scholarship Committee also took advantage of this opportunity to network with high school seniors by handing out 2022 scholarship applications to qualified students. Many high achieving students of the class of 2022 were anxious to receive the scholarship information that was presented to them. ///

## HBCU College Fair in the Southland

Tau Tau Chapter

Submitted by Brother Nikiah Hawkins

**Compton, CA,** – Dutch philosopher Desiderius Erasmus is quoted as saying *“the main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.”*

On February 19, 2022, Brothers Rodney Jones and Ronnie Walker of Tau Tau Chapter accompanied approximately fifty young men from Long Beach Jordan High School to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Black College Expo sponsored by the National College Resources Foundation (NCRF). Taking the young men to the college fair provided them with opportunities to meet with recruiters from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) from across the United States and a chance to receive college acceptances on the spot.

Although HBCUs make up just 3% of America’s colleges and universities, almost 20% of all African American graduates are products of HBCUs. Regarding the STEM fields, i.e., science, technology, engineering and mathematics, 25% of African American graduates obtained their degrees from an HBCU. Although initially founded to provide higher education opportunities for African Americans, HBCUs have enrolled and graduated many students, regardless of their ethnicity, race or income level.



As a result of Brother Jones and Brother Walker’s efforts, the young men had occasion to attend seminars that discussed reasons to attend an HBCU, information for student-athletes, how to obtain cash for college, comparisons between high school and college and career paths. Although none of the young men were graduating seniors, they were given exposure to HBCUs, learned about the college admissions process and financial aid. Due to the commitment and regular contributions of Brothers Jones and Walker those young men have been inspired to focus on attending college in the future and the other brothers of Tau Tau Chapter have been galvanized to take on an even bigger role of pouring into the youth of our nation. ///

**“In studying Law or Physick, or any other Art or Science, by which you propose to get your Livelihood, though you find it at first hard, difficult and unpleasing, use *Diligence, Patience and Perseverance*; the Irksomness of your Task will thus diminish daily, and your Labour shall finally be crowned with Success. You shall go beyond all your Competitors who are careless, idle or superficial in their Acquisitions, and be at the Head of your Profession. *Ability* will command *Business, Business Wealth*; and *Wealth* an easy and honourable *Retirement* when Age shall require it.” B. Franklin**





## Rho Iota Iota Chapter

Submitted by Brother Damon Blythe

**Long Beach, CA** - During this quarter, Rho Iota Iota Chapter, in conjunction with The Bridge Builders Foundation, have been actively involved with the Math Collaborative Youth Initiative at Jordan High School of Long Beach. During the Month of January, presentations ranged from Attending HBCU's to Career Preparation.

The month of February included a Black History Poetry Workshop, Vision Board project, a field trip to the Los Angeles Black College expo & culminated with a field trip to UCLA. Thus far, during the month of March, we have facilitated the following presentations: Field Trip Reflection & Assessment,



“What it takes to become a Fireman” and the “Chop It Up Session” with several youth initiative alumni. All in all, we continue to make strides in preparing young men for future success via equipping them with necessary knowledge and resources. ///

## Inland Valley Uplift Foundation-Zeta Tau Chapter Host Virtual Youth Leadership-Parent Conference

By Michal Haynes

**T**his 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Leadership and Parent conference featured topics for Middle and High School students about STEM Careers. The conference *continues to Raise the YLC Conference Bar, and lead the Nation in promoting Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Career and College Prep Programs in 2022-23.*



Bro. M. Haynes, STEM Program Chairman

*now we show them how to earn a six figure income, so they can buy the Tie”...*

The webinar featured professional development and keynote sessions led by Industry and Governmental Agency leaders from varied backgrounds. Presenters from the California-Environmental Protection Agency,

Since 2012, the Inland Valley Uplift Foundation South Coast AQMD-Toxic Wastes Management Unit and Zeta Tau Chapter - Youth Leadership Conference, and the University of La Verne-Admissions office in conjunction with the Compton, Inglewood and Riverside Graduate chapters, and the University of La Verne have provided information on how to cope with Society norms and ills, to both Students and Parents. The March 26, 2022, Youth Leadership Conference was no exception.

As one member said, *“this was a YLC on Steroids.”* Another attendee wrote, *“Wow we are now teaching students and parents on how to select a College Major and Career of the Future.”* Another participant wrote, *“we use to show them how to wear a Necktie,*

shocked, both Students and Parents via Zoom with the following Workshops:

- Mr. Simeon Haynes, Environmental Engineer, California –EPA, Air Resource Board-Vehicle Emissions Unit. **Topic: STEM Majors of the Future-“What you need to know” - Gas Cars Banned by 2035.**
- Mr. Shawn Carr, University of La Verne, Admissions Department. **Topic: Prepare for College and Life Skills.**
- Mr. M. Haynes, AQ Inspector III, South Coast AQMD - Toxic Waste Management-Emergency Response Unit. **Topic: STEM Careers of the Future-3D Printing, Haz Mat/ER, Drones, Public Health-VIRUS Prevention.**



Mr. James Wilson, Director of IVUF, after noticing there were significantly less Men and Women of color in middle and high school STEM classes, sought to create an experience that empowered young African-Americans students and gave them direct connections to STEM role models.

The **STEM** segment of the YLC, only paved the way for the eye opening and up to date information directed to the Parents, Teachers, Counselors and Educators. During the Motherhood and Fatherhood segments of the Webinar, led by Mr. Ronnie Walker and Dr. George Taylor respectively; attendees sat-up in their chairs, opened up their video screens and “Got involved”.

This segment highlighted the following; **Motherhood Workshop** – Topic: College Preparation for Success, and safety measures mothers should know. **The Fatherhood Initiative was: Just Talking Issues;** How do I keep my children safe in school/community? Shall I invest time and resources to allow my children to play hard-hitting contact sports? What’s a new father to do in teaching his children to “Think Right, Speak Right, Act Right”? What are the best practices for maintaining mental sharpness in face of constant challenges?

During the Fatherhood segment, six Omega men from the 12<sup>th</sup> District assembled around a virtual conference table and discussed these pressing issues that fathers are dealing with as part of their responsibility as fathers, grandfathers and in one instance, a great grandfather.

The panel was diverse and consisted of several subject matter experts, i.e., a sports injury specialist



Top Row L-R: Brothers Dr. George D. Taylor, Zeta Tau, Moderator; Jerry Kennebrew, Kappa Xi, Sports Specialist; Dan Braxton, Phi Beta Beta, wrap up Co-Moderator; Bottom Row L-R: Brothers Malik K. Murray, Zeta Tau Chapter, Author/New Father; Ronnie Walker, Tau Tau, Retired, LAPD Detective; and Dr. Mel Palmer, Psychologist and Family Therapist.

and former athlete, a retired police detective, an author and new father, a psychologist and therapist, a business man and a retired higher education executive officer.

This year’s YLC/STEM Webinar was made possible by sponsors including Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, IVUF, Upward Bound Charities, Inc., Cal-EPA, South Coast AQMD and the University of La Verne. ///

**The following link is the entire 3-hour recorded session on the 12<sup>th</sup> DTV YouTube channel:**  
<https://youtu.be/bP4IIPXO8CY>







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

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

### National Mentoring Month 2022

January 1 – 31, 2022

**“Uplifting Our Youth Around the Globe”**



**Delta Nu Nu**  
United Arab Emirates



**Sigma Gamma Gamma**  
Okinawa, Japan



**Zeta Xi**  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands





**PI Xi**  
Nassau, Bahamas





**Lambda Beta Beta**  
Honolulu, Hawaii



**Upsilon Lambda Lambda**  
Mainland, Japan



**Theta Rho**  
Stuttgart, Germany

**National Mentoring Month Highlighting Fatherhood and Mentoring at Chapters in the 13<sup>th</sup> International District:**

Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan – “Boyz 2 Men Fatherhood and Mentoring Program” Chairman Brother Cortez Pree – Email: e8pree@yahoo.com; Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan – “Cutting Edge Conditioning and Mentoring Program” Chairman Brother Cortez Pree – Email: e8pree@yahoo.com; Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan – “The Tomodachi Bridge Builders Mentorship Program” Chairman Brother Cortez Pree – Email: e8pree@yahoo.com; Chi Mu Mu in Birmingham, England – “Passport to Manhood Fatherhood & Mentoring Program” Chairman Brother Corey Nowell Email: cnowell1226@gmail.com; Lambda Beta Beta Chapter in Honolulu, Hawaii – “Project Aspirations Fatherhood & Mentoring Program” Chairman Brother Marcus Milhouse Email: milhouse.marcus@yahoo.com; Eta Iota Iota in St. Croix, Virgin Islands – “EMBODI Program” partnering with the Sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Chairman Brother Keith O’Neale Email: koneale910bb@gmail.com; Phi Gamma Gamma in Kaiserslautern, Germany – “Empowering Young Men, Fatherhood & Mentoring Program” Chairman Brother Andre Phippen and Brother Randy Jeter Email: andrepippen7@gmail.com and rbjeter10@gmail.com; Zeta Xi – St. Thomas, Virgin Islands – “Fatherhood & Mentoring Program” Chairman; Brother Neville Amey Email: nevilleamey@gmail.com; Lambda Xi – South Korea – “Light Bulbs Mentoring Program” Chairman Brother Brandon Spencer Email: mrbrandonspencer@gmail.com; Lambda Xi – South Korea – “Fatherhood Initiative / Assault on Literacy / Omega Futures Academy” Chairman Brother Email: grayson.f.angus@gmail.com; Upsilon Lambda Lambda – Mainland, Japan – “Samurai Fatherhood & Mentoring Program” Chairman Brother Lyman Johnson Email: lj3122@gmail.com; Theta Rho – Stuttgart, Germany – “Iron Sharp Fatherhood & Mentoring Program” Chairman Brother Christopher McElveen Email: cmcelveen94@gmail.com; Delta Nu Nu – United Arab Emirates – “Fatherhood and Mentoring Program” Chairman: Brother Dr. Darius M. Walker and Brother Brandon Morton Email: imonagan@gmail.com and bmorton12@hotmail.com; Chi Mu Nu – Shanghai, China – “Fatherhood & Mentoring Program” Chairman Bro. John McKay Email: jmckay@aol.com ///



## 13<sup>th</sup> International District Promotes National Mentoring Month

By Brother Michael Robinson

**13<sup>th</sup> International District** – During the month of January 2022, Brothers of the 13<sup>th</sup> International District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. promotes National Mentoring Month with the annual theme: “Uplifting Youth Around the Globe”.

The purpose of this event is threefold: (1) Raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms, (2) Recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have waiting lists of young people, and (3) Promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring

The National Mentoring Month began 20 years ago and was started by MENTOR National and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. It has received strong support from the U.S. President and members of Congress. Other well-known supporters include the late Maya Angelou, Clint Eastwood, late Senator John McCain, Quincy Jones, late General Colin L. Powell, Cal Ripken Jr., Bill Russell and

Usher. In addition, former President Obama in 2016 proclaimed the month of January as National Mentoring Month.

Today, sponsors of the National Mentoring Month include: The Harvard School of Public Health, Highland Street Foundation, and the National Basketball Association (NBA Cares).

The 13<sup>th</sup> International District takes great pride in kicking off 2022 with National Mentoring Month. We encourage fathers, parents, school teachers, coaches, and mentors to continue inspiring and motivating our youth in reaching their goals and aspirations. Click on the following links to read more information about National Mentoring Month:

[www.nationalmentoringmonth.org/](http://www.nationalmentoringmonth.org/); <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-mentoring-month-january/>

## Happy Birthday Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Brother Michael Robinson

**Seoul, South Korea** – On Saturday, January 15, 2022, Brother Michael Robinson of Lambda Xi Chapter setup a table display highlighting the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at the Exchange on Camp Humphreys Army Base in South Korea.

Over 50 parents and children from



the local community signed the “I Have A Dream” display board designed by Brother Robinson. In addition, each participant received a free MLK book mark.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. On his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, we reflect on his life and accomplishments to make the world a better place. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” is still alive. We must continue to share his vision for freedom, justice, and equality with our youth. ///





## Project Aspiration and NAACP Beach Cleanup

By Brother Marcus Milhouse

**Honolulu, Hawaii** – On Saturday, February 19, 2022, the brothers of Lambda Beta Beta Chapter's Project: Aspiration Fatherhood and Mentoring partnered with the local chapter of the NAACP for a beach cleanup at One'ula Beach Park in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Eight Brothers and three youth from Project Aspiration participated in the event. Brother Marcus Milhouse said the highlight

of the beach cleanup was having mentees, members of the NAACP and Divine Nine all together performing community service as one in honor of Black History Month 2022. ///



Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta Chapter with mentees of Project Aspiration Fatherhood and Mentoring Program, NAACP, and members of the Divine Nine

## Lambda Xi Chapter Participates in Osan Elementary School: Black History Month Program

By Brother Michael Robinson



Table display featuring African American Inventions, Who AMI? Famous Men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

**South Korea** – On Friday, February 25, 2022, Brother Clarence Burse and Brother Michael Robinson of Lambda Xi Chapter volunteered to present 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Osan Elementary School with a 15-minute presentation title “Inventions Created by African Americans”. After each session students received a short 10 question quiz to check their level of knowledge which was outstanding across the board. Each class also rotated to other events held in different locations throughout the school. At the end of the

program all volunteers enjoyed a soul food meal, cake, and refreshments provided by the school staff.

Brother Michael Robinson stated the highlight of this event was seeing the student’s enthusiasm as they learned about inventions created by African Americans. He emphasized to the youth: “You are our future. We need you and your creativity to discover new products and make improvements on existing items for everyone to enjoy.”///



## Brother Nathan Jerome King of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter Continues A Legacy of Military Family Service

By Brother Michael Robinson

**Mainland, Japan** - You do not often see family members serving in the military at the same time and in the same branch of service. That is the case for Brother Nathan King of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter in Mainland, Japan.

He joined the United States Navy after graduating from high school in 1984 and quickly rose from the enlisted ranks to his position as Captain O-6 with 37 years and 8 months of service. Today, he is proud to have his daughter Latisha Deneen King and grandson Khalil Deshawn Copeland follow in his footsteps.

When asked how do you feel about your daughter and grandson following in your footsteps? Brother King stated: "I have always wanted my children to be able to choose their own paths in life. I felt that my service would give them choices and options in life to do whatever they wanted to do with their life. My dream for my children has always been that they would grow up to be productive citizens."

**BROTHER KING** COMES FROM A FAMILY THAT VALUES serving our country. His father had a brother that served in the Army in World War II and was killed in action. All three of Brother King's brothers served in the United States Army. Although Brother King served three tours in Navy recruiting, he did not encourage his daughter and grandson to join the military. He stated: "It is an honor and privilege to serve in the United States Military. I have always tried to live my life in a way that displayed the importance of serving and serve in a manner that would make my family proud".

Brother King and his daughter Latisha both enlisted and earned commissions to Officer through the Enlisted Commissioning Program. They have truly navigated the same course in the Navy. Brother King is extremely proud that his daughter and grandson chose the Navy and their desire to serve our great country.



**Brother Nathan Jerome King is a Captain, O-6, United States Navy. His title is Chief, Intelligence Resources Division and Intelligence Directorate. He is currently stationed at United States Southern Command in Miami, Florida. Captain Nathan Jerome King with his daughter Latisha Deneen King a Lieutenant, O-3 in the U.S. Navy. Her title is Nurse Corps (NC), Medical Officer Recruiter. She is currently stationed at Navy Talent Acquisition Group Atlanta in Smyrna, Georgia. Brother King's grandson Khalil Deshawn Copeland is a Seaman Recruit, E-1 in the U.S. Navy. He will be an Aviation Ordinance man. Seaman Recruit King is currently stationed at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. He began his recruit training on February 2, 2022.**

Brother King stated: "There is no greater feeling than your first-born child and first grandchild wanting to follow in your footsteps, but honestly, I believe that they are charting their own paths. I hope that I have served in a manner to fuel their journey. I am truly blessed to have an opportunity to serve alongside my daughter and my grandson. It is an opportunity of a lifetime. I hope that this is the beginning of the King family building a legacy of service in the United States Navy." ///





## Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter Participates in Read Across America

By Brother Lymas Johnson

**Mainland, Japan** – On March 1, 2022, Brother Lymas Johnson represented Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter as a volunteer for Read Across America event at Yokota West Elementary School located on Yokota Air Base in Yokota, Japan. The book that he read to students was titled **“I Am Every Good Thing”** by **Derrick Barnes and Gordon C. James**. All students were very engaged and enjoyed seeing the illustrations of the story about a young African American male who explained all the things he was.



After Brother Johnson completed reading, several students asked about the dedicated individuals highlighted in the introduction. Brother Johnson pointed out the names and photos again: Philando Castille, Tamir Rice, Treyvon Martin, and five other black boys killed by senseless violence. All students said they enjoyed the book.

Read Across America is a year-round program focusing on the following:

1. Helping to motivate students to read.
2. Bringing the joys of reading to kids of all ages.
3. Making children feel valued and welcome.

Read Across America was launched in 1998 by the National Education Association and is the nation's largest celebration of reading. ///

## Brother David Days of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter Mentors Youth with Cadence Student Ministry

By Brother David Days



**Brother David Days with mentees from Cadence Student Ministry at Yokota Air Base in Mainland, Japan.**

**Mainland, Japan** – The main objective of the Cadence Student Ministry is to help youth become better disciples of Christ by providing a variety of programs and activities through partnering with the Chapel on Yokota Air Base.

Bro. David Days of Upsilon Lambda Lambda Chapter serves as a teacher and mentor for young men in grades 6 – 12. He supports the youth with their growth in faith and manhood. Student Ministry regularly meets each week in addition to periodic special events. ///



## Zeta Xi Chapter, the Virgin Islands Give Back via Community Service

By Brother Stedmann Hodge



Photo 1 – Brothers of Zeta Xi Chapter with mentees: Photo 2 – During the community service project held in February, Zeta Xi Chapter saw an increase in participation to include three additional mentees and members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

**The Virgin Islands** – The Brothers of Zeta Xi collaborates to complete major clean up initiative at the Lionel Richards Ballpark in Smith Bay. This is a part of a community service initiative to remove debris from recreational spaces and public parks on the island. The Chapter engages high school males who participate and learn landscaping skills including the use of heavy equipment while earning community service hours as part of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Fatherhood & Mentorship Initiative.

Zeta Xi Chapter meets with mentees monthly with support from Apex Construction. Three to four hours is spent on the community service project and one hour is dedicated to career development and financial stability. The Brothers of Zeta Xi Chapter plan to add more activities and events in the future to educate and inspire youth. ///

### Sigma Gamma Gamma BOYZ 2 Men Conducts A Paintball Mentorship Session

Submitted by Brother Cortez Pree

Photo 1 – Boyz 2 Men Mentees with Sigma Gamma Gamma Basileus Cortez Pree, fathers, and mentors at the paintball event. Photo 2 – SGG Basileus Cortez Pree assist mentee with selecting the correct size of equipment.



**Okinawa, Japan** - Sigma Gamma Gamma, Boyz 2 Men(Torship) program conducted a paintball mentorship session on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at the White Beach Naval Facility. The event started with a guided discussion about the importance of weapon safety, communication, cohesion, critical thinking, and physical fitness.

Several youths were afraid initially, but they quickly overcame that obstacle as all members participated in the urban, jungle, and quick reaction courses. The youth were divided into equal teams as they eventually conducted a paintball match with an older group, and they came out victorious. The event ended with a hearty meal followed by an additional guided discussion session during which mentees



Ω Keep it on!

Ω Just a little ..



2 bit longer!!!



provided feedback on the purpose of effective communication, teamwork, weapon safety, and life choices. Some youths stated they did not really understand the importance of weapon safety until their interaction with paintball. Basileus Brother Cortez Pree stated, “It is imperative that we uplift our youth

and properly expose them to skills that teach them about safety, cohesion, and effective communication”. The youth have requested another paintball mentorship session. ///

## Sigma Gamma Gamma Participates In Kadena Elementary School Black History Month Door Decorating Contest

By Brother Brian Tanner



**Photo 1** – SGG Basileus Cortez Pree, Vice Basileus Brian Tanner, Bro Anthony Polk, and Bro Roderick Singleton analyze 5<sup>th</sup> grade door for scoring points to select winner of door decorating contest. **Photo 2** –SGG Basileus Cortez Pree, Bros. Anthony Polk, and Roderick Singleton with the sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.

**Okinawa Japan** – On February 22, 2022, the brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma served as judges for the Kadena Elementary School Black History Month Door Decorating Contest. Several members of the Divine Nine joined the brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma to assist in grading twelve display doors which included: Carter Woodson, Florence Griffith Joyner, Martin Luther King, Jr., Philadelphia Concert Orchestra, and Tuskegee Institute. Vice-Basileus, Brother Brian Tanner stated that it was an impressive event to see how

creative the elementary students used their skills sets to honor the pioneers of Black History.

Sigma Gamma Gamma adopted the Kadena Elementary School in 2016. This year marks the fifth year the chapter has participated in the Black History Month Door Decorating Contest. The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter continue to provide support for year-round school events and activities. ///

## Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter Sponsors Kadena High School Black History Month Trivia Contest

By Brother Cortez Pree

Sigma Gamma Gamma Basileus Cortez Pree presents a certificate and gift card to the 2022 Kadena High School Black History Contest  
Winners - Lukeomon Desmar and Jeremiah Lewis



**Okinawa, Japan** - The Kadena High School Black History Committee reached out to the Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter for assistance in coordinating a Black History Month Trivia Contest during each week in the month of February. The participants were challenged in all

areas of Black History to include the past and present trailblazers. Sigma Gamma Gamma provided \$50 gift cards to two deserving students who accumulated the most points throughout the contest: Jeremiah Lewis and Lukeomen Desmar. ///



## Sigma Gamma Gamma Hosts Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Program

By Brother Cortez Pree

**Okinawa, Japan** - Sigma Gamma Gamma hosted their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. program virtually on January 15, 2022, at the Crows' Nest Club located on Camp Shields Navy Base in Okinawa, Japan.

Charlie Clay performed two separate spoken word poems that enlighten the crowd on the accomplishments of Dr. King. He emphasized the importance of reflecting on Dr. King's Birthday as a day of reflection to promote peace to all mankind. Sigma Gamma Gamma's 2021 Middle School Talent Hunt Winner, Callese "CC" Council enlightened the audience with a rendition of her award-winning dance performance. Liyana Roque, Sigma Gamma Gamma, 2021 High School Talent Hunt Winner performed her award-



winning dance to the audience, and she also performed a duet dance performance with Sigma Gamma Gamma 2020 Talent Hunt Winner, Miuta Price. The program was well-received by the public. ///

## SGG's Tomodachi Bridgebuilders Participate In Help Oki Community Service Event

By Brother Cortez Pree

**Okinawa, Japan** - The Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter along with their mentees, **"the Tomodachi Bridgebuilders"** provided service and uplift to the Okinawa Community on January 15, 2022. The Chapter spent \$1,500 at Kadena Air Base Exchange and Commissary for the purchase of food, supplies, and toys to support local members of the Okinawa community that were in need during the COVID crisis.

President of the Tomodachi Bridgebuilders, Malik Aubrey stated "It is important to give back to those that are less fortunate". Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter presented the gifts to the Help Oki Non-Profit Organization. Help Oki serves over 25,000 personnel on the island of Okinawa. ///



Photo 1 – Brothers of Sigma Gamma Gamma and the Tomodachi Bridgebuilders assist Help Oki with providing supplies to those in need; Photo 2 –The Tomodachi Bridgebuilders deliver supplies to Help Oki.







David Dew, Brandon Pree, Dontaevious Barber Jr., Cortez Pree, Jr., Marteola Rivers, Malik Aubrey, David Washington, Jr. and Malachi Hannah were inducted into the Tomodachi Bridgebuilders on February 13, 2022, at the Crow's Nest Club. The Charter Members are Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter Basileus Brother Cortez Pree, Bro. Brian Tanner, Bro. Toneo Gulley, Bro. Anthony Polk, and Bro. Roderick Singleton.

So, what is the origin and meaning of the term “Tomodachi” and how and when was it chosen? Sigma Gamma Gamma introduced the charter members of their inaugural mentorship program. The Chapter received input from several brothers on the naming convention of the program. The Tomodachi Bridgebuilders was the chosen name for the program. Tomodachi is a term that means “Friendship” in Japanese. Eight young men answered the call by attending the informational session that was held on November 6, 2021, at the Crow’s Nest in Okinawa, Japan.

The Bridgebuilders endured a hectic 90 - day program that consisted of learning Robert’s Rules of Order, reading scriptures, feeding the community of Okinawa, toy drives and distribution, and a host of other

community supporting events. They also enjoyed an overnight camping sleepover over, paintball, kayaking, and various physical fitness events. Each Bridgebuilder was assigned a mentor to assist in their professional development. Their Creed consists of BRIDGE:

Be an example for others to follow,  
Respect myself, my family & my community,  
Inspire others to better themselves,  
Doing the right thing when no one is looking,  
Give 100% in everything that you do and never quit or give up,  
Empathy by treating others the way they SHOULD be treated.  
 Their pillars in life shall constitute MY GOD, MYSELF, & MY FAMILY. ///



## Tomodachi Bridgebuilders Performs at the Okinawa Diversity Council 7th Annual Black History Month Program

By Brother Cortez Pree



Tomodachi Bridgebuilders perform a step show

**Okinawa, Japan** – The Okinawa Diversity Council held their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Program on February 19, 2022, at the Foster Community Center located on Marine Corps Base Camp Butler in Okinawa, Japan. This year's theme focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. The program featured performances by gospel choirs, spoken word, yoga instructors, nutritionists, and health promotions.

The highlight of the Black History Month Program was Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter presenting eight new members of their male mentorship program (Tomodachi Bridgebuilders) to the Okinawa Community. The mentees recited several bible

scriptures, along with their creed, and performed a step show. Everyone in attendance especially the proud parents of the mentees enjoyed their performance. In addition, the Tomodachi Bridgebuilders setup an information booth to educate the public on the various aspects of their mentoring program. Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter Basileus Brother Cortez Pree who served as the lead facilitator stated, "how proud he was of the young mentees, and they are prepared to showcase their talents to the local and international Community." After the event, the Tomodachi Bridgebuilders assisted the Okinawa Diversity Council with breakdown and cleanup to ensure the facility was in good condition for the next event. ///

**Sigma Gamma Gamma** conducted their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Black History Bowl on March 11, 2022, at the Kadena Officer Club in Okinawa, Japan. SGG male mentorship mentees, Tomodachi Bridgebuilders battled the Archonettes and Amicettes, mentees of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. The teams had to battle each other for three rounds to claim a cash prize for each program. The team fielded questions that consisted of the following categories: Art, Sports, Politics, Literature, Medical, Humanities, Law, and Education. The teams battled for 3 rounds as each student had a chance to participate in this historic session.

The Tomodachi Bridgebuilders emerged as the winners by edging the Archonettes and Amicettes. Basileus Brother Ortez Pree stated that it is imperative that we continue to expose our youth to the historians that made freedom possible to this day.

The educational aspect of this event was well received by the parents and community. ///



Brother Roderick Singleton of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter observes the Tomodachi Bridgebuilders, Archonettes and Amicettes scramble to find answers to the questions.





## SGG selects 2020 - 2021 Teen and Youth of the Year

By Brother Cortez Pree

**Okinawa, Japan** - Sigma Gamma Gamma implemented two new award programs for the 2020 – 2021 Omega Year. The chapter observed various youth throughout the year as they selected two outstanding youth as the Teen and Youth of the Year. SGG presented the recipients with their awards at the Okinawa Diversity Council Black History Program on February 19, 2022, at the Foster Community Center located on Marine Corps Base Camp Butler in Okinawa, Japan. Malik Aubrey was selected as the 2020-2021 Teen of the Year. Malik was an active member in

Boyz to Men(torship) Program, Teen Leadership Conference, Kadena High School Track Team, and a host of community service events. Callesse “CC” Council was selected as the 2020-2021 Youth of the Year. CC is very active in the community with the Kadena Gospel Dance Ministry, Youth Leadership Conference, Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet Program, Teen Talk, and SGG Talent Hunt Contest.

Basileus Brother Cortez Pree stated that Malik and CC are setting the example for other youth and teens to follow. We look forward to their continued growth and service to the community.



**Photo 1 SGG presented 2020-2021 Teen of the Year Award to Malik Aubrey.**

**Photo 2 SGG presenting 2020-2021 Youth of the Year Award to Callesse “CC” Council**

**Friendship is Essential to the Soul!**

