

# COMMUNIQUE

SPRING 2024

## THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING

*Now more than ever it's up to us to make a  
difference!*

## UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

*Highlighting Colorado's Undergraduates*

## BRO. BECKWITH HONORED

# THE DREER ISSUE

AN 8TH DISTRICT  
PUBLICATION

@8th\_dist\_opp

[www.8thdistrictoppf.org](http://www.8thdistrictoppf.org)



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36th District Representative  
Bro. Dr. Marvin DeJear



2nd Vice District Representative  
Bro. Ricky Webster



1st Vice District Representative  
Bro. Ashley Kornegay



Keeper of Finance  
Bro. Devin Cromwell



Keeper of Records and Seal  
Bro. Skyler Johnson



Chaplain  
Bro. Christopher McCroy



Counselor  
Bro. Potso Byndon, Esq.



Immediate Past DR  
Bro. Kermit Ervin



Marshal  
Bro. Harry Willis



Undergraduate Representative  
Bro. Gordon Taylor



Director of Public Relations  
Bro. Dr. Jarret Smith

# 8th District Council

# MESSAGE FROM OUR 36TH 8TH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE



Greetings Brothers of the Mighty Eighth District,

I hope this message finds you basking in the abundant blessings of 2024! I extend my warmest greetings in the spirit of the Supreme Basileus of the Universe, and I am honored to be in service to all members of our distinguished district.

From Des Moines, Iowa, the historic site of Ft. Des Moines, I eagerly invite you to visit the War Chapter's venerable grounds. It's a place rich in our fraternity's legacy, waiting to be explored by you.

As we navigate through this year, the Eighth District continues its forward march. In my role as the 36th Eighth District Representative, together with the dedicated efforts of the Eighth District Council, we are steadfast in actualizing our Strategic Plan. The council is unwavering in its pursuit of excellence and innovation, striving for the uplifting and advancement of our district.

Our collective efforts, including the hard work of District Marshal Bro. Harry Willis, and the brothers of Gamma Upsilon and Epsilon Psi chapters, are focused on ensuring that our 75th Eighth District Meeting in Wichita, Kansas is a remarkable and memorable event. This meeting is a testament to our unity and commitment.

I call upon each one of you to persist in our vital mission of reclaiming our brothers and maintaining our financially committed members. It is a collective responsibility, where each of us serves as an ambassador of Omega, continually reminding our brothers of the lifelong dedication we pledged upon our initiation into this illustrious fraternity.

May all your endeavors be fruitful and bring blessings in every direction. Serving the brothers of the Eighth District and supporting the communities we serve has been both an honor and a privilege. I am eagerly anticipating our gathering in Wichita, Kansas, for our 75th Eighth District Meeting. Let us come together in fellowship and celebrate the spirit of Omega that unites us all.

In Brotherhood and Service,

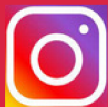
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marvin L. DeJear Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bro. Dr. Marvin L. DeJear Jr 36th Eighth District Representative Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

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Website [8thdistrictoppf.org](http://8thdistrictoppf.org)

# MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLICIST



## COMMUNIQUE

The Official Publication of the 8th District of  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Send articles to [@8thDistrictDPR@gmail.com](mailto:@8thDistrictDPR@gmail.com)

### Editor in Chief

Bro. Jarret Smith, Sr.

### Contributors

Bro. Marvin DeJear  
Bro. Glenn Frizell  
Bro. Brian C. Holley  
Bro. Ronald Reeves  
Bro. James Rolling  
Bro. Jarret Smith  
Bro. John McIntosh  
Bro. Booker T. Wright  
Bro. Joseph Clarke  
Bro. Skyler Johnson  
Bro. Allen Ladd  
Bro. Gary Armstead  
Bro. James Jackson  
Bro. Tyler Bryant

### On The Cover

Bro. Herman Dreer in  
the Dec. 1947 Oracle

### 8th District Website

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[@8th\\_dist\\_opp](https://www.instagram.com/@8th_dist_opp)

### Facebook

Eighth District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

### Submission Deadlines

Summer Edition - June 8, 2024 for July Publication  
Fall Edition - September 7, 2024 for October Publication  
Winter Edition - November 30, 2024 for January Publication  
Fall Edition - February 22, 2025 for April Publication

Greetings to the brothers of the mighty 8th District, Home of the Heavyweights! I hope this letter finds you in good spirits and living nobly as all real men do! As we transition seasons both literally and figuratively, I am thrilled to bring to you the latest issue of the CommuniQue, the 8th District publication.

First, let me express again how honored and humbled I am to serve as our Eighth District Publicist. In this spirit of humility with dignity, I thank all my esteemed predecessors who built the ground upon which I now stand. The efforts of Brother Paul Prosper, Brother Greg Labrie, Brother Osuman Issaka, Bro, Jayson Jones, and Bro. Lilo Abraham in recording and documenting the history of the Eighth District, have insured that our rich traditions and heritage is preserved. I am excited to build upon the foundation laid before me.

Eighth District history is Omega history. It is incumbent on every chapter and even every brother to play an active role in telling our stories. In return, I will ensure our stories are shared with other brothers within the Eighth District, our International Headquarters, and with the Editor to the Oracle. In doing so, this will ensure the world knows our actions, our stories, and our HISTORY!

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions and or submissions at 314-397-6630 or [8thDistrictDPR@gmail.com](mailto:8thDistrictDPR@gmail.com).

In the Spirit of Fraternity,

Bro. Dr. Jarret A. Smith, Sr.  
8th District Director of Public Relations

-05-

COMMUNIQUE

# CHAPTERS OF THE 8TH DISTRICT

<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Epsilon Delta</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Epsilon Psi</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Kappa Delta Delta</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Omicron Kappa</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Omicron Sigma</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Iota Sigma</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Iota Theta</b>
<b>Undergraduates</b>	<b>Eta Sigma</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Delta Delta</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Mu Theta</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Rho Eta</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Tau Kappa</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Chi Eta</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Iota Delta Delta</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>	<b>Zeta Delta</b>

<b>State</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>Upsilon Omega #520</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>Eta Alpha #553</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>Beta Omega #502</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>Sigma Mu Nu</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>Theta Mu Nu #960</b>
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>Delta Phi #527</b>
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>Gamma Upsilon #618</b>
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>Mu Nu Nu</b>
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>Omicron Iota Iota</b>
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>Omicron Xi #771</b>
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>Phi Xi #777</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>Beta Upsilon #617</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>Delta Gamma Gamma #835</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>Eta Gamma Gamma #838</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>Eta Upsilon #622</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>Mu Omicron #604</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>Xi Pi #746</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>Chi Phi #545</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>Lambda Delta Delta</b>
<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>Nu Rho #698</b>
<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>Epsilon Mu Nu #956</b>
<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>Kappa Mu Nu #961</b>



*Conclave Theme: A Conclave with a Purpose*

**HOSTED BY: PI IOTA**

(Tampa Graduate Chapter)

**June 26 - July 2, 2024**

*Tampa Bay Convention Center. Downtown Tampa*

[www.piiota.org](http://www.piiota.org) | [www.oppf.org](http://www.oppf.org)

**Co-Host Chapters:**

*Epsilon Mu Mu (Tampa)*

*Eta Rho (St. Petersburg)*

*Upsilon Xi (Lakeland)*

*Pi Beta Beta (Bradenton)*

*Upsilon Delta (University of South Florida)*



# THE IMPERATIVE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS TO VOTE IN THE 2024 ELECTION: SHAPING THEIR FUTURE

In the history of the United States, the act of voting has been both a fundamental right and a hard-won privilege. For African Americans, the journey to secure this right has been marked by struggle, sacrifice, and resilience. As the 2024 election approaches, the importance of African American voter participation cannot be overstated. It is not just a matter of civic duty; it is a critical means of shaping the trajectory of their communities and the nation as a whole.

The significance of African American voter turnout transcends mere numbers; it is about empowerment, representation, and the fulfillment of the democratic promise. Here are several compelling reasons why voting in the 2024 election is essential for African Americans:

1. **Defending Hard-Earned Rights:** The history of African American suffrage in the United States is fraught with obstacles, from the poll taxes and literacy tests of the Jim Crow era to the modern-day voter suppression tactics. Each vote cast is a testament to the struggles of those who fought tirelessly for the right to participate in the democratic process. By exercising their right to vote, African Americans honor this legacy and defend against any attempts to roll back the progress that has been made.

2. **Political Representation:** Voting is one of the most direct ways for African Americans to ensure their voices are heard in the halls of power. Elected officials are tasked with making decisions that impact every aspect of people's lives, from healthcare and education to criminal justice reform and economic opportunity. Without representation, the concerns and priorities of African American communities may be overlooked or marginalized. By casting their ballots, African Americans can elect leaders who understand their needs and are committed to addressing them.

Continued on next page

# FEATURE

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3. **Driving Policy Change:** The issues facing African American communities, such as systemic racism, economic inequality, and access to quality healthcare and education, require comprehensive and equitable solutions. Voting is a means of holding elected officials accountable for enacting policies that address these challenges and promote social justice. By participating in the electoral process, African Americans have the power to shape the policy agenda and advocate for meaningful change that improves the lives of themselves and future generations.

4. **Upholding Democracy:** At its core, democracy relies on the active participation of its citizens. When segments of the population are disenfranchised or disengaged from the political process, the integrity of democracy itself is called into question. African American voter turnout not only strengthens the democratic foundation of the nation but also sends a powerful message about the importance of inclusion and representation in a diverse society.

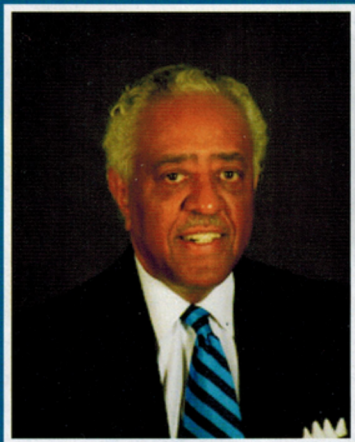
5. **Building Collective Power:** Voting is a collective action that magnifies the influence of African American communities. By mobilizing to vote in large numbers, African Americans can amplify their impact on elections and influence the outcome of races at the local, state, and national levels. This collective power can be leveraged to advocate for policies that address systemic injustices and promote equity and equality for all.

In the 2024 election, African Americans have the opportunity to shape the course of history and reaffirm their commitment to democracy. By exercising their right to vote, they can honor the sacrifices of those who came before them, demand accountability from their elected leaders, and work towards a future where every voice is heard and every vote counts. The stakes are high, but the power to effect change lies in the hands of every African American voter.



# FEATURE

## Meet Dr. Lynn Beckwith, Jr., MRTA's 2023 Distinguished Retiree



The Missouri Retired Teacher Association and Public School Personnel (MRTA) presents the Distinguished Retiree Award annually to a retiree who has demonstrated sustained, long-term and meaningful engagement and commitment to public education, our public schools and the Association. These retirees have a passion for Missouri's public schools not just because it is where they were employed, but because their hearts are still there, too.

This year's distinguished retiree, Dr. Lynn Beckwith, Jr., was honored during an awards luncheon held September 19 at the 2023 MRTA Annual Meeting.

Dr. Beckwith embodies the term, "educational and community leader." His 54-year career began with a teaching position in the St. Louis Public Schools, where he later became the district's youngest principal at age 29. He served in that capacity for seven years before being named Director

of Federal Programs and then leaving to become Superintendent of Schools in University City.

In 2000, he joined UMSL as the Superintendent in Residence, and then as the Endowed Professor of Urban Education, preparing teachers for positions as school principals. Since retirement, Lynn has remained active, continuing to share his knowledge, passion and expertise with students of all ages, and faculty and staff throughout the St. Louis area.

He is entering his seventh year as President of the St. Louis Area Unit of MRTA and served as Region 14 Vice President in 2017-2018. His dedication and organizational skills helped him develop a program relevant to all retirees and grow the Unit's membership to a new high. He is honored to receive this award. "It is a high honor to receive the prestigious 2023 MRTA Distinguished Retiree Award.

I consider it a validation of my continued efforts and volunteerism during my retirement years in support of the field of education and my community."

Dr. Beckwith's service to education and to the education community since retirement includes numerous achievements, board appointments and public speaking engagements, including service for several area school districts and higher education institutions, the United Way, Rotary Club, the American Red Cross and the St. Louis County Library District,

which named the Lynn Beckwith, Jr. Administrative Building, in his honor.

"I owe much of my success to the strong foundation I received from my mother and father. While my mother was not an educated woman, she believed strongly in the power of education and set high academic expectations for my four sisters and me." He continued, "As a result, all five children earned advanced degrees, two of which were at the doctoral level. My father was a postal worker, and I am indebted to him for teaching me through his words and deeds the true meaning of the words responsibility and perseverance, as well as a deep understanding that a man's word is his bond."

Dr. Beckwith understands the importance of the work done by MRTA. "To me, MRTA is like belonging to a family of retired school employees who have come



together during our retirement years to provide continued support for the field of education and to legislatively assist in the protection of our pension."

"Also, as president of the local unit

*Continued on next page.*

# FEATURE

of the Retired School Employees of St. Louis for the last six years, I have gained additional skills and knowledge by participating in the MRTA Annual Unit Presidents' meetings, especially the importance of succession planning for the future of the local Unit."

Dr. Beckwith encourages new PSRS and PEERS retirees to join the cause. "I would highly

recommend that a newly retired teacher, administrator or support staff join MRTA in order to receive its multiple benefits that far exceed the cost of the membership. Also, being a MRTA member is another important way of remaining involved in the field of education during our retirement years."

MRTA Executive Director Maria

Walden congratulated Dr. Beckwith on his achievements. "Lynn is an exceptional community leader; a gracious and kind man who has made a positive impact for so many people in his community, and for his fellow educators," she said. "We are in awe of his many accomplishments, and we are pleased to be able to honor him as this year's Distinguished Retiree."



# GIVE SOMETHING TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

Help today's patients become tomorrow's survivors by donating today!



# Hosting Guide



Always provide food for your guests



Have plenty of water



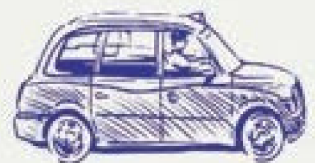
Organize non-drinking activities



Avoid topping off drinks



It's not what you drink, but how much you drink



Plan ahead to get home safely



Scan and Learn More from DRINKIQ



**DIAGEO**

# UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

ESPN

# COLLEGE GAMEDAY



The fall 2023 football season was marked by visiting Brothers, Colorado Buffs homecoming festivities and an opportunity for Chi Phi chapter to show up on an international stage in the form of appearances on ESPN's College

Game Day. Brothers from all over the state (along with some visiting Brothers) came together to represent our beloved Omega. It was one of the last Brother Dennis Reed (Lambda Beta 75', Omega Chapter 2024') was also in attendance.



## UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

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# IAN GILMORE

1-XΦ-23



Ian Gilmore was initiated into Omega Psi Phi on March 26th, 2023 through the Chi Phi chapter. Bro. Gilmore is a student-athlete at University of Colorado Boulder where he majors in evolutionary biology and runs for the CU Buff's track team. Ian is a rising senior from Houston, Texas and is excited about life post graduation.

## UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

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# JOSHUA BARRINGTON

9-ΞΨ-23



Joshua Barrington come to Colorado from South Carolina State. He is a Spring 2023 initiate through the ΞΨ chapter. Brother Barrington transferred from the 6th District to pursue a teaching career in conjunction with MSU Denver's School of Education and the prestigious Call Me M.I.S.T.E.R. (Mentors. Instructing. Students. Toward. Effective. Role models) scholar program.



## UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

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# LAVONTA BENTLEY

2-XZ-21

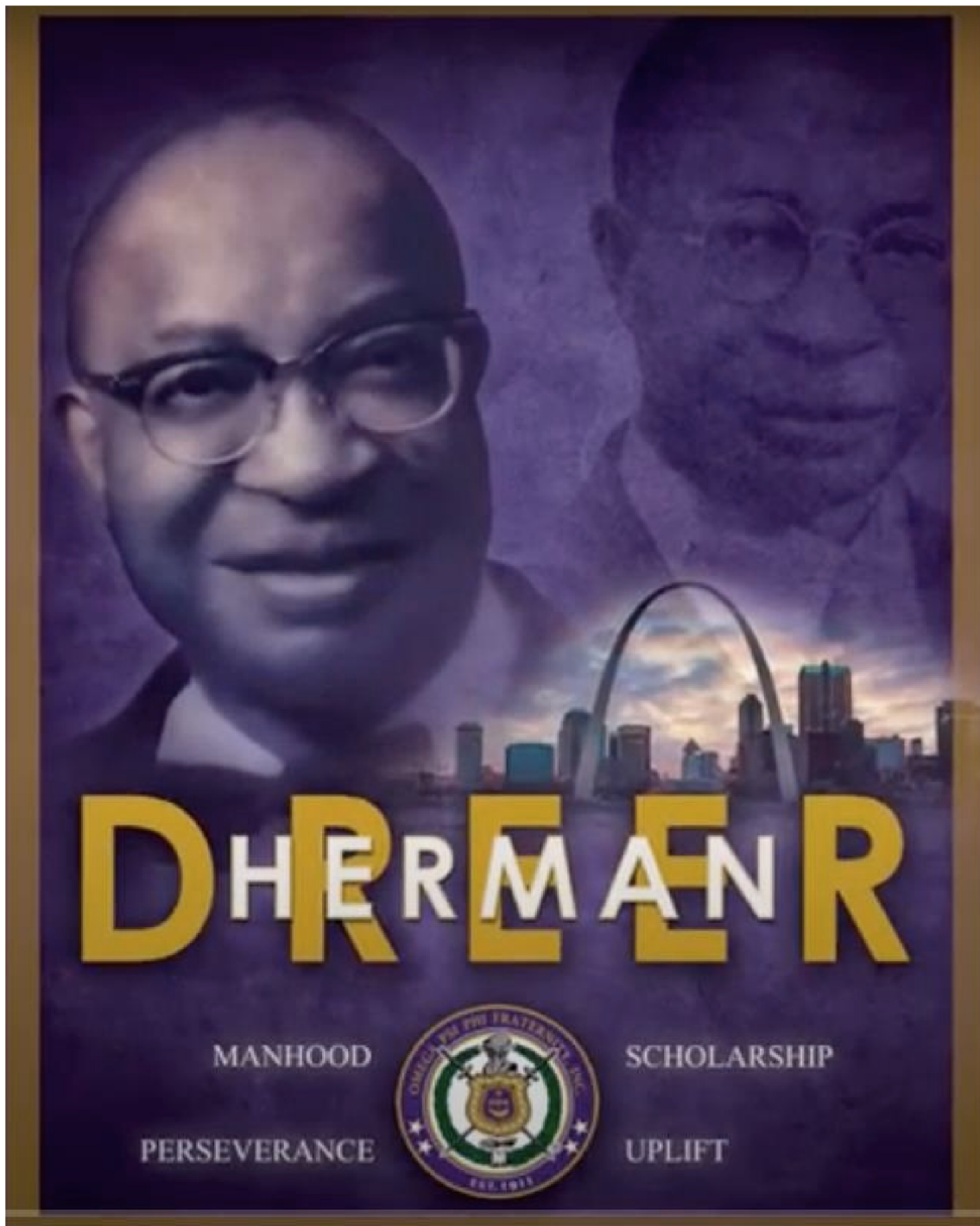


LaVonta Bentley transferred into the Colorado Football program in fall of 2022 from Clemson University. He was initiated into Omega through Clemson's Chi Zeta chapter in Spring 2021. Bro. Bentley plays linebacker for Coach Deion Sander's Colorado Buffalo team and is returning for the 24-25 season.

# FEATURE

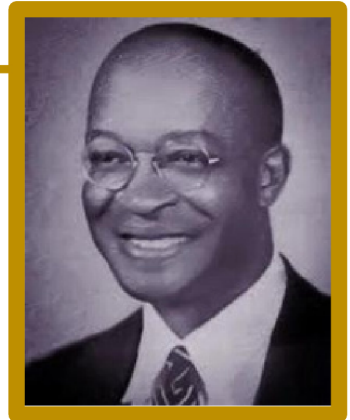
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## 20 LITTLE KNOWN PEARLS ABOUT



Compiled by Bro. John McIntosh, 2-95-YΩ  
February 1, 2022 (revised Sept. 7, 2023)

## 20 Pearls about Bro. Dr. Herman Samuel Dreer



- Born September 12, 1888 in Washington, D.C., 3 years before Omega Founder, Edgar Amos Love (September 10, 1891).
- Graduated [first in his class] in 1907 from M. Street (now Dunbar) High School in Washington, D.C. Just two years ahead of Frank Coleman and Oscar J. Cooper (1909).
- Graduated Magna Cum Laude (2nd in his class) from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine (1910). He was only the second African-American to graduate from the college, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Fraternity.
- Began teaching Latin, physics, and chemistry at Virginia Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia from 1910-1914 and while there, in 1912, received an M.A. in Latin Theology. That same year, he married one of his students, Mary Jane Thomas.
- Moved to St. Louis in September, 1914 and was hired to teach Latin and English at Sumner High School by then Assistant Principal, and Omega Man, George Dennis Brantley (Camp Howard) [9].
- According to the 1920 Census, he and his family rented a home on Goode Ave.
- Later, they moved to 4237 Cote Brilliante Ave. His monthly rent was \$60.00/month (\$959 in today's dollars). The family also owned a radio.
- In September, 1922 at age 34, he was duly initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., through the Upsilon Graduate Chapter, in St. Louis, MO. As a neophyte, he worked closely with Omega Bro. George L. Vaughn to prepare for the 1923 Grand Conclave to be held in St. Louis, MO. He served as Basileus of Upsilon Omega Chapter: 1937-38; 1939-40; 1940-41.
- In 1930, he purchased their family home at 4335 Cote Brilliante Ave from the developer prior to its construction. The purchase price was \$4,500 (\$85,000 in today's dollars) (5). His telephone number was JE-4292. [7] The Herman Dreer House is on the National Historic Registry.
- In 1935, he established Douglas University, a four-year university that offered African Americans the chance to continue their education without leaving home. The college remained in operation until 1942. [1] While there, he obtained an honorary Doctorate of Divinity.

- As Assistant Principal at Sumner High School (1939), he earned an annual salary of \$5,000 (\$95,000 in today's dollars). [5]
- Due to previous obligations of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, he personally recommended that Bro. Dreer author the official history of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. It was completed in 1939 and published in 1940. It remained the only official history book for the next 21 years.
- Supported the establishment of Stowe Teachers' College for blacks in 1940.
- Worked with Bro. George Vaughn by researching and helping to finance the Shelley vs Kramer civil rights case as chair of the Citizens Committee for the Shelley Restrictive Covenant Case in 1947.
- Pushed for the integration of Washington University in 1948. The university started admitting blacks to its undergraduate program in 1952 [4], two years before Brown v. Board of Education.
- In 1950, at the age of 62, he received his Ph.D. in sociology with a minor in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. He wrote his dissertation on "Negro Leadership in St. Louis: A Study in Race Relations." Additionally, he obtained an M.A. in English.
- Served the Senior Pastor at Kings Way Baptist Church located at 4152 Finney Ave, St Louis, MO from 1950-1970.
- Published articles in the *Journal of Negro History*, *The Negro History Bulletin*, *Crisis* for the NAACP; edited the *Masonic Journal of St. Louis*, the *St. Louis Tribune*, and served as Editor of *The Oracle*, the national publication of Omega Psi Fraternity. He also authored three books: *The Immediate Jewel of His Soul* (1919), *The History of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity* (1940) and *The Tie That Binds* (1958).
- Wrote poems and plays and helped organize the first Black theater group in St. Louis. From 1967-1975 he wrote a weekly column on black history for the *St. Louis Argus* Newspaper.
- Herman Dreer and fellow educator, Julia Davis, were cousins and co-workers.
- Entered Omega Chapter on August 7, 1981 at the age of 92. He is buried at St. Peter's Cemetery in Normandy, MO.



**HERMAN SAMUEL DREER, CIRCA 1906**



**M. STREET HIGH SCHOOL,  
WASHINGTON D.C.**



**1927 SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL  
FACULTY  
GLEE CLUB [8]**



**ASST. PRINCIPAL DREER WITH SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL STAFF. STANDING NEXT TO HIM IS HIS COUSIN AND FELLOW EDUCATOR, JULIA DAVIS.**

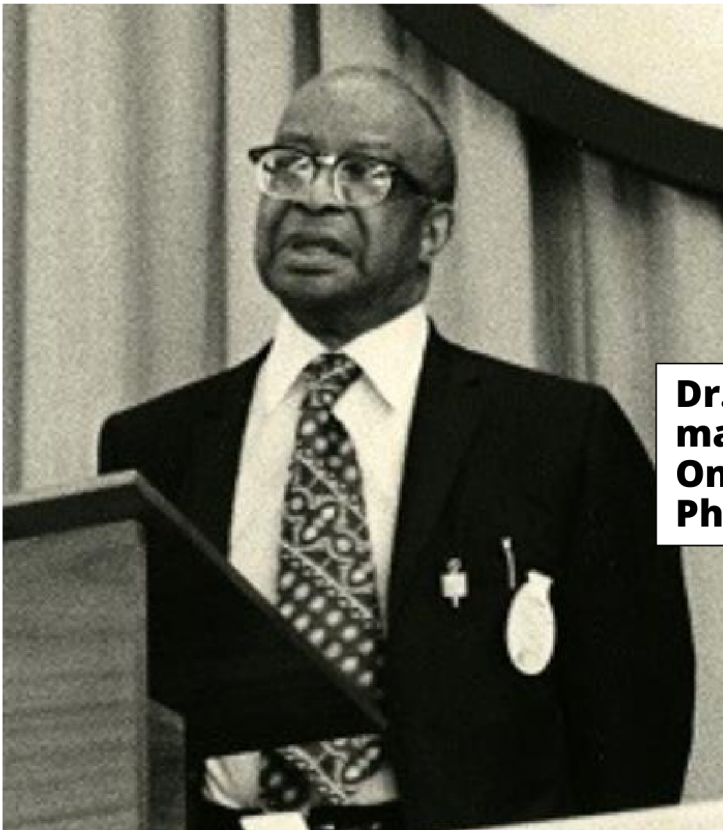


**DR. DREER AND DR. KING, (CIRCA 1962) [8]**





**Herman Dreer with his family. Seated, left to right: Clarice Dreer Davis; John W. Davis, Jr.; Mary Thomas Dreer; Herman S. Dreer '10; Carol Randolph-Jasmine; Vivian Emma Davis. Standing: John W. Davis.**



**Dr. Dreer speaking at his alma mater, Bowdoin College circa 1975. On his lapel, he proudly adorns his Phi Beta Kappa key.**



**Omega Psi Phi**

**DR. DREER'S FRATERNAL MEMBERSHIPS**



**Prince Hall Masons**



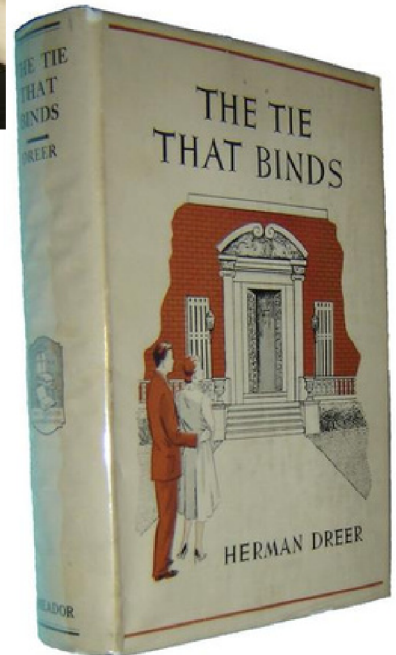
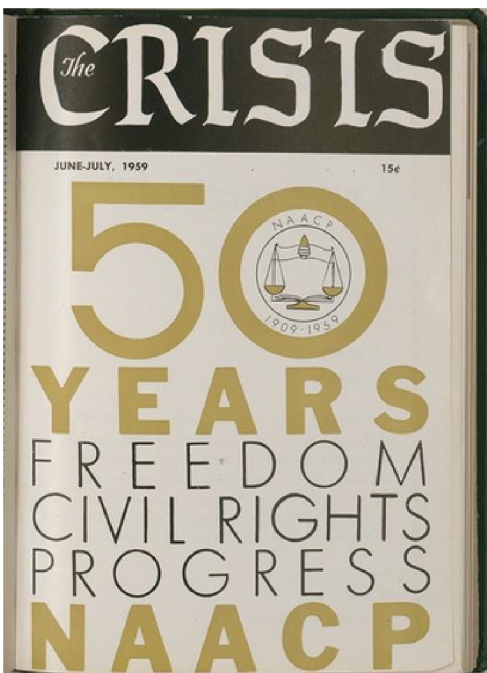
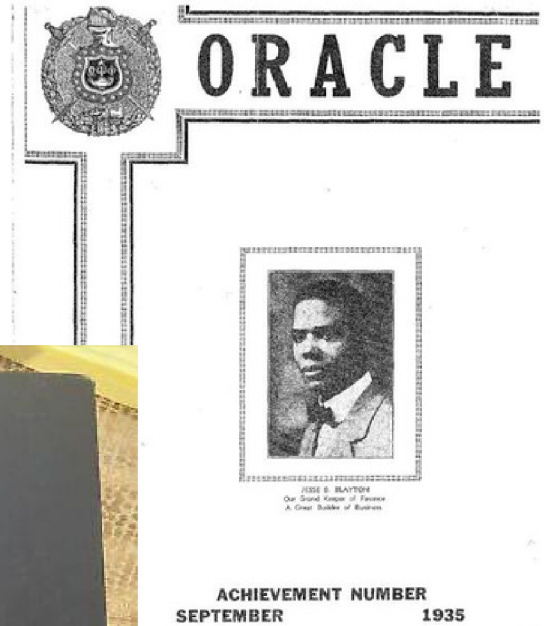
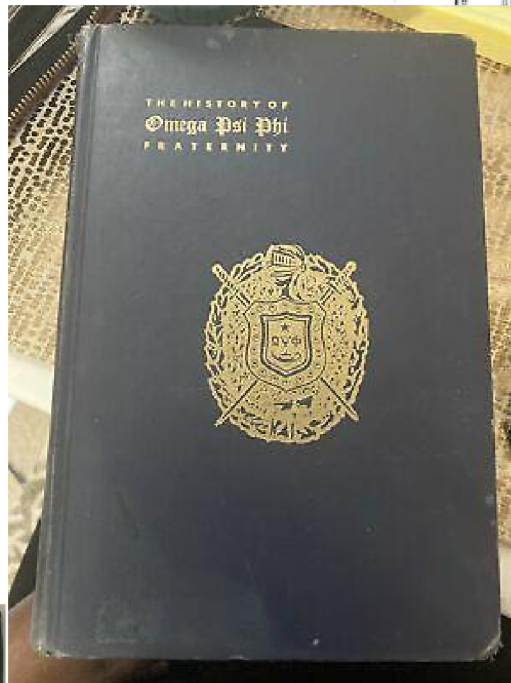
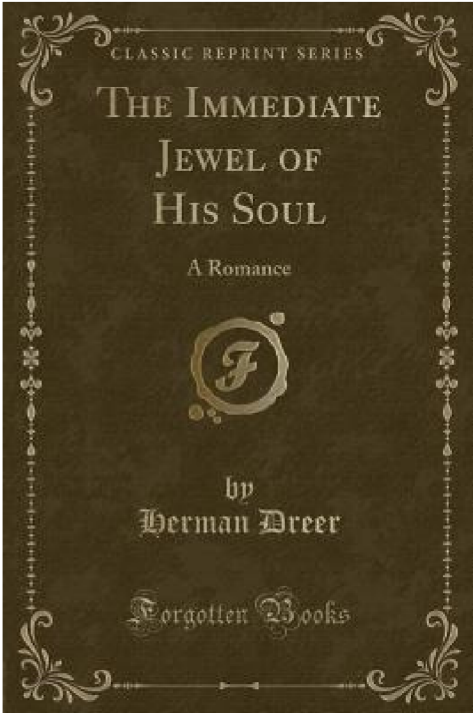
**Knights of Pythias**



**Order of the Elks**



**Some of Dr. Dreer's published works**



**REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)**

SERIAL NUMBER		1. NAME (Print)			ORDER NUMBER
U 1263		Herman Dreer			
		(First)	(Middle)	(Last)	
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)					
4335 Cote Brilliante St, Louis, Mo.					
(Number and street)		(Town, township, village, or city)		(County)	(State)
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]					
3. MAILING ADDRESS					
Same					
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)					
4. TELEPHONE		5. AGE IN YEARS		6. PLACE OF BIRTH	
JE 4292		52		Washington	
				(Town or county)	
		DATE OF BIRTH		D.C.	
		Sept 12, 1889		(State or country)	
(Exchange)		(Number)		(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS					
Mary Wife Same address					
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS					
St. Louis Board of Education 911 Locust					
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS					
(Number and street or R. F. D. number)		(Town)		(County)	(State)
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.					
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42)		(over)		16-21630-2	
				Herman Dreer (Registrant's signature)	

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

**DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT**

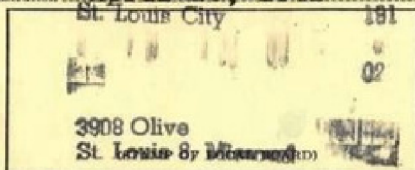
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION			
			EYES	HAIR		
White	5' 6"	175			Sallow	
Negro					Light	
					Ruddy	
					Dark	
Oriental					Freckled	
					Light brown	X
Indian					Dark brown	
					Black	
Filipino						

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification  
 small scar just above the left eye

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for Local Board 23rd Ward St. Louis, Mo.  
 (Number) (City or county) (State)

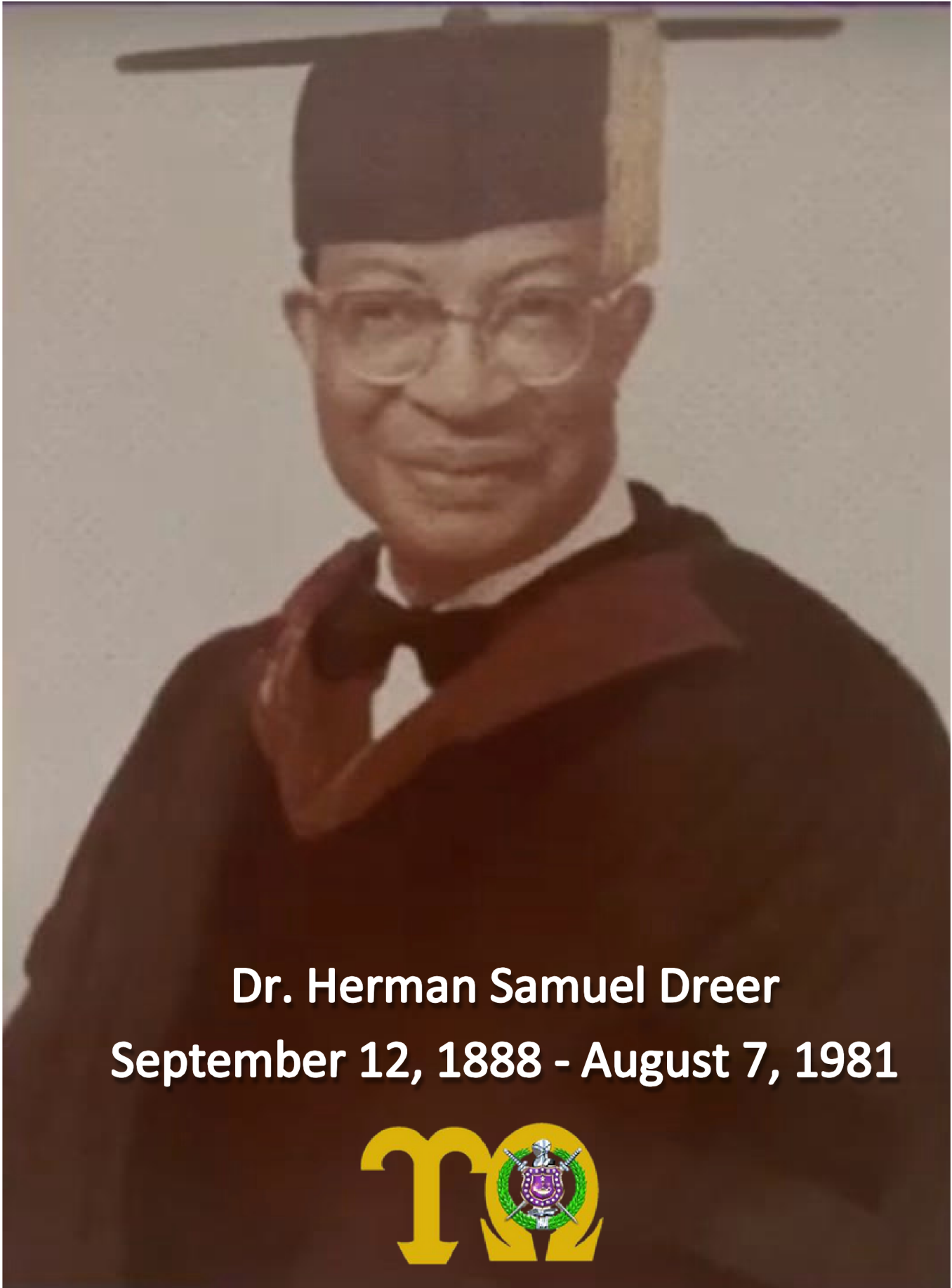
Date of registration Sept 13, 1942 75



(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

16-21630-1

**Dreer's Military Draft Registration Card**



**Dr. Herman Samuel Dreer**  
**September 12, 1888 - August 7, 1981**



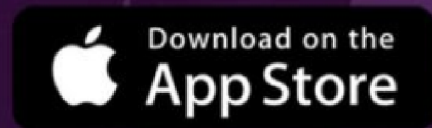
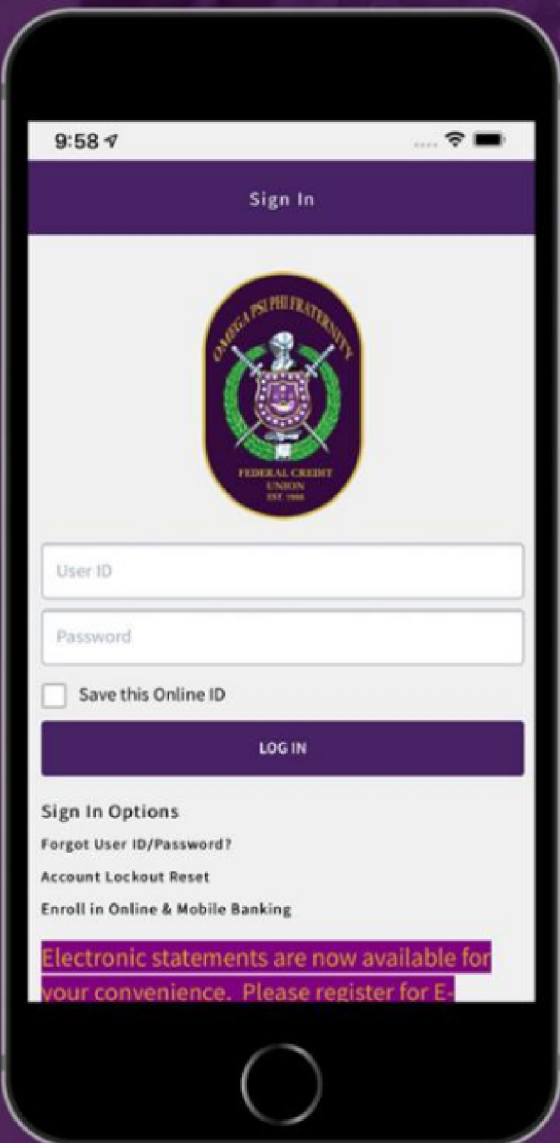
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# 2023 Fall Leadership Conference Look Book

36th Eighth District Representative, Bro. Marvin DeJear



# 2023 Fall Leadership Conference Look Book

36th Eighth District Representative, Bro. Marvin DeJear



# 2023 Fall Leadership Conference Look Book

## 36th Eighth District Representative, Bro. Marvin DeJear



**Missouri**

**Colorado**

**Nebraska**

**Iowa**

# **DISTRICT** **NEWS**

**Kansas**

**New Mexico**

**N. Dakota**

**S. Dakota**



# THETA MU NU

## THETA MU NU INAUGURAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK

Submitted by Bro. Jarret Smith

The week of November 12-18, 2023, was a flurry of activity as Theta Mu Nu celebrated its inaugural Achievement Week. Theta Mu Nu was re-chartered in St. Charles County, Missouri on November 13, 2022, after being dormant for 6 years. Because of this, Theta Mu Nu was not able to participate in Achievement Week in 2022. So, excitement was high, and brothers were eager to celebrate this monumental and historical week.

The week kicked off with a worship service at 3rd Presbyterian Church, where Bro. Rev. Cedric Portis is the pastor. Monday, brothers fellowshiped at Show-Me's in St. Charles, MO to watch Monday Night Football and reconnect with each other. Wednesday, Theta Mu Nu hosted a Game Night at Chillax in St. Peters, MO. Participants played in a spades tournament and dominoes tournament along with enjoying food and drinks. On Friday, Founders Day, November 17 brothers of Theta Mu Nu joined with brothers from Upsilon Omega and Nu Chi along with other members of the Divine Nine to celebrate the founding of this great fraternity. The week culminated with community service on Saturday morning and our first Founders Day Banquet at All Occasions Banquet Center in St. Charles, MO. At the banquet, Basileus Antonio Cooksey was honored as the chapter's first Omega Man of the Year. Bro. Dr. Derron Davis was honored with the Brigadier General Charles Young Award. Bro. Michael Jones received the Superior Service Award and Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Superintendent of Riverview Gardens School District, received the Citizen of the Year Award. Bro. Reginald Stocking was honored with the TMN High Aspiration Award for his work on the Omega Scholarship Gala.

The brothers of Theta Mu Nu are proud of what they were able to achieve in their first year and were happy to celebrate their accomplishments with each other and their guests.



# THETA MU NU

## THETA MU NU, NAACP CELEBRATES MLK DAY



Theta Mu Nu collaborated with the St. Charles branch of the NAACP to actively engage in the Martin Luther King Celebration on Martin Luther King Day. This joint effort underscores the shared commitment of these esteemed organizations to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and uphold the principles of equality, justice, and civil rights that he championed.

The decision to unite in participation reflects a deliberate and conscientious effort by Theta Mu Nu and the St. Charles NAACP to commemorate Dr. King's enduring impact on society. By coming together, these organizations seek to amplify the message of unity and progress that Dr. King tirelessly advocated for throughout his life.

The Martin Luther King Celebration serves as a poignant reminder of the struggles and triumphs of the civil rights movement, as well as an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing work needed to advance Dr. King's dream of a more just and equitable society. Through their involvement, Theta Mu Nu and the St. Charles NAACP demonstrate their unwavering dedication to advancing social justice and promoting inclusivity in their community.

# UPSILON OMEGA

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## SALUTE TO VETERANS

The brothers of Upsilon Omega Chapter saluted and thanked members of all branches of the US Military in conjunction with celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's theme was "What are you doing for others?" with a focus on making sure that the veterans were aware, as well as taking advantage of the services and benefits available to them. The twelfth (12th) Annual Salute to Veterans and Military Families was an in-person, event on Sunday January 14, 2024, at the Omega Center. Dr. King once said "everybody can be great, because everybody can serve"; therefore, it is important to honor military families who have made that sacrifice and are not often recognized. It is vital that we treat our fellow Americans with dignity and respect, regardless of their background. This is something we all should strive to achieve in our daily lives. This event was a tribute to all the brave men and women who served in the military. Veterans and their families got the opportunity to interact with vendors and service providers in order to become more aware of the resources and programs available to them in the St. Louis metropolitan area. The guest speaker, Director of St. Louis VA, Candace Ifabiyi showed how the civil rights movement and Dr. King are relatable to the struggles that minorities faced in the military. The Vet Center and Affinia Healthcare were the awardees for their service to the local and veteran community. This yearly event is open to all veterans and their families but the targeted demographic fall into the following categories:

- Those who are unemployed.
- Those with low to moderate income.
- Those deemed homeless and considered improvised.
- Those referred by Social Service Agencies and the Veterans Administration.

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## DIVIDE AND CONQUER

The Blanket and Sock Drive our chapter hosted on 2 Feb 24 at Neat Restaurant and Lounge led to over 50 homeless families blessings this evening. This made a profound impact on the community, thank you! Additionally, the Brotherhood Night: Supporting Black Owned Businesses - led to a \$1,250 investment back into the community supporting King of Soul in Ferguson, thank you!

An OWTstanding night of Social Action - hope to see more brothers at the next community service project and brotherhood night!



# BETA OMEGA

## BETA OMEGA MEMORIAL SERVICE



Beta Omega and Omicron Xi hosted a joint Memorial Service on 3/10/24. The event was held at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in downtown Kansas City. The church is led by Bro Wallace Hartsfield II who was initiated in 1983 @ the MuMu Chapter on the campus of UMKC. The Brothers visited and placed flowers on the gravesite of Dr William A Love, older Brother of Edgar Amos Love; but also founder of the Beta Omega Chapter in 1922. Bro Cortney Mays, Beta Omega Chaplain; led the ceremony and did an excellent job!!!!



**March 10, 2024**  
**Kansas City, Kansas. Following Memorial Observation Service at Metropolitan Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO. members of Beta Omega visit the gravesite of their founder, The Honorable Dr. William Albert Love (Omega, '72). Dr. Love was initiated on the charter line of Alpha Chapter and served as a doctor in the Kansas City medical community for over 50 years. Dr. Love was the elder Brother of Founder The Honorable Bishop Edgar Amos Love, (Omega, '74).**

# COMMUNIQUE

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**Northeast Middle School Students, Kansas City Missouri, display their school banner during Beta Omega/Omicron Xi's Chat and Chew Career Day.**

# BETA OMEGA

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## BETA OMEGA/OMICRON XI, NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK/ CHAT AND CHEW CAREER DAY, NORTHEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Submitted Bro. by Glenn Frizell

Snack food; doctors, engineers, educators, business entrepreneurs, firefighters, and other professionals; plus 50 middle school students all came together on Founders Day 2023 to share and learn a little.

Branded, “Chat and Chew” by Northeast Middle School assistant principal, Bro. Kenneth Ellison (Spring 2008 Phi Psi), the purpose of the event was to give as many students as possible one on one time with a professional from a industry or career they were interested in. Ellison said, “We set the Chat and Chew up so that career experts could have a relaxed and personable conversation with students on their Career Day. Since learning happens in a conversation, we decided to use a speed dating format. This ensured that students could meet one-on-one with as many career professionals as possible, learn about their different careers, and ask relevant questions about their profession.”

Students were chosen from the school’s 7th and 8th-grade AVID college prep program to participate. The Avid program has a post-secondary career curriculum that is in alignment with exposure to the real-world workforce. Over 20 professionals set up their career interest stations with their name tents, and the students were directed to move every 5- 10 minutes from station to station seeking answers to prepared questions. Brothers from Omicron Xi and Beta Omega catered deli sandwiches, cookies, water, chips and candy for the Northeast Titan students and small gift bag for the career presenters. Brother Tyrone Taylor (Spring 2012, Omicron Xi) called the event a success and said the two fraternities chapters worked well together. The National Achievement Week Committee was also composed of Brothers Jesse Junius III (Spring 2010, Beta Omega), Sal Madge (Fall 2017, Omicron Xi), and Glenn Frizell (Fall 2021, Beta Omega)



Northeast Middle School  
Students, Kansas  
City Missouri, display their school banner  
during Beta Omega/Omicron Xi’s Chat  
and Chew Career Day.

# SIGMA MU NU

## SIGMA MU NU CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENT WEEK

Submitted by Bro. James Rolling

In the year 2023, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. theme for the Achievement Week was "Omega Men Promoting a Harmonious Future Through Friendship and Service." The Brothers of Sigma Mu Nu demonstrated an exemplary commitment to this theme by engaging in activities that epitomized both friendship and service.

The commencement of Achievement Week begun on Sunday, November 12, with a church service at the church of Brother Bennie Terrell, an Associate Pastor at New Dimensional Christian Ministry. To express gratitude for the warm welcome extended by the church, the Chapter contributed a donation of \$150, symbolizing a small token of appreciation. Moreover, this gesture planted seeds for future collaborations, aligning with the church's diverse programs dedicated to serving the Rolla community.

Continuing the week on Monday, November 13, the Chapter organized its annual Achievement Week with a game night hosted at the Life Care Center of Waynesville. This event was particularly significant as it provided an opportunity for Sigma Mu Nu members, many of whom are currently active duty or retired, to spend quality time with older veterans residing at the center. This gesture served as a testament to the chapter's commitment to ensuring that the sacrifices of these veterans are not forgotten, thereby reinforcing an essential pillar of the chapter's ethos.

Continued on next page



# SIGMA MU NU

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On Tuesday, November 14, the chapter collaborated with its community partner, the Community Blood Center of Ozarks (CBCO), to organize the 3rd Annual Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive. With over 40 scheduled donations and an additional 30 walk-ins, this blood drive exemplified the chapter's dedication to community welfare. The remarkable efforts of Sigma Mu Nu in this regard will be acknowledged on Thursday, January 25, as CBCO honors the chapter as an outstanding community partner.

In furtherance of fostering familial bonds, the chapter hosted a family night event on Wednesday, November 15, at the Daughtery Bowling Center on the installation. This gathering provided an occasion for the family members of chapter brothers to come together, emphasizing the importance of family support throughout the year, especially when fraternal duties may necessitate brothers being away from home.

On Thursday, November 16, the chapter organized an exclusive brother-only reclamation dinner at Ruby Tuesday. This event aimed to reconnect with former members, rekindling the flame of brotherhood and duty. Notably, Brother James Rolling returned to active status, embodying the success of the chapter's efforts to bring brothers back into the fold.

Concluding the week on Founders' Day, Friday, November 17th, the chapter celebrated with a day of fellowship, where brothers relished each other's company, reinforcing the bonds of camaraderie within the Sigma Mu Nu Chapter.



# SIGMA MU NU



TEAM MASCOT: Ravens

LEAGUE: Waynesville Youth Football

GRADE LEVEL: 3rd & 4th

HEAD COACH: Bro. Justin Speed

ASSISTANT COACH: Bro. Montoya Smith

The Sigma Mu Nu Chapter played a pivotal role in supporting a team by providing essential resources such as team uniforms, practice equipment, and organizing an end-of-the-year party. Moreover, their commitment extended beyond material support, as they offered mentorship throughout the entire season. This marks the chapter's third consecutive year sponsoring and coaching a team, exemplifying their sustained dedication to fostering community engagement and positive youth development through sports. Their ongoing contributions underscore the enduring impact of community organizations in nurturing the growth and well-being of young individuals. Sigma Mu Nu believes in the multifaceted significance of youth sports in the developmental trajectory of young individuals is underscored by a nuanced interplay of physical, social, and emotional dimensions. From a physical health perspective, youth sports serve as a cornerstone for fostering an active lifestyle, instigating regular physical activity that addresses contemporary concerns associated with sedentary tendencies. Moreover, participation in sports cultivates essential motor skills, coordination, and agility, contributing to the holistic physical development of youths.

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# SIGMA MU NU

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On the mental health front, engagement in sports functions as a potent stress mitigator, conferring demonstrable benefits in anxiety reduction and overall psychological well-being. Beyond the corporeal realm, the disciplinary ethos intrinsic to sports molds character by inculcating principles of time management, goal-setting, and resilience in the face of challenges. Socially, youth sports serve as a crucible for the cultivation of invaluable interpersonal skills, fostering teamwork, communication prowess, and a foundational understanding of fair play. The competitive arena not only nurtures goal-oriented behaviors but also engenders a sense of sportsmanship, encapsulating ethical conduct and integrity. Concomitantly, sports contribute to the augmentation of self-esteem through accomplishments and positive self-perception. In a broader sense, youth sports engender lifelong habits, establishing routines of physical activity that endure into adulthood, and serve as conduits for the discovery of enduring hobbies and passions. Beyond the individual, educational benefits are evident, as scholarly endeavors suggest a positive correlation between sports participation and enhanced academic performance. Embracing diversity, youth sports platforms facilitate social inclusion by affording opportunities for interaction among individuals from diverse backgrounds. Moreover, by providing a positive outlet for energy and emotions, sports contribute to the prevention of risky behaviors. In summation, the profound impact of youth sports, extending beyond the confines of the playing field, epitomizes a comprehensive approach to nurturing the holistic development of young individuals, equipping them with a repertoire of skills and attributes essential for navigating the complexities of life. These young men and the lady exhibited tremendous dedication and effort throughout the year, resulting in an exceptional season. Unfortunately, their journey concluded with a tough loss in overtime during the semi-final playoff game. Despite the tough conclusion, their hard work and achievements throughout the season are commendable and reflective of their resilience and sportsmanship.

# COMMUNIQUE

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# ETA ALPHA

## ETA ALPHA HOSTS TOY DRIVE AND TURKEY DRIVE

On December 9, 2023, the Brothers of Eta Alpha held their annual Toy Drive at Hy-Vee for the Jefferson City community. The toys collected were donated to Building Community Bridges, a local organization promoted "to inspire, uplift and aid youth development through self-awareness, education, entrepreneurship and community issues that impact their daily lives." The Brothers had a good time fellowshiping while bringing smiles to the Saturday morning shoppers.



On December 16, 2023, the Brothers of Eta Alpha conducted their annual Christmas Turkey give away for the Columbia, Missouri community. This was the second year the event was held at Lange Middle School. It was a joy to see the smiles on people's faces.



# BETA UPSILON

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## PROJECT MANHOOD KICK OFF AT CENTRAL PARK ELEMENTARY

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, Beta Upsilon Chapter, kicked off its inaugural "Project Manhood" event at Central Park Elementary School on Thursday, October 12, 2023. This program was facilitated by Brother, Trevis Sallis, Executive Director of Omaha Public Schools Student Transportation, and has been serving the Omaha community for nearly three decades. The program has continually provided activities and venues with a profound effect and impact on the lives of "at-risk" and underprivileged youth in the Omaha, Nebraska area. Many youths, without the intervention of the Project Manhood program would be experiencing truancy issues, as well as getting involved in criminal/delinquent activities. Successful guidance and direction of participating youth have resulted in individuals becoming more socially, interpersonally, and educationally responsible contributors to the Omaha community.

The brothers of Omega Psi Phi, Beta Upsilon Chapter, are comprised of community leaders such as a county commissioner, medical doctors, University Professors, Omaha Public School System administrators, entrepreneurs, athletes (on the college and professional levels), and others encompassing all "walks of life".

Brother Demine Adams (former Husker and NFL professional) was the guest speaker this month discussing the correlation between Education and Sports. THANK YOU, Brother Sallis and Brother Adams, AND THANK YOU, Omega Psi Phi, Beta Upsilon Chapter!



# **DELTA GAMMA GAMMA**

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## **LADD SHOWCASES IMPORTANT ROLE OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AT LPS**



Allen Ladd's academic background may not be in structural engineering, but he is helping students at Lincoln Public Schools build bridges to positive futures.

Ladd is using his talent and experience to support many students at Bryan Community Focus Program. He has spent more than a decade in the social work profession, and he has been the site's school social worker for the past four years. He said it was an honor to help students and families walk on successful academic, social and emotional pathways.

"I love everything about being a school social worker," Ladd said. "It's my passion. Having an opportunity to make a difference with kids and their families is really rewarding."

Ladd and other LPS social workers are being recognized for their efforts during National School Social Work Week. The annual event is taking place March 3-9 across the country.

Bryan Principal Denise Craig said Ladd is a valuable member of the focus program's team. She said his ability to make strong connections with everyone around him has led to many good outcomes at school.

"He's awesome," Craig said. "He contributes to a positive culture here with his work with staff and students. He builds relationships with kids even if he doesn't work with them on a regular basis, which is really neat. He's a supportive person for all of us."

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# DELTA GAMMA GAMMA

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“Craig said Ladd’s dedication to his profession has made a profound impact on many people. He has passed on his knowledge about mental health, social trauma and crisis intervention to his co-workers. That has helped Bryan teachers form their own durable bridges with students and families.

“I really appreciate how much of a positive presence he is at school,” Craig said. “He’s provided a lot of good information to people.”

Ladd moved to Lincoln with his family when he was ten years old and went to Elliott Elementary School and Dawes Middle School. He graduated from North Star High School in 2004 before earning a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Wayne State College. He later secured a master’s degree in social work from The Catholic University of America.

Ladd came to LPS with a wealth of social work knowledge. He helped families in areas such as foster care, housing services, homelessness outreach, teen parenting and restorative practices prior to joining Bryan’s staff.

Bryan Community Focus Program helps students meet requirements for their LPS high school diploma. Approximately 170 students are currently enrolled in classes. They apply to the focus program each year and take a wide variety of general and elective courses.

Ladd said he wants to take a personalized approach to his job. Some students may be facing economic hardships at home, while others may be needing to work on behavior management skills in the classroom. Family dynamics, health issues and educational needs are all factors Ladd considers during his meetings and conversations.

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# DELTA GAMMA GAMMA

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“It’s important to make sure we have the proper support systems in place for each student,” Ladd said. “That means getting to know the students and the families and coming up with solutions together. That’s a really critical part of the job.”

School social workers like Ladd offer many services to LPS students, teachers, families and community members. They are trained mental health professionals who help people with social, emotional, academic and safety needs.

School social workers support students in a variety of ways. They arrange counseling sessions, provide crisis intervention and help them learn social interaction skills such as conflict resolution. They develop alternative academic programs for students who have had attendance concerns, and they participate in special education assessment meetings.

Ladd provides Bryan teachers with important information that can explain why a student may be acting a certain way in class. He develops in-service training programs, assists teachers with behavior situations and offers direct support to staff.

School social workers like Ladd support families through group and individual counseling sessions. They help families find and access important school and community resources for special needs, mental health and social services. They help strengthen communication ties between families and schools, and they advocate for community programs to help parents and guardians.

School social workers also identify and report child abuse and neglect, consult with district personnel about legal issues and meet with social and mental health agencies.

Ladd said communication skills are imperative for school social workers. He said learning about other people’s stories is one of the primary ingredients in any recipe for success.

“The biggest thing is being that bridge between the community and school,” Ladd said. “When people can talk to each other, then positive things can happen.”

# COMMUNIQUE

## SUBMISSION DEADLINES

**SUMMER EDITION - JUNE 8, 2024 FOR JULY PUBLICATION**

**FALL EDITION - SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 FOR OCTOBER PUBLICATION**

**WINTER EDITION - NOVEMBER 30, 2024 FOR JANUARY PUBLICATION**

**FALL EDITION - FEBRUARY 22, 2025 FOR APRIL PUBLICATION**

# CHI PHI

## DR. CLARENCE F. HOLMES 110 YEARS OF OMEGA

February 13th marks 110 years since the Honorable Dr. Clarence Fitzhugh Holmes was initiated into our beloved fraternity. Bro. Holmes was a Denver native who graduated from Manual High School in 1913. He then proceeded to matriculate through Howard University (1917) and Howard University School of Dentistry (1920). He received his bachelors degree in 1917, which happened to be the year he served as the 6th Grand Basileus of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He earned his his D.D.S. in 1920.

Dr. Holmes married Ms. Fairfax Butler Richey on April 2, 1923 and the two eventually moved back to the Harlem of the West where he opened his dental practice in the historic 5-Points neighborhood.

He was a chartering member of Chi Phi Chapter and a Co- founder of the Colorado- Wyoming branch of the NAACP. Bro. Holmes continued to serve the Denver community until he entered Omega Chapter on May 9, 1978.

## BRO. RICHARD CHARLES, PHD BRINGS AI SUMMIT TO DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



(AI) Summit for the district. Specifically, the focus was on Artificial intelligence in K-12 schools.

Bro. Charles' goal is to get people to consider "what is that world going to look like when we're trying to prepare students for jobs that don't even exist yet." His future forward approach to education is will also include quantum computing as a learning objective. Bro. Charles' approach positions Denver on a path toward leading the country in STEM curricula.

On January 18th, 2024 Brother Dr. Richard Charles (2-XΦ-96), who serves as the Chief Information Officer for Denver Public School's Department of Technology Services (DoTS) hosted an artificial intelligence

## Congratulations Bro. Stanley Bey

Bro. Bey has been elected as the Vice President of the Central VA Chapter of the Virginia state University alumni association.



# LAMBDA DELTA DELTA

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## LAMBDA DELTA DELTA CHAPTER JOINS FORCES WITH ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO IN ADVOCACY DAY TRIUMPH



Immediate Past District Counselor Bro Armstead center, Mrs. Colorado 2022 right and DEI Director Ms. Reese.



Bro Armstead center, Rep Hamrick right

In a powerful display of unity and commitment to a cause close to the heart, the brothers of Lambda Delta Delta Chapter of Aurora, CO recently stood shoulder to shoulder with the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado during a transformative Day at the Capitol. The collaboration showcased the fraternity's dedication to making a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's and their families.

Aligned with the chapter's Health Initiative, Lambda Delta Delta Chapter took on a pivotal role in supporting the Alzheimer's Association's lobbying efforts for crucial Senate bills SB-124 and SB-136. These bills, aimed at bolstering the fight against Alzheimer's, garnered strong support from the fraternity, who recognized the potential impact on the lives of individuals grappling with this challenging disease.

The chapter's advocacy efforts were met with receptive ears among lawmakers, signaling a promising step forward in the fight against Alzheimer's. The collaborative spirit between Lambda Delta Delta Chapter and the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado has not only raised awareness but has also paved the way for meaningful legislative change.



# LAMBDA DELTA DELTA

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## LAMBDA DELTA DELTA AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS UNITE FOR ROCK IT SOCK IT SOCK DRIVE, BRINGING WARMTH AND HOPE

In a heartwarming display of unity and compassion, the members of Lambda Delta Delta Chapter of Aurora, CO recently joined forces with community partners for the Rock It Sock It Sock Drive at The Medical Center of Aurora on Saturday, March 2, 2024. This impactful event not only showcased the power of collective action but also highlighted the importance of giving back to those in need. The primary objective of the Rock It Sock It Sock Drive was to create hygiene care packages for the unhoused population in the city of Aurora, CO. The brothers graciously extended a helping hand to the less fortunate, along with dedicated community partners Mile High Behavioral Healthcare and Comitis Crisis Center, wholeheartedly embraced this mission. As the event unfolded, it became clear that the spirit of social action was alive and thriving among the volunteers.

In the spirit of unity and kindness, Lambda Delta Delta and their community partners have set a shining example of how a small act of generosity can ripple through a community, creating waves of positive change. The Rock It Sock It Sock Drive serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us all that, together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

As the day unfolded, laughter and camaraderie filled the air, creating an atmosphere of genuine connection and shared purpose. The Rock It Sock It Sock Drive not only distributed hygienic products for men, women and children but also warmed the hearts of everyone involved, leaving an indelible mark on the community and reinforcing the notion that collective efforts can bring about positive change.

## DENVER MAYOR MIKE JOHNSTON HAS APPOINTED BROTHER AL GARDNER TO BE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GENERAL SERVICES

Brother Gardner, who is the Basileus of Lambda Delta Delta chapter in Aurora, CO, was recently sworn-in to his post. The department he oversees provides support to more than 40 city and county agencies, departments and offices by managing maintenance, operations and security for over 5.78 million square feet in 134 city-maintained facilities and structures; city utility payments; facility sustainability and efficiency efforts; requests for proposals, contracts, master purchase orders; procurement spending; and city surplus property sales.



Bro Gardner Center. Mayor Johnston Left.

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS AT NU RHO

Submitted by B. T. Wright 1Nu Sigma '67

In accordance with Our Fraternity's mandates, we have been involved with a Mentorship Program in partnership with Albuquerque Public Schools. Over the past two years our chapter has expanded and emphasized our efforts in this regard thanks to the efforts of Brothers Curtis Spencer, Ron Shinault, and Tommy Jewell Jr.

Spearheaded by the named brothers we approached the principal, counselor, and faculty at Highlands High School and were encouraged by them to proceed with the mentoring program of our design. It was decided that we would work with students involved in high school athletics who might be at risk of losing their eligibility due to poor performance in the classroom. Our brothers brought their experience from the Community Mentoring Network to the Highlands High School program and to our membership.

The focus of our program was to be a "good friend", a sounding board, an advisor, a role model, and a mature adult who was easy to talk to; in short; a mentor. Each volunteer mentor was encouraged to meet with their assigned student at least twice a month and commit for at least a year. Parents were made aware of the planned participation of their child and their permission was required. The high school administration assumed the task of identifying at risk students whom they thought would most benefit from our efforts.

.A Second Mentoring Program we have been developing over the past year is our New Rho Youth STEM Program. We have collaborated with the Sandia National Laboratory and the NMBLC both of which have provided funding support for our first ever Drone Programming and Racing Competition, to take place this Spring. Chapter brothers with engineering backgrounds including Anthony Williams and Quincy Lowery have been heading up this effort. We will offer cash prizes for the first three winners in the competition, and the grant money we used to purchase laptops and programmable drones will remain in the chapter for use in future competitions.

And finally, our Third Mentoring Program which was a Youth Sports Camp which took place this past summer. The chapter earmarked scholarships for 20 students from Albuquerque's International District, out of an anticipated 150 students, who participated in the weeklong sports camp for boys and girls. The participants spent eight hours a day learning sportsmanship, teamwork, health and fitness, and were exposed to a variety of outdoor and track and field events



# GAMMA UPSILON

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# GAMMA UPSILON HOST BIANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

In honor and memory of Dr. Charles Drew, Gamma Upsilon Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Partnered with Grant Chapel AME Church in Wichita, Kansas, and held its first biannual Blood Drives of 2024 on Feb 10, 2004. We have been hosting these drives at least once a year since 2005 and are proud to be part of the American Red Cross Blood Drive program. Working together and serving others is a common belief we share, and we appreciate the opportunity to partner with The American Red Cross.

African Americans donating blood is crucial for several reasons:

1. **Representation**: Certain blood types and rare antigens are more common among specific ethnic groups. Having a diverse donor pool ensures that patients from all backgrounds have access to compatible blood.
2. **Sickle Cell Disease**: African Americans are more likely to have sickle cell disease, a genetic condition that requires regular blood transfusions. Donating blood helps ensure there's an adequate supply for those in need.
3. **Community Health**: By donating blood, African Americans contribute directly to the health and well-being of their own communities, helping to save lives in emergencies and during medical treatments.
4. **Awareness**: Increased participation in blood donation by African Americans helps raise awareness about the importance of donation within the community, potentially inspiring others to donate as well. Overall, African American blood donors play a vital role in meeting the diverse needs of patients and improving healthcare equity.

Our Community of Giving blood drives collected a total of 25 whole blood pints, which can impact up to 75 lives. To be able to effect 75 lives is an impressive number, particularly during a time when supply is at critically low levels. Another fact to be noted is this continues to be the only drive currently being held in the African American community, and due to our continued and increasing success, we have been asked to host additional drives throughout the year. We have accepted the challenge and are currently slotted to hold another drive in August.

# GAMMA UPSILON



## GAMMA UPSILON READ IN DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of February, several brothers of Gamma Upsilon chapter participated in reading to children at Spaght Elementary school, located in the heart of the African American community in Wichita, Kansas. This was an epic representation of our Four Cardinal Principles; Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. Reading to children in their formative years is crucial for several reasons. First, it stimulates language development. Reading exposes children to a wide range of vocabulary and helps them develop language skills at an early age. It also enhances cognitive development, stimulating their imagination, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, laying the foundation for intellectual capacity. Thirdly, it helps emotional bonding. Reading together fosters a strong emotional bond between the child and the caregiver, promoting a sense of security and trust. It can also introduce children to different cultures, perspectives, and experiences, fostering empathy and understanding of the world around them. Lastly, and equally as important, children who are read to regularly tend to perform better in school, as they have a solid foundation in literacy skills. It instills a love for learning, setting the stage for a lifelong habit of reading for pleasure and knowledge acquisition. Overall, reading to children in their formative years not only supports their overall development but also lays the groundwork for success in various aspects of their lives.

# DELTA PHI

## DELTA PHI CHAPTER, OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC., TOPEKA, KANSAS CONTINUING ITS RICH, LONGSTANDING TRADITION AS “THE HEAVY WEIGHT BRUHZ”



From left – to – right: Bro. Quinton Johnson – Delta Phi, Fall '21; Bro. Madrid Steele, Rho Eta, Fall '20; Bro. Delanius Trask – Eta Tau, Spring '06 Bro. James A. Jackson, Beta Epsilon, Spring '81; Bro. Willone Eubanks, Delta Delta, Fall '72; Bro. Alonzo Harrison, Delta Phi, Fall '71; Bro. Raymond Gentry, Delta Phi, Bro. Ralph Zander, Iota Iota Iota, Fall '93 Photo taken Monday, October 23, 2023.

On Monday, October 23, 2023, the Delta Phi Chapter along with its Undergraduate mentee Chapter, Rho Eta, at Kansas University, Lawrence, Kansas, held its inaugural “Joseph Walter Johnson Memorial Golf Fundraiser” at the prestigious Topeka Country Club, making the chapter the first Black organization to hold such an event at the 118 year old establishment. The event attracted 26 golfers on a nice fall day and netted significant sponsorship funds to allow the chapter to conduct its fraternity mandated and Social Action programs for the 2024 program year for needy families and kids during the holidays.

The Delta Phi Chapter received its nickname – “Top City Ques” from history making brothers who were initiated into the chapter during its early years. Brothers such as Sherman Parks, Sr. and his son Parks, Jr were known as the “Heavyweights of the Top City Ques.” These brothers were actively involved with the 1954 Brown v Board of Education campaign. Brother Parks, Sr. became the State’s highest ranking African American officer in the State in 1977 when he was appointed to the State Court of Appeals in January of 1977. Judge Parks also served the State of Kansas as Kansas Assistant District Attorney, Shawnee County Assistant District Attorney, and Chief Attorney for Alcohol Beverage Control and the first Black Appeals Court Judge.

Continued on next page

# DELTA PHI

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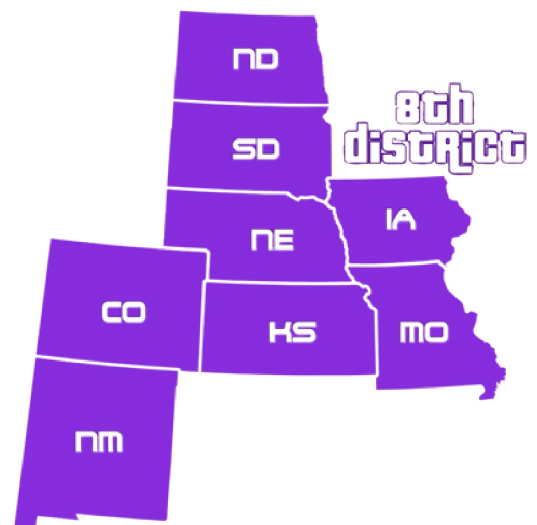
He was also sworn in as the first Black State Supreme Court Justice in September 1975. His son, Sherman Parks, Jr., followed in his father's footsteps matriculating at Washburn University for his undergraduate and law degrees, entering the folds of Omega at Delta Phi, serving as the first Black President of the Washburn Student Union, captain of the Washburn Baseball Team and first black Assistant Secretary of State. On Saturday, October 28th, the Brothers served as hosts during the Brown v Board of Education 70th Anniversary Breakfast in Topeka. Another renowned Delta Phi Chapter Omega Man, Brother Mark A. Stueve, purchased the Monroe Elementary School site where the Brown v Board of Education case was born, and donated it to the National Historic Register.



Brother Sherman Parks, Sr. and his Wife Alberta Taken between 1970 and 1985



Brothers of Delta Phi Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. 1949 -1955



## District Representative Brings Greetings at Big 12 Conference

Excitement filled the air as over 500 attendees gathered for the annual Big 12 Conference, a celebration of diversity, education, and community. Among the sea of faces were African American students, faculty, and staff members hailing from all corners of the Big 12 Conference schools and beyond.

As the event kicked off, there was a palpable sense of camaraderie and enthusiasm. Each person brought their unique perspective and experiences, contributing to the vibrant tapestry of voices that filled the room.

Amidst the buzz of conversation and laughter, I had the honor of extending warm greetings to this remarkable assembly. It was truly a momentous occasion, one where boundaries dissolved and connections were forged.

Here's to the continued success and growth of the Big 12 Conference, and to the bright future ahead for all who were fortunate enough to be part of this incredible gathering.



36th Eighth District Representative Bro. Marvie DeJear (Center), with Bro. Jaylon Moton, Omega Theta Fa '23 (Left) and Bro. Courtney May, Beta Omega Spr '23 (Right) at the Big 12 Conference, held at Iowa State University.

## MU OMICRON PARTNERS WITH LOCAL PASTOR FOR \$28,000 GAS GIVEAWAY



Volunteering is a cornerstone of community engagement, embodying the spirit of altruism and civic duty. Recently, a commendable act of service unfolded in the form of a free gas giveaway and voter registration event, where volunteers dedicated their time and resources to support their fellow citizens.

Mu Omicron volunteered with local pastor Rev. Rob Johnson as he hosted the gas giveaway and voter registration. The event saw the distribution of an impressive \$28,000 worth of free gas, a gesture that undoubtedly alleviated financial burdens for numerous individuals. This significant contribution not only provided immediate relief but also underscored the importance of collective action in addressing societal needs.

Furthermore, alongside the free gas giveaway, volunteers facilitated voter registration, recognizing the fundamental role of civic participation in shaping our democracy. By empowering individuals to exercise their right to vote, these volunteers fostered civic engagement and advocated for the importance of representation and democracy.



**WE REMEMBER - REPRINT FROM  
DECEMBER 1939 ORACLE**



**ORACLE**

**DECEMBER • 1939**

• BY FREDERICK S. WEAVER

**T**HERE IS NO member of our fraternity who has shown more loyalty and devotion to its principles than S. Herman Dreer, Assistant Principal of the Sumner High School, St. Louis, Mo.,



DREER

and Historian of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

During the entire seventeen years that Brother Dreer has been a member of Omega, he has been depended upon to give us the benefit of his literary genius in one way or the other, culminating in his latest contribution, as editor-in-chief of The History of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,

now on the press of the Murray Brothers.

Brother Dreer went to St. Louis in 1914, to teach English in the Sumner High School. At once he began to correlate his teaching with Negro history. Often in his talks, he would mention facts of Negro history. One of his colleagues offered a course in Negro history. Dreer registered and took the course. Then he made Negro history his hobby, and at Poro College opened a school of Negro history for children and adults. He took children as soon as they could talk; and with teachers who had taken courses under him, he began the operation of this school as a hobby for nine years. Adults were charged ten cents a lesson; children were asked to bring whatever their parents would give. The money thus obtained covered the cost of material. Dreer paid the rent himself.

This work, together with his desire to be creative in literature, caused Omega men to seek him, for from the time he joined he has been the director of the local achievement project. Even while he held the offices of keeper of records and

seal, and basileus, he was assigned the directing of the local Achievement Project.

As there was no Negro fraternity at Bowdoin College, from which he graduated, he left his alma mater as a non-fraternity man.

In September of 1922, Dreer was initiated into Omega and paid into the treasury fifty dollars: ten dollars as his initiation fee and forty dollars to help entertain the Twelfth Annual Conclave, which met in St. Louis that year. When Upsilon Omega entertained the Conclave in 1923, the local chapter was just two years old and had only ten members. This was the first time the Conclave went into the Middle West. Dreer's responsibility with that Conclave was to serve at the outside desk as chairman of the welcome committee; to receive the brothers; to direct them to homes; to register them; give them their badges, ribbons and invitations; to find for them ladies for the social affairs; to receive and deliver to them messages, telephone calls, telegrams. He was the outside man. Sometimes he was called the contact man.

In 1923 he wrote for the Memorial Services held in honor of Colonel Charles Young, and for the ORACLE a poem, "Colonel Charles Young." In 1924, he wrote for the ORACLE an essay entitled "Types of Negro Leadership," in which he discussed W. E. B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Marcus Garvey, and Chandler Owens as Negro leaders.

In 1925, when George L. Vaughn of St. Louis, was Grand Basileus, John P. Murchison was elected Editor-in-Chief of the ORACLE. Upon the recommendation of Vaughn, Murchinson asked Dreer to serve as Literary Editor of the ORACLE. He consented and served through his administration. Then he served in 1928 as Literary Editor under S. Malcolm Dodson. Thus he has been a contributor to the "ORACLE" since he joined the fraternity in 1922.

From 1927 to 1930 he served Upsilon Omega Chapter as Keeper of Records and Seal. In 1931 he asked to be relieved from office. The request was granted; but from 1932 to 1934 he served as the Basileus of Upsilon Omega. In 1930 Dreer went to Detroit as the official delegate of his chapter and assisted in the effort to have the Twentieth Annual Conclave go to Houston, Texas.

While serving as Keeper of Records and Seal and as Basileus, each year he caused the chapter to present an artist in recital or produce a play. One year the play produced was "Sunrise," a full length play Dreer wrote, dramatizing the life of Madison Washington who made an heroic escape from slavery. The proceeds from this play, which was given two nights at Poro College, were set aside for a scholarship fund. In addition to the recital or play, Upsilon Omega gave a formal affair each year.

In 1933, he served as the representative for the eighth District.

In 1934, while the local Basileus, when the Twenty-third Annual Conclave met in St. Louis. Dreer was elected editor of the ORACLE. At this same Conclave, the Grand Basileus was authorized to name a committee on the History of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and instruct this committee to report at the next Conclave on the feasibility of writing a history of the fraternity. The following persons were named: Herman Dreer, chairman; S. Malcolm Dodson, Harold H. Thomas, George W. Goodman, and J. Arthur Weiseger.

In June of 1935, Dreer made an automobile trip to Maine. On his way back he personally interviewed Matthew W. Bullock, S. Malcolm Dodson,

Linwood G. Koger, Oscar J. Cooper, Edgar A. Love, Frank Coleman, and Campbell C. Johnson for facts concerning the history of Omega. At Atlanta, Ga., at the Twenty-fourth Annual Conclave, the committee made a report as to the feasibility of publishing the history and was told to begin collecting the data.

In June of 1936 they spent a week in Washington, D. C., with the records at the office of Brother Weiseger and then interviewed many Omega men for facts. The Twenty-fifth Annual Conclave at Philadelphia, though again urged by Brother Baugh, postponed the publishing of the history. At the Twenty-sixth Annual Conclave, which met in Cleveland, the brothers authorized the publication of the history, made the necessary appropriation, and named Dreer historian. This Conclave also instructed Grand Basileus Dent to revamp the committee on the history. The final committee has the following members: J. Alston Atkins, Matthew W. Bullock, Arthur P. Davis, Luther P. Jackson, and Herman Dreer, chairman.

While giving credit to the contribution of Dreer to the publication of our history, it is not intended to under-estimate the contributions of time and talent given by the four associate editors, without whose council and assistance Omega's history would not at this date be on the press.



The assistant advertising manager of the ORACLE is Brother S. Milton Clark, Jr., of Knoxville, Tennessee. Brother Clark is the son of Dr. S. Milton Clark, former Basileus of Iota Alpha Chapter, and he has a brother who also is a member of Omega.

Brother Clark is a teacher of biology in the Austin High School, and assistant coach of its football team that won the national championship when it won over the high school team of Gary, Indiana. He is a graduate of Clark University, Atlanta, Ga.

Brother Norton E. Dennis, choirmaster of historic Wesley Methodist Church, Los Angeles, California, is making an enviable record in his new position. For several years, he was head of the music department at Wiley College. He has also been a teacher of voice at Wilberforce University, organist and choirmaster of Bethesda Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois.

Brother Dennis promises to revive our chapter in Los Angeles and in this task he has the best wishes of all Omega.



# OMEGA CHAPTER

## WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES

WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES  
A BROTHER HAS GONE FROM OUR MIDST  
AND SAILED TO GOLDEN SHORES.

WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES  
A FRIEND HAS PASSED THE FINAL TEST  
AND WALKS THROUGH PURPLE DOORS.

THE CIRCLE HAS AN EMPTY PLACE  
A VOICE WILL RAISE NO MORE  
THE SONG OF FELLOWSHIP AND LOVE  
UPLIFT FOREVERMORE  
WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES

WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES  
A LIGHT GOES FROM THIS EARTHLY LIFE  
THE VISOR CLOSED AGAIN  
YET ALL THE HEAVENS OPEN WIDE  
TO LET A NEW STAR IN.

WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES  
A BROTHER LEAVES THE CHAPTER ROLLS  
AND MOVES TO OTHER WORLDS  
FOR WHEN WE SAY OUR LAST GOODBYE  
HE WALKS ON STREETS OF PEARL.

WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES

BY BRO. DR. CARVER A. PORTLOCK



Tommy Jewell Sr.



Ramon Trice



Erick Jones



Frank Williamson III

# **NEXT** **ISSUE**

**Exclusive Interview With  
Eighth District Representative**

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**Undergraduate Spotlight**

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**Highlights from 75th Eighth  
District Meeting**

UPLIFT

PERSEVERANCE

SCHOLARSHIP

MANHOOD

# Hosting Guide



Always provide food for your guests



Have plenty of water



Organize non-drinking activities



Avoid topping off drinks



It's not what you drink, but how much you drink



Plan ahead to get home safely



Scan and Learn More from DRINKIQ



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