

The 9th District Source

The Official Newsletter of the Ninth District



When we wear the gloves



By Miron Billingsley

Pi Omicron, Little Rock, AR -- A brother has gone from our midst, Brother Jimmy Cornelius Morris, Sr., the son of the late Tom Willie and Jo Odessa Morris, was born in Pine bluff, Arkansas on December 8, 1946. He was a 1964 graduate of Merrill High School in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, a 1966 graduate of Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Chicago, Illinois and a 1972 graduate of Arkansas A.M. & N. College in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He earned a Masters degree in 1982 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Jimmy was a veteran of the United States Army and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. Serving as a member of the Special Forces, he was proud to be called a "Green Beret". He is a past president of the Black Arkansas Funeral and Mortician Association.

Jimmy's careers were as diversified and interesting as he was on a personal level. As a civilian he was a police sharpshooter and trooper with the Arkansas State Police. He was a licensed mortician and funeral home director and has the distinction of becoming Arkansas' first black deputy coroner. Those varied experiences, coupled with his education as a biology and criminal justice major, were parlayed into a successful career as an investigator with Mays, Byrd, and Associates until his death. Jimmy became an Omega man in 1969, at Tau Sigma Chapter and was known as "Undertaker". He was a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He was always striving to do better, and nowhere was this more evident than in his affiliation with his beloved Pi Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Jimmy was currently serving as Basileus of the Chapter. He took his membership and commitment to service as a lifetime obligation. He received recognition for his years of service from the Pi Omicron Chapter as the recipient of the "Omega Man of the Year" for three consecutive years, 1999, 2000, and 2001. Jimmy is survived by his son Jimmy C. Morris, Jr. and daughter Melissa Marie Morris. His legacy of good works will live on

Brothers turn out for 2005 National undergrad summit

By Miron P. Billingsley

Atlanta, GA. -- Undergraduate brothers from all over the country convened in Georgia for the National Undergrad Summit on January 21, 2005. A sea of Purple and Gold flooded the campus of Morris Brown College for the annual event.

As usual, brothers of the Ninth District were well represented, and in fact, had the highest number of brothers in attendance.

Brothers participated in a number of workshops over the course of two days, including event planning, chapter fundraising, and workshops like, "Why I became an Omega man".

The Ninth District's own, Brother Russell LeDay, advisor for Gamma Gamma Chapter, presented a workshop on advising.

All those in attendance agreed that overall, it was an outstanding weekend.



D.R.'s Desk

Brother Todd Clemons
Ninth District Representative

Greetings my Good Brothers,

I greet you in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from whom all blessings flow. We are doing great things in the Mighty Ninth District. On March 3, 2005 we celebrated Omega's Day at the Arkansas State Capital in Little Rock. Approximately 100 Brothers and over 30 legislators fellowshiped and dialogued at a luncheon provided by Brother Dwayne Dobbins. Brother Dobbins serves in the Arkansas House of Representatives. We also had the pleasure of attending one of their sessions and the fraternity was recognized from the floor by the Speaker of the House. Our Political Action Committee Chairman, Brother Roger Watkins, is currently finalizing plans for Omega Days in our other four states. However, the bar was set very high by the good Brothers in the great state of Arkansas.

On January 29, 2005 we had an extremely productive Winter Council Meeting in Monroe, Louisiana. Over 90 Brothers attended, the vast majority traveling at their own expense. I commend these men on their commitment to our "chosen way of life". The council approved, among other things, The Ninth District Meeting Planning and Hosting Manual. This 12 page document attempts to cover its topic from A to Z. Our District Keeper of Records and Seal, Brother Ernest Parquet, chaired our committee and did a yeoman's job.

Also in January the Ninth District executed a Threepeat! For the third consecutive we led the fraternity in the number of brothers in attendance at the National Undergraduate Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, 40 of our 45 undergraduate chapters were represented. Also, in October we had another successful District Undergraduate Summit/New Brothers' Orientation. Approximately 200 Brothers converged upon the campus of Paul Quinn College in Dallas, Texas. I salute all of the Ninth District's undergraduate Brothers, and their advisor Brother Joseph Davis, for their dedication to Greatness.

We have recently activated four of our Undergraduate Chapters. The chapters, and their locations, are:

Omicron Lambda- Oklahoma State University- Stillwater, Ok Sigma Kappa- University of Central Oklahoma- Edmond, Ok Omega Kappa- Nicholls State University- Thibodeaux, La Theta Mu- University of New Orleans- New Orleans, La

All of our chapters recently celebrated the legacies of all of our good Brothers in Omega Chapter with Memorial Services. We must never forget these great Omega Men upon whose shoulders we stand and spirits we cherish.

Lastly, we are currently preparing for the largest, and more importantly the greatest, District Meeting we have ever had. Our theme for the 68th Annual Ninth District Meeting is: Being on One Accord in our Chosen Way of Life. Although hundreds of minds and bodies will converge upon Monroe, there will be but one spirit.

I pray that God continues to bless you and yours and our great fraternity. Long Live Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Your Brother and Friend,

Todd S. Clemons
20th Ninth District Representative

Omega Day at the Capitol

By Bro Watkins

Political Action Chairman

Little Rock, AR. -- March 3, 2005 was a bright spot and one of those defining moments in the History of the 9th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. With approximately 100 Brothers from around the 9th district in attendance, the inaugural "Omega Day" was held in the city of Little Rock, AR. Our very own Brother Dwayne Dobbins, Representative of the 39th district of the State of Arkansas, hosted the opening luncheon for the Omega Day. In attendance were the District Representative, Brother Todd Clemons; 1st Vice DR, Brother Willie Hinch; District Counselor, Brother Larry Dunklin and approximately 100 Brothers and over 30

legislators of the State of Arkansas.

As Brothers began to assemble in the building adjacent to the Capitol, one could sense the excitement and significance of the day and coming event. The event commenced with an opening prayer and blessing of the Brothers and Legislators followed by a meal. Brothers dined in Omega fellowship with the legislators and one another. Following the meal, Bro. Dobbins opened the Omega Day with introductions of all of the legislators present. The legislators were allowed to introduce themselves and address the body. Brother Dobbins then introduced the Brothers at the head table, and then presented the D.R. Bro. Todd Clemons, allowing him time to address the assembly. During the event the Brothers were allowed time to mix and mingle with the legislators as more arrived for lunch and "hand-shaking." The Brothers were then recognized from the gallery in the House of Representatives followed by a tour of the Capital building.

Under the leadership and vision of the 9th District Rep. Bro. Todd Clemons, the Omega Day concept was birthed. The direction was given to the Political Action Committee Chairman, Bro. Roger Watkins to develop the Omega Days for the 9th District. The vision is to involve the Brothers of the 9th District in the political process, to keep Brothers informed of political issues that affect their communities, and to have political forums (i.e. Omega Days) at the Capitals of each of the four States in the 9th District. The inaugural Omega Day in Arkansas has set the "bar" high for the other State's Omega Days. Additional Omega Days are currently scheduled for Oklahoma (April 1st), Texas (May 12th), and Louisiana (May 26th) and the expectations are as high for those events' success.

Our own Brother Dobbins is only in his second term as an AR Representative but is the chairman of the Technology Committee, a position that is normally filled by a Representative in his or her third term. Special thanks

9th District Council

Bro. Todd Clemons
District Representative

Bro. Willie Hinch
First-Vice District Rep.

Bro. Colins Phillips
Second-Vice District Rep.

Bro. Ernest Parquet
Keeper of Records and Seals

Bro. Shawn Brewer
Keeper of Finance

Bro. Larry Dunklin
District Counselor

Bro. Miron Billingsley
Director of Public Relations

Bro. Herbert Nance
Chaplain

Bro. Teflon Don Davis
Immediate Past
District Representative

Bro. Varner Rencher
District Marshal

and appreciation go to Mrs. Dobbins who worked diligently on the luncheon and room preparation to make the room very decorative in purple and gold, and she made the Brothers feel right at home. Brother Dobbins informed us that Omega Psi Phi is the only fraternity to ever have a "Day" at the Arkansas Capital. Many thanks to the committee and all who made this momentous historic event possible.

The Official Newsletter of the Ninth District

NU IOTA CREATES AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE

Brother Milton H. Williams

Nu Iota, Marshall, TX. -- In Spain it would be called "Un Tarde de Elegante. In France you would say, "Un Elegant Soirre. In Italy you would experience, "Un Serata de Elegante. But, the brothers of Nu Iota called it, an "Evening of Elegance" to describe their First Annual Fall Formal Ball.

The brothers created a formal affair that exceeded everyone's expectations. The well attended affair was created as a fundraiser to benefit the fraternity's scholarship fund. The attendance and participation assured that the brothers would be able

fraternity's scholarship fund. The attendance and participation assured that the brothers would be able to offer increased education assistance to worthy students.

In addition to Un Tarde de Elegante, the brothers took the opportunity to honor three of its own. Brothers L.A. Moon, L.U. Mason and Vernon May were recognized for their 75, 65 and 30 years respectively of service to Omega. These brothers have served as the foundation of Nu Iota; and, they have served as the mentors to many younger brothers.

Many Omega brothers traveled to attend this affair. Among those who came from out of town was, Brother Willie Hinchin, First Vice 9th District Representative. Brother Hinchin commented how fortunate he felt to be able to attend, since, the honorees were very important in helping him to develop as a member of our fraternity.

As part of his comments, Brother Winston Robinson, Basileus, assured the attendees that the October 2005 affair would be a bigger and better Evening of Elegance.



Achievement Week Festivities Held at Rho Phi Chapter

Rho Phi, New Orleans, LA. -- The Rho Phi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. recently honored twelve outstanding individuals during the chapter's achievement week festivities. The honorees were chosen from four divisions; civic, music, education and for their works in the Greater New Orleans community. Honored for civic affairs were Dr. Joseph W. Davis and Gloria Moultrie. Honorees for music were Harold Battiste, Jr. and Mercedes Tucker Stamps. Education honorees were Dr. Emmett Bashful, Leona Tate, Tessie Williams and Gail Netters. Bro. Virgil Robinson was honored for his business achievements. Dr. Kevin Stephens was honored for his work in medicine. Fr. Jerome LeDoux S.V.D. nadLolis Elie

were honored for their work in journalism. The public service was held at the Greater Tulane Memorial Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA. Bro. D.A. Lambs was the keynote speaker.



Xi Omega Chapter joins "Going To The Arts For Tulsa Kids"

By Elvrez Allen

Xi Omega, Tulsa, OK. -- Xi Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. recently pledged participation in the "Going To The Arts For Tulsa Kids" mentoring program. Ms. Kim Graham, Executive Director of the program made a presentation at Xi Omega's regular meeting. Several brothers responded by signing up and going through the interviews, screening and training required to become mentors in the program. Upon completion of the process, the Omega brothers were assigned to Marion Anderson Elementary School.

Going To the Arts for Tulsa Kids is a comprehensive mentoring program specifically designed to serve 150 high-risk fourth (4th) through eighth (8th) graders within traditional and alternative schools in the Tulsa area. The program is a collaboration of Tulsa Public Schools, Going to Bat for Tulsa Kids and the Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa. It provides a chance to serve some of Tulsa

Public Schools' best risk children by being a mentor.

At-risk children face steep odds against success, and finding mentors is essential. Without mentors, these children may find the wrong kind of role models. Mentors spend at least one hour each week with their students at the school during school hours. The mentor is a trusted friend who cares, listens and is a positive role model. The mentor can provide a positive influence in a young person's life to offset the negative pressures. The mentor can stimulate the excitement of discovery, impact a student's feeling of achievement, and inspire and show a student that education is the key to a better life. These mentors dedicate a small, but meaningful part of their time and energy to helping others.

The Principal at Marion Anderson, Robert Wilson is also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He stated, "I am so pleased that my brothers have stepped up to the plate and made a commitment to exemplify the cardinal principles of our great organization".

Small Chapter Doing Big Things!

By Bro. Byron Williams

Rho Nu, Galveston, TX. -- Omega Psi Phi's Rho Nu Chapter has been a fixture in Galveston since 1971. With 22 Omega Men Strong, the small chapter remains active not only in Galveston, but as far north as Houston, TX. Believing fully in "Eight Versus Eighty", Rho Nu intends to not only continue their work, but increase it in an effort to provide for a favorite Mandated Program, Scholarship!

The H. Warren Scholarship was awarded to Daryl Wells, a freshman at Louisiana State University. The amount of One Thousand Dollars is given annually through a local essay writing contest based on the National Essay Contest subject matters. Due to the high costs of tuition, books, fees, etc., the Rho Nu Chapter is working on an effort to double the amount within the next 2 years.

Amongst local charitable events, the PN Chapter consistently donates non-Perishables to the Galveston's Battered Women Shelter, gives blood at the University of Texas Medical Branch of Galveston, participates in the Annual UNCF 1-Mile walk, tutors at local high schools, and works Annual Beach Clean-up along Galveston's Coast. Never underestimating the power of participation, the PN Chapter will continue to serve Omega Psi Phi in Galveston County and surrounding areas for years to come.



Wofford College Alumni Distinguished Service Award by Brother Greg Thompson

Psi Alpha, San Antonio, TX. -- On the 50th Anniversary of Wofford College's Alumni Distinguished Service Award Brother James Blair became the first African American to ever receive this most prestigious award on Saturday, October 16, 2004. The Distinguished Service Award is presented to individuals who are members of the Wofford College National Alumni Association. Recipients have distinguished themselves in business or professional careers as well as providing service to humanity that reflects positively on the recipient and the College.

Brother Blair's legacy at Wofford College is steeped in success as one of the school's most outstanding basketball players from 1979 to 1983. His #44 playing jersey was retired in 1983 and he was subsequently selected to the Wofford College's Athletic Hall of Fame.

What is truly remarkable is that Brother Blair's selection as the Distinguished Service Award winner was not based on his athletic prowess but it was based on his service to the community and his excellence as a businessman. Brother Blair is currently the Executive Director of the Miller Child Development Center, Inc. in San Antonio where he is an exceptional day care administrator.

Brother Blair has a wife, Shawana with five children - Telica, Shania, Clayton, Lindsey, and Jasmine.



Brothers at Omicron Gamma Gamma put new spin on reclamation.

By Bro. Van Newborn

Omicron Gamma Gamma Arlington, TX. --The Brothers of Omicron Gamma Gamma have formed a partnership with Tephejazz Jazz Café allowing them to form a reclamation happy hour on the second Friday of each month. When a non-financial Brother attends the happy hour they are asked to register their contact information at the front desk. The brother then receives 2 complimentary tickets and a card containing information about Omicron Gamma Gamma and the costs of becoming financial. The first happy hour was held on Nov. 12, 2004 and it was a huge success with over 200 people attending. There were 22 financial brothers and 11 non-financial brothers who attended. Omicron Gamma Gamma was able to reclaim 4 of those brothers immediately and we are in contact with the other 7. Brothers at Omicron Gamma Gamma believe in thinking outside of the box when it comes to solving issues in Omega today.

"3 Caretakers of Tortured Souls" Cross the Burning Sands

Rho Nu, Houston, TX. -- On Saturday, November 13, 2004 at 12:30pm CST, the marvelous gates of Omega opened wide to admit three new members into the temple of Omega via the Rho Nu chapter, Galveston, Texas. The three men initiated were Joe Gordon, Hayden Nedd, and Leo Varner. The line was named "3 Caretakers of Tortured Souls".

The potentials conducted two community service projects - delivery of meals for Meals on Wheels recipients, and a college scholarship fair for local high school students in the Houston area. In addition the potentials maintained a scrapbook of their activities and education process. All indications are that with the infusion of this new blood and enthusiasm, Rho Nu chapter will continue to maintain a strong and influential presence in Galveston County and the Houston Coalition. Be Owt Neos....Be Owt.

OMICRON GAMMA GAMMA HELPS LOCAL OUTREACH CENTER EXTEND ITS REACH

By Brother Shawn Ferdinand

Omicron Gamma Gamma, Arlington, TX. -- For the fortunate, having food, clothes, and shelter is often taken for granted, but for those standing in need, winter becomes a bitter reminder of their shortcomings. In November, the brothers of Omicron Gamma Gamma were challenged to help those who could not help themselves with even the basic necessities.

The brothers answered the call by purchasing and, more importantly, delivering fifteen turkeys to the Lancaster Outreach Center. The center provided meals for over two-hundred thirty families during the Thanksgiving holidays. The brothers of OGG are proud to be able make a difference during the season of giving. The chapter also understands it is truly better to give than to receive.

Thank You to Brothers of Omicron Gamma Gamma for a phenomenal job.

Bro. Derek Lewis received Man of the Year Award

Pi Omicron, Little Rock, AR. -- Bro. Derek Lewis is a native of Hughes, Arkansas and is the youngest of 10 children. He is the father of three children, Derek II, Dereka, and Aieress. He received his undergraduate degree in general science and his master's degree in microbiology from the University of Central Arkansas. He received his doctor of medicine degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Science in the area of family practice. He also completed his residency training in family practice at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and is board certified in family practice with the American Board of Family Practice.

Dr. Lewis opened Arkansas Primary Care Clinics in October, 1987 and later opened a secondary location, North Little Rock Primary Care Clinic, 400 West Pershing, North Little Rock, Arkansas in October 1997. Both clinic offer services such as primary care needs for the entire family, newborn to geriatrics, as well as obstetrical services, women's health, personal injury and workers compensation, and nursing home care and placement.

Dr. Lewis is a member of several organizations including the Pulaski County Medical Society, Arkansas Medical Society, American Academy of Family Physicians, Arkansas Medical Dental and Pharmaceutical Association and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity where he serves as vice president of the Pi Omicron Chapter in Little Rock, Arkansas.



Brothers of Epsilon Alpha working hard for OMEGA

by Howard Robinson

Epsilon Alpha, Fort Worth, TX. -- The Brothers of Epsilon Alpha working hard for OMEGA. This year the chapter added another fundraiser by working at Texas Stadium Concessions (Dallas Cowboys). The brothers man two concessions at every Dallas Cowboy home game. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards Omega League's Houston College Tour and our scholarships for high school seniors. The chapter projects to raise over \$4,000 working at Texas Stadium this year.



OMICRON GAMMA GAMMA ROLLS INTO THE HEARTS OF MANY CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS

By Brother Rodney Johnson

Omicron Gamma Gamma, Arlington, TX. --For the 4th consecutive year, brothers of Omicron Gamma Gamma have generously donated bicycles making several children's Christmas more enjoyable. This year, the Brothers partnered with St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Grand Prairie and purchased 35 bicycles. This act of kindness could be viewed as the difference between having a good Christmas and not having one at all. The brothers' key responsibilities in the program are to fund the project, assemble the bicycles, and if necessary deliver them to their destination. The project is graciously accepted by the community and has quickly become a holiday staple.

The families served by the brothers of Omicron Gamma Gamma live in a neighborhood known as Dal-Worth. While this predominately black neighborhood is filled with rich traditions and many legacies, it is also riddled with problems. Many families in this community won't have a great Christmas this year, but thanks to the brothers of Omicron Gamma Gamma of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc their list just got a little shorter.

This chapter is considered a full service chapter and is proud of its small role to help lift the neighboring communities. Congratulations to the brothers for a job well done.

Rho Nu Honors Founders and Recognizes Chapter Excellence

Rho Nu, Galveston, TX. -- Members of the Rho Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. participated along with the member chapters of the Greater Houston Coalition of Omegas, their families and friends to celebrate the fraternity's 93rd Founders' Day and Achievement Awards Banquet. The banquet was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Houston, Texas on Sunday, November 14, 2004.

Graduate and undergraduate chapters in the local area assembled to honor the fraternity's founders - Edgar A. Love, Ernest E. Just, Frank Coleman, and Oscar J. Cooper and to recognize the achievements of their respective chapter members and of their chapter's citizen of the year. Graduate chapters participating in the banquet were Nu Phi (Houston, TX), Theta Chi (Prairie View, TX), Rho Beta Beta (Missouri City, TX), Rho Xi (Freeport, TX), and Rho Nu (Galveston, TX). Undergraduate chapters represented were Omega Theta (University of Houston), Tau Epsilon (Texas Southern University), Rho Theta (Prairie View A&M University), Eta Mu (Sam Houston State University), and Nu Delta Delta (Texas A&M University).

NU IOTA AND POPLAR APARTMENTS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS CHEER

Bro Milton H. Williams

Nu Iota, Marshall, TX. -- In the spirit of the holiday season, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity began Christmas with a celebration honoring the residents of the Poplar Apartments. This is the 10th year that the fraternity has began the holidays with the residents. Each year, the members of Nu Iota have provided the children with gifts and provided each family a basket of fruit and nuts.

As in previous years, the children along with the New Life Baptist Church, provided a program that consisted of poems and songs.

This year the Omegas chose to honor a long time resident of Poplar and supporter of the Christmas Party, Mrs. Dorothy Shaw. Mrs. Shaw who has been experiencing failing health was informed that she has been chosen as the Omega "Sweetheart" for 2005. In recognition of her selection, the fraternity presented her with a special gift and serenaded her with the official Omega Psi Phi sweetheart song.

The Christmas Cheer party concluded with a luncheon for the attendees. The coordinators for this years event were Marshall Housing Authority employees, Shante Else and Barbara Osborne.

The Official Newsletter of the Ninth District

Stepping Up

By Allen Johnson

Rho Phi, New Orleans, LA. -- In May 2004, Gary Hawkins, 53, had been in Iraq less than two months when he received some of the best news of his career -- and some of the worst news of his life.

A civilian engineer of the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hawkins was given responsibility for \$12 billion in U.S. reconstruction projects in Iraq. But that same month, he received bad news from home. "I was halfway through my (four-month) tour and my wife was diagnosed with cancer," Hawkins recalls.

He was stunned. They had been married for 26 years; they met as college students in Boston. A native of Greensboro, N.C., he grew up in Philadelphia. She was born and raised in the Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans. They married in 1977.

She was still in college when he graduated and moved to New Orleans in 1978 to accept a job offer from the Corps of Engineers here. She graduated and eventually began working at a local bank. The couple had a daughter, who is now 22.

Now, his wife was seriously ill. She would require treatment. And the couple made a decision: Hawkins would stay in Iraq.

"My wife is real strong," he says, proudly. "I had a personal situation but my situation was no more special than anybody else (in Iraq). My wife had total, fantastic family support." His sisters traveled to New Orleans to help out while he was away.

When he first arrived in Baghdad, Hawkins talked to his wife twice a day -- once in the morning and once at night. And he spent a lot of time reassuring his family that he was OK. He worked in the heavily fortified "Green Zone." And when he ventured out some three times a

week to meet with Iraqi officials on his construction projects, he rode in an armored convoy. He wore a Kevlar helmet, battle fatigues and flak jackets, but because he was a civilian, he was not allowed to carry a weapon.

He felt "insulated" from the car bombings and the angry street demonstrations his family saw on television. And none of his construction projects had been attacked during his four-month tour. Yes, there were roadside explosions or "pop bombs" as the Iraqis called them. "But there were no occasions of direct fire," he says. But his family remained fearful until he returned home in July. "I felt guilty being over in Iraq because you put your family in a situation," he says. "I'm still dealing with the pressure I put on them."

In early 2004, Hawkins answered a call for civilian employees of the Corps to head to Iraq for reconstruction projects. Looking back, he cited several reasons for volunteering. He wanted to help the Iraqi people. In addition, the call for volunteers came from someone Hawkins had long admired -- Maj. Gen. Ronald Johnson, commander of all Corps of Engineers operations in Iraq and one of the highest-ranking African Americans in the history of the Corps. Finally, after 25 years as an engineer in New Orleans, Hawkins wanted a challenge. "I had not worked in another location. I often wondered if I could do a good job somewhere else," he says.

When he first arrived in Iraq, he oversaw U.S. reconstruction projects in Sadr City, a Baghdad slum of 2 million people in a 12-square-mile area. At first, he was responsible for oversight of millions of dollars in contracts for street refurbishment, drinking water system construction and sewer line installations. The sewerage project alone could help save countless children from disease.

"I saw sewerage in the street two feet high, from curb to curb

-- with solid waste," he says, cringing. "You had little kids playing in this [street] while shop vendors sat nearby acting like nothing was going on. Our aim was to move waste from the front of people's homes and to employ as many Iraqi people as possible (for the project)."

And he had to race the clock. Iraq's brutal summer months would bring temperatures of up to 130 degrees.

Then the No. 2 person in the Corps' Iraq operation suddenly became ill and had to return to the United States. The loss of the Deputy Program Manager was a major blow. The Corps' needed someone already in-country who could quickly assume the command until a replacement could be sent from the States.

Gary Hawkins stepped up. After two months in Baghdad's worst slum, he was given temporary command of all Corps' reconstruction projects in Iraq, which as of Dec. 21 included 343 schools, 57 health care centers, 75 kilometers of roads, and the renovation of 12 hospitals and railroad stations around the country. He reported directly to top Corps generals daily on the progress of projects around the country. "We awarded about \$20 million in contracts in the last month alone that I was there," he says. By the time Hawkins left Baghdad, the waste had been cleared from the street in Sadr City, where he first saw the Iraqi children playing. Though some sewer lines had collapsed, streets were being refurbished. By Dec. 15, Corps-supervised reconstruction projects employed more than 100,000 people. "I met a lot of good folks -- Iraqi people," he says. "Their desire was to rebuild their country themselves."



A Fraternal Mandate To Uplift Our Community, Together!

By Tony Williams

Rho Beta Beta, Houston, TX. In collaboration with the City of Houston's HOME Program, Rho Beta Beta (RBB) Chapter, along with the Houston Coalition of Omega Chapters, assisted the city with helping to deliver hundreds of hot meals to senior citizens during the 2004 Thanksgiving Day. The annual Thanksgiving Day Program, sponsored by the city's Area Agency on Aging (AAA), attracted over 50 brothers. Joining them, at the Sunnyside Multi-Service Center, were several family members and friends. One volunteer stated that he wanted to expose his kids to the unfortunate conditions of others. I think it is very important that my children understand how fortunate they are to have family members who care. This is an opportunity to show them that they can make a difference just by volunteering and giving of their time to help make someone else's situation a little bit better, said Carlo Fonteno, a fraternity member. Many of the senior residents had no family members to share their Thanksgiving with. All of them were either bedridden, or confined to their homes due to medical conditions or old-age. RBB Chapter started its involvement with AAA program over 10 years. Since that time, the chapter has solicited the help of other local chapters to participate with the program. The City of Houston approached our chapter soliciting our help with providing manpower in the delivery of the meals on a citywide bases, said Tony Williams, RBB's Community Action Chairman. For the next three (3) years, the chapter volunteer it services every Thanksgiving Day morning. Because of the magnitude of the manpower needed, the chapter invited other local chapters to assist us with UPLIFTING our community, together, he added. Since that time, several local graduate chapters have been involved. They include: Nu Phi, Rho Xi, Theta Chi, and Rho Nu (Galveston, TX.). In addition to the Thanksgiving Day HOME Project, RBB identified a single family in need of assistance for the Thanksgiving Day Holiday. A contribution, given by Bro. Michael Jackson (\$150.00) coupled with an additional funds from the chapter, assisted the Pew Family, with having a good Thanksgiving Day Holiday. The chapter not only wanted to provide the family with food for the holidays, but food for the days to follow, Williams, said. The Pew Family also received assistance during the Christmas Holidays. This year's allocation was upgraded to include both food and clothing.

Alpha Zeta Chapter Report

Alpha Zeta Chapter Report

By Ivory Jenkins

Alpha Zeta, Jonesboro, AR. -- The brothers of Alpha Zeta Chapter have been very busy for the 2004 fall semester. In sticking to our principles: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, we have taken on the task of giving back to our community. We began the school year by donating school supplies to St. John helping those in need. Next we held a back-to-school Bar-b-Que at the pavilion welcoming incoming freshmen and returning students back from summer. On Aug. 30 we participated in the fall explosion which gave students a chance to see the black organizations on campus as well as minority faculty and staff. On September 11 we traveled to Pine Bluff, Arkansas to participate in our state meeting in which we received information on a state level concerning our district. On Oct. 2 we visited Paul Quinn University for our 9th district undergrad summit. On October 16 we held a tailgate in support of our football team for Homecoming many distinguished alumni and friends returned for this event. Nov. 17 we held a founders day program in celebration of our fraternity's birthday. As a service to our community we did our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup three times this semester. Fun raising activity we held three parties, one in which we collecting can goods and donating them to the Hill Crest elementary school. The brothers of Alpha Zeta Chapter look forward to working with any organization in the community as well as other projects. We would like to congratulate Jerome Stegall who will graduate in December.



WITH COS FOR THE CAUSE
Eta Iota Brothers Share Cardinals with Cosby

By Dr. Jere Roberson



Eta Iota OKLAHOMA CITY, OK. -- September 12, 2004----Brothers of Eta Iota chapter met with Brother Bill Cosby between performances at Rose State College to share common concerns. Thanks to the dynamic leadership of Willie Hughes III, HI's dynamic Basilus, the brothers were able to meet privately with Brother Cosby as he related how his recent comments about the burdens internal to the African-American community

and family resonate within us.

Matters related to Scholarship still rank at the top of Brother Cosby's list of concerns. Brother Cosby talked about scholarship in basic, survival terms, meaning that because of the growing disregard for serious, survival learning, our brothers and sisters grow further and further away from mainstream America, even to the point of creating a chasm between middle- and upper-class Black America. Cosby commented that it was not merely a problem of the poor; it was a problem for everyone. Unless we can address successfully the means to close the gap, we could find ourselves with a permanent underclass, whose talents and potentials are misdirected and self-destructive. Perseverance is a virtue when aimed at constructive ends such as Scholarship.

Manhood, in the sense of valuing family and using it as a base for security, is a deep and emotional concern to Brother Cosby. With so many men absent from the home, and with children

growing up to a too-early maturity without a stable father (and frequently mother) figure, he wondered seriously about being able to live up to the dreams expressed during the Civil Rights Movement. Brother Cosby called upon us as men and especially as Omega men, to recognize that we are mentors to younger men, and that we should actively find ways to play that role in a positive light. Perseverance is a necessity, for the battle is all uphill.

In the end, Cosby and the Brothers agree, it is all about Uplift. What we must pledge ourselves to, we all agreed, is to not only to continue to uplift ourselves, but to extend a hand and uplift others. The true spirit of Omega is to recognize that we are our brothers' keepers, mentors to our youth, and a measure to success. These are, through the Grace of God, our greatest gifts. Share them.



"Omega Forum" enters Third Season

Psi Alpha, San Antonio, TX. -- The brothers of Psi Alpha Chapter are in the middle of their 3rd full season of hosting the "Omega Forum" community outreach television program. Featured on Time Warner Public Access television station cable channel 20, the Psi Alpha Chapter is fast approaching its 100th segment in March of 2005. What started out as a dream has become a reality. The Omega Forum has covered such topics as Diabetes, High Blood Pressure/Hypertension, Stress in the workplace, Investment Clubs, Financial Planning, Public vs. Private School Education, and Prostate Cancer prevention and recognition. It is Psi Alpha's intention to continue to inform the community on a variety of topics that may be beneficial to them in their daily lives or in their immediate future. Our core group of staffers include: Hosts - Brothers Steven Braimer, Greg Thompson, and Eddie Mims; Camera Operator - Brother Oliver Richardson; Technical Advisor Quette Del Mims; and Producer - Brother Greg Thompson.



Young brothers working in the community

By Bryan J. Lampkins

Oklahoma -- On December 16, 2004 the brothers of Pi Delta (the University of Oklahoma), Pi Psi (Langston University), and Sigma Kappa (the University of Central Oklahoma) got together and spread the Christmas spirit to some underprivileged youth. We all went to the Head Start Nursery in Guthrie, Oklahoma and spent time with the children they serve. On top of donating our time, we also were able to provide toys to all 78 children that were in attendance. This event was the perfect example of how the brothers of Omega, when working together, can be of great service to the community. The Head Start Nursery is an establishment that is almost solely run by volunteers. The people it helps are those unable to pay for child care on their own. So by implementing this event, we were able to provide a Christmas for those who may not have otherwise had one.

OMICRON GAMMA GAMMA HELPS LOCAL OUTREACH CENTER EXTEND ITS REACH

By Brother Shawn Ferdinand

Omicron Gamma Gamma, Arlington, TX. -- For the fortunate, having food, clothes, and shelter is often taken for granted, but for those standing in need, winter becomes a bitter reminder of their shortcomings. In November, the brothers of Omicron Gamma Gamma were challenged to help those who could not help themselves with even the basic necessities. The

brothers answered the call by purchasing and, more importantly, delivering fifteen turkeys to the Lancaster Outreach Center. The center provided meals for over two-hundred thirty families during the Thanksgiving holidays. The brothers of OGG are proud to be able make a difference during the season of giving. The chapter also understands it is truly better to give than to receive.

Thank You to Brothers of Omicron Gamma Gamma for a phenomenal job.

Miss Omega Scholarship Pageant

Theta Kappa, Baton Rouge, LA. -- For the past three years the Theta Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity Inc has hosted the Miss Omega Scholarship Pageant. This is the fourth year of our pageant and each year it has grown significantly in both attendance and position. Last year's theme for the pageant was "Beyond Beauty Past Perfection" held on November 18, 2004; 7pm in the Cotillion Ballroom of the L.S.U. union. The Miss Omega Scholarship

Pageant has earned high accreditations from Louisiana State University faculty, staff and students. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. has high standards and the Miss Omega Scholarship Pageant is a perfect example of what this great fraternity can produce.

One of the most important parts of the Miss Omega Scholarship Pageant is the sponsors that participate in the Pageant. Some of the past sponsors include Mo Hair Beauty Salon, Express, Verizon Wireless, Vessie B and Brian Harris Porsche Audi. Each year the numbers of our sponsors increase directly because of the success of the Miss Omega Scholarship Pageant. The sponsors are what make the Miss Omega

Scholarship Pageant a great accomplishment and asset to the campus and community. The young ladies that participate in the Miss Omega Scholarship Pageant do so because they know they will be part of a respectful and sophisticated program. Last year our Pageant's venue was at its capacity and we had to turn people away; this year our expected number of attendance is 500.

The Pageant was a huge success with a record attendance! The 2004 Miss Omega is April Burkholder. She is a junior from Houston, TX. She is majoring in sociology and is also on the LSU gymnastics team where is a remarkable gymnast. This pageant has raised the bar for all pageants at Louisiana State University.





Omicron Gamma Gamma's 2004 Omega man of the Year

By Bro. Shawn Ferdinand

Omicron Gamma Gamma, Arlington, TX. -- Bro. Van Newborn was initiated on May 20, 1995 at Alpha Delta Delta Chapter on the campus of Louisiana Tech University (AA²). While at Louisiana Tech, Bro. Newborn served as the chapter's Basileus, KF and KRS. He was also appointed to serve as the Louisiana Undergraduate State Representative to the district council in 1997. Bro. Newborn is currently active with Omicron Gamma Gamma Chapter in Arlington, TX where he has served as 2nd Vice Basileus and is currently the Basileus. He received the chapter's Brotherhood award in 2003. Bro. Newborn has contributed to, and assisted every committee at Omicron Gamma Gamma. Bro. Newborn makes it a point to attend all events that conduct the business of Omega whether it's on the Local, District or National level. In the past year Bro. Newborn helped organize the 9th District's summer council activities and participated in the 9th District's Undergraduate summit. Bro. Newborn also serves as webmaster for his chapter and the 9th District.

Bro. Newborn is steadfast in Omega and often goes far beyond the call of duty to ensure that Omega business is completed. Bro. Newborn has shown his unwavering commitment to Omega by recently becoming a Life Member. With characteristics that embody what the founders envisioned an Omega man to be, Bro. Newborn humbly does his duty for Omega with an enthusiasm that is rarely matched. He uplifts younger brothers with his knowledge of Omega and tries to instill in them the virtues of a true Omega man. Bro. Newborn is most definitely one of Omegas

brightest stars and one of her most noble sons. Professional Bro. Newborn works as a Sr. Systems Engineer for L-3 Communications in Greenville, TX. Personally Bro. Newborn is married to a beautiful sister of Delta Sigma Theta named Tanika and they have a little product of Coleman love named Savannah. Bro. Newborn has shown that he is truly worthy of the title "Omicron Gamma Gamma's Omega man of the year"!



Rho Nu Brother Recipient of 2005 Spotlight on Caring Award

Rho Nu, Galveston, TX. -- Bro. Perry "P-Funk" Fulcher, MD (OB/Gyn) (Phi Gamma '71) was the recipient of a 2005 Spotlight on Caring Award last week during UTMB's Faculty Group Practice celebration of National Medical Group Practice Week. The Spotlight on Caring award recognizes physicians for their outstanding contributions to their patients, their co-workers, or the community. Read the story that garnered Dr. Fulcher this recognition by clicking the following link: <http://www.utmbhealthcare.org/Spotlight/Physician.asp?P=27>

Congratulations Bro. Fulcher!

Omega Psi Phi members trace the history of Black History Month.

By Anthony Bird

Sigma Kappa Edmond, OK. -- February is Black History Month and four UCO members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. are proud to call many influential blacks, including the founder of Black History Month, their brother.

Black History Month began as Negro History Week and was started in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson in conjunction with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. In 1976 it became Black History Month as we know it today, said Michael White, business management senior.

"The very month in which the nation and the world pays homage to many influential and famous blacks, an Omega man is initially responsible," White said.

There are five students and four faculty members in UCO's chapter of the fraternity, said White.

"All we ever talk about is Martin Luther King and the Underground Railroad, but black history goes further than that," said Anthony Byrd, management information systems junior.

Byrd says much of his education on black history has come through the fraternity.

"Black History month shows how far we've come as African Americans and society as a whole," White said.

"He also expressed that blacks should not depend on their history to be told by the very people who enslaved them or by word of mouth," White said.

"Black History shouldn't just be a celebration in February, but all year long," said Jarrett Evans, business communications sophomore.

"People should just sit down and think about all the accomplishments. I think they would be surprised," said Arthuray Johnson, criminal justice junior.

The accomplishments he speaks of include another Omega Psi Phi brother, Dr. Charles Richard Drew, whose research made it possible to store and transport blood plasma.

"Drew has been considered one of the most honored and respected figures in the medical field, and his development of the blood plasma bank has given a second chance to live to millions," Byrd said.

Another famous fraternity brother is Lawrence Douglas Wilder who became Virginia's governor in 1990. "Brother Wilder was the first black man elected governor in U.S. history," Evans said.

In 1969 he had been the first African American senator in Virginia since Reconstruction, Evans said. White said Black History Month

"is for everyone. "We need to change our attitudes as society. Some people don't want to celebrate it because they think it is just for black people—but it's not."

Bill Cosby, Langston Hughes, Jesse Jackson and Michael Jordan are all Omega Psi Phi fraternity members.

Omega Psi Phi is not just concerned with remembering the past but developing black leaders for the future. The fraternity's theme is "Economic Empowerment Leading to Social and Political Change."

S. Earl Wilson, executive director of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., said the goal of the fraternity is to change the social standards of African Americans. "Our charge is to make a positive difference in the lives of black people. Social and political changes will only happen through our own economic success."

Rho Xi Giving Back to the Community

By Miron P. Billingsley

Rho Xi, Freeport, TX. --It is a mission of the brothers of Rho Xi chapter of Freeport, TX—to give back to the community. Along with the brothers of the Houston coalition, the brothers of Rho Xi spent the holidays fulfilling that mission. They participated in toy drives during Christmas, gave out food baskets to the elderly and assisted living during Thanksgiving and worked to spread cheer through the holidays. The brothers will continue to work in their community.



From the Editor's Desk,

Rho Xi, Freeport, TX. --Brothers of the Ninth District, it has been my pleasure serving as your 9th District Public Relations Officer for the past three years. It has truly been a labor of love but I want to thank all the brothers who have participated in helping me grow and keep the Ninth District informed. First I'd like to thank my wife and kids for being supportive; my line brother Joe for being the best L.B. around. I've had the pleasure of working for two of the greatest D.R.s in Omega Psi Phi, and I want to tell them thank you for their continued support. Most of all, I want to thank my council member brothers who I came in with: Brother Don Davis, Brother Todd Clemons, Brother Ernest Parquet, Brother Russell LeDay, Brother D.A. Lam, Brother Larry Dunklin and Brother Herbert Nance. Thank you for enduring the trials and tribulations with me. To my chapter brothers at Rho Xi and Eta Iota, thank you for your support and belief. To all, continue to pray for our esteemed fraternity and especially the Brother's overseas who are continuing to serve our country. Long live Omega.

Miron Billingsley
Brothers, it has been a honor serving

