

THE TENACIOUS 13TH DISTRICT

STEP INTO THE 13TH



**LAMBDA MU MU HOSTS A
HISTORIC 33RD ANNUAL
DISTRICT MEETING**

Summer Edition

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE (DR)

BROTHER FREDDIE THOMPSON IV

IMMEDIATE PAST DR

BROTHER TRACY GEORGE

1ST VICE DR

BROTHER BRYCE PRINGLE, EDD

2ND VICE DR

BROTHER BYRON FERGUSON II

DISTRICT KEEPER OF RECORDS AND SEAL

BROTHER JONATHON WILLIAMS, SR.

DISTRICT KEEPER OF FINANCE

BROTHER RONALD WALKER

DISTRICT COUNSELOR

BROTHER DEAN MOSLEY, ESQ.

DISTRICT KEEPER OF PEACE

BROTHER ALBERT JONES

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

BROTHER CLARENCE BURSE

DISTRICT CHAPLAIN

BROTHER CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON

DISTRICT MARSHAL

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BROTHER DESMOND SMITH

DEPUTY DR - AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST

BROTHER HAYNES MCCOY

DEPUTY DR - AMERICAS

BROTHER RICK MULLGRAV

DEPUTY DR - ASIA/PACIFIC

BROTHER EUGENE GIBBS

DEPUTY DR - CARIBBEAN

BROTHER JAMES HARRIS

DEPUTY DR - EUROPE

BROTHER ANTONIE REED

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DR LETTER



Brother Freddie Thompson IV
13th District Representative

Equally memorable was our visit to a local winery, where Brothers and spouses enjoyed camaraderie, conversation, and shared experiences that further reinforced the bonds that make our District family unique.

The Annual District Meeting was marked by inspiring discussions, meaningful fellowship, and a renewed commitment to advancing the mission of the 13th District. The passion displayed by our members reaffirmed that the 13th District continues to be a leader within our beloved Fraternity and truly remains "The District That Makes Omega International."

This quarter also provided me with the privilege of representing the 13th District at several Annual District Meetings and Conferences across our Fraternity. I was honored to attend the 7th District Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia; the 9th District Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas; the 3rd District Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia; the 6th District Annual Meeting in Spartanburg, South Carolina; and the 2nd District Annual Conference at National Harbor, Maryland. These visits allowed me to strengthen relationships with fellow District Representatives, exchange ideas and best practices, and proudly share the

Brothers of the Tenacious 13th International District,

As we reflect upon the accomplishments of the Third Quarter of 2026, I am filled with gratitude, pride, and optimism for the continued growth and success of our District. One of the defining highlights of this quarter was the successful hosting of the 33rd Annual District Meeting in Toronto, Canada, by the Brothers of Lambda Mu Mu Chapter, led by Basileus Ibrahim Bukenya. District Marshal Infantry set the bar for the team, and the Faithful Few Brothers of Lambda Mu Mu did not disappoint. The meeting showcased the very best of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., bringing together Brothers and their families from across our international footprint to conduct the business of the District, strengthen bonds of friendship, and celebrate our collective achievements. The professionalism, hospitality, and dedication demonstrated by the Brothers of Lambda Mu Mu ensured that this historic gathering was both productive and memorable.

Beyond the business sessions, attendees enjoyed unforgettable experiences that highlighted the beauty and culture of Canada. A historic excursion to Niagara Falls on the Canadian side provided Brothers and their spouses with an opportunity to witness one of the world's most breathtaking natural wonders while strengthening relationships through fellowship.

accomplishments and international reach of our great 13th District. Everywhere I traveled, I was reminded of the respect and admiration that Brothers across Omega have for the outstanding work being accomplished throughout our District.

Finally, I am both humbled and honored by the confidence the Brothers of the 13th District have placed in me through my reelection to serve a third term as your District Representative. I do not take this responsibility lightly. My commitment remains to serve this District genuinely, wholeheartedly, and tirelessly while ensuring its continued care, growth, and evolution remain on course. Together, we will continue building upon our successes, expanding our impact, and creating opportunities for future generations of Omega men. As we look ahead, I am excited to join many of you at the 85th Grand Conclave in Cincinnati, Ohio. Until then, I wish each of you and your families continued success, safe travels, good health, and God's abundant blessings. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and to the Tenacious 13th International District.

HEALTH & HOPE IN CROYDON

Brother Mike Williamson



Demonstrating Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's enduring commitment to service and community upliftment, the Chi Mu Mu Chapter hosted the Dr Charles Drew Community Health Fair in Croydon, engaging more than 550 people across the day in one of London's most diverse boroughs, where health inequalities and deprivation continue to affect many local families.

The fair was led by Health Initiatives Committee Chairman Brother Dr Julian Vives 1-KN-2009 and supported by Brothers Leon Beccles 1-XMM-2025 and Lee Townsend 2-XMM-2025, both of whom were organizing their first Chapter project since joining the Fraternity.

Drawing on their connections across London's health and voluntary sectors, Brothers Beccles and Townsend brought together a remarkable coalition of 17 partner organisations, spanning national charities, local community groups and NHS services. Together they delivered health information, screening and support to residents from morning until close.

Care, screening and advice under one roof

Visitors moved freely between a wide range of health services and trusted advice. The London Borough of Croydon's Live Well Programme supported residents seeking positive lifestyle change, offering guidance for those trying to stop smoking, overcome gambling-related harms or address obesity through healthier living.

Eye health proved especially popular. Glaucoma UK raised awareness of the value of regular examinations while an optician carried out checks on the day. Kidney health screening delivered by King's College London also attracted significant interest, giving residents a practical opportunity to learn more about their wellbeing.

Tangible outcomes that will outlast the day

The fair delivered results that reached beyond a single afternoon. Thirty people registered with NHS Blood and Transplant to become blood donors and discover their blood type, helping to address the ongoing need for greater diversity within the donor pool. Visitors were also invited to help shape the future of healthcare, with several attendees registering to take part in NHS-supported health research.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Several patrons stopped to record short voice notes thanking the team for a job well done, an unprompted measure of the warmth the day generated.

93% said they learned more about their health and local support, and **91%** asked to stay in touch with the Chapter.

The presence of Black Women Rising and the Errol McKellar Foundation was a particular highlight. Both organisations provide invaluable support to Black communities affected by cancer, and each shared information, resources and lived experience with those who attended. Young people and families, meanwhile, were engaged throughout the day by members of 100 Black Men of London, who promoted their mentoring programme and underlined the importance of positive role models, leadership and investing in the next generation.

An overwhelmingly positive response

If attendance measured reach, the feedback measured impact. The fair earned an average rating of 4.9 out of 5, with 96% of respondents awarding a perfect five stars and, strikingly, every respondent saying they would attend another event. More than the numbers alone, the tone of the feedback told the story of a community that felt seen and supported.

**Honouring the legacy of Dr Charles R. Drew**

For many attendees, the fair offered a first introduction to the extraordinary story behind its name. Dr Charles R. Drew, the pioneering surgeon and medical researcher, transformed modern medicine through his groundbreaking work in blood banking and plasma preservation, work that has helped save countless lives around the world. Honouring his legacy at a fair that placed blood donation and health screening at its heart gave the day a fitting sense of purpose.

The power of partnership

Beyond the screenings and information stands, the event demonstrated the power of partnership and community action. Hundreds of residents left with greater awareness of their health, access to trusted support services and practical information to help them make informed decisions about their wellbeing.

The impact of the Chi Mu Mu Chapter was evident throughout. Through the leadership of its Brothers and the dedication of its partners, the Chapter delivered an event that informed, empowered and connected people to services capable of making a meaningful difference. The Dr Charles Drew Community Health Fair stands as another example of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's longstanding commitment to manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift, and to the communities it is proud to serve.

TRANSFORMING LIVES ACROSS THE ISTHMUS: NU GAMMA GAMMA'S SPRING OF SERVICE

Brother David Eaves

The spring season has been nothing short of extraordinary for the Nu Gamma Gamma Chapter (NGG). Throughout March, April, and May 2026, the Chapter has continued to pour its heart and soul into the community of Colon, Panama. Guided by the relentless dedication of the Social Action Committee, the Chapter has served as a steadfast beacon of hope, empowerment, and change.

During this three-month period, the Brothers of NGG poured 423 service hours into the community. These hours represent our behind-the-scenes efforts to make true community transformation possible—from strategic planning and partnership meetings to hands-on community service, outreach, and mentorship.

True to our Fraternity's cardinal principle of UPLIFT, NGG teamed up with one of our core partner agencies, the First Isthmian Baptist Church (FIBC), to tackle food accessibility challenges in Colon. The Chapter's direct and consistent sponsorship of the FIBC Food Ministry program enabled the Chapter and FIBC to provide local citizens with 293 hot and nutritious meals, as well as 47 grocery bags meant to sustain a family of four for approximately 12 days. These initiatives added stability to dozens of homes,

while addressing the hunger issue plaguing the area.

Additionally, two years into the English Language Program (ELP) launched by NGG in partnership with FIBC, the investment is still making a massive impact. Through active mentorship and curriculum planning, our brothers are helping local citizens reach new horizons by mastering English as a second language. ELP is thriving with 156 students participating in either in-person or virtual program offerings. By improving communication skills, the ELP has become a crucial educational lifeline, opening doors to advanced education and life-changing employment opportunities for each student.

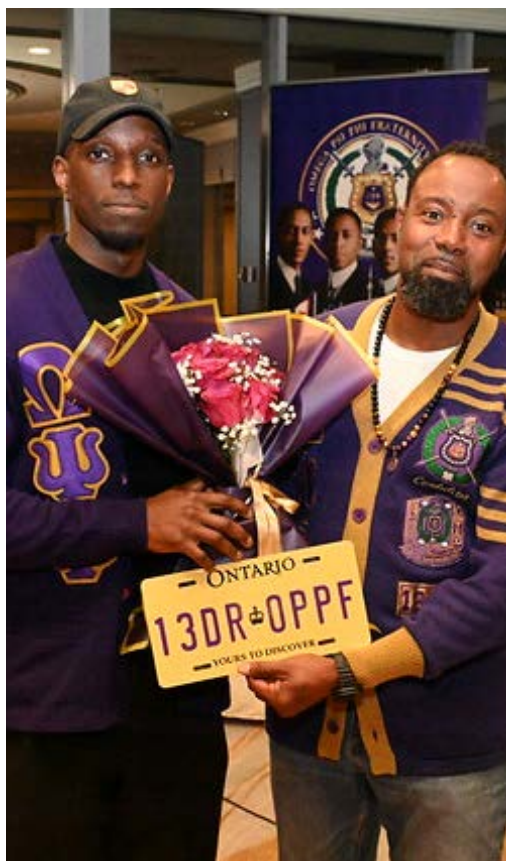
NGG's impact has garnered the attention of local city officials, most notably the Mayor of Colon himself, Mayor Diogenes Galvin. Mayor Galvin personally met with the Brothers Myers, Dennison, Whitehurst, and Charity of the NGG Social Action Committee to learn more about the history of our Fraternity and to express his gratitude for the Chapter's ongoing dedication to uplifting citizens in the city of Colon. Nu Gamma Gamma's service during the spring months highlights the Chapter's unwavering commitment to service.





TORONTO HOSTS 33RD ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

Brother Christopher Infantry



The 13th District was welcomed by the Brothers of the Lambda Mu Mu Chapter, who proudly received members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s 13th District, Quettes, family members, and distinguished guests from across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and other regions around the globe to Toronto, Ontario, for the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Thirteenth District.

Under the leadership of District Representative Brother Freddie Thompson IV, and through the collective efforts of the District Council, Host Chapter Lambda Mu Mu, and numerous volunteers, the meeting proved to be one of the most successful and memorable district gatherings in recent history.

Spearheaded by the District Marshal, Christopher Infantry, the 13th District Annual Meeting was held in the vibrant and multicultural city of Toronto. The event showcased not only the business and accomplishments of the District but also the rich culture, hospitality, and spirit of Canada. From the moment attendees arrived, they were greeted with the warmth and fellowship that define Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

The meeting featured a comprehensive agenda that balanced Fraternity business, leadership development, community engagement, recognition, and fellowship. Delegates participated in district plenary sessions and strategic discussions focused on advancing



the mission and objectives of the Fraternity throughout the Thirteenth District. The carefully planned itinerary provided opportunities for meaningful dialogue while also allowing attendees to experience many of Toronto's iconic attractions and cultural landmarks.

One of the most significant moments of the meeting was the election of the Thirteenth District Council for the upcoming term. Following reports and deliberations, delegates selected a new District Council to guide the District's continued service and growth. Of particular note was the reelection of District Representative Brother Freddie Thompson, IV, of the Lambda Mu Mu Chapter, who ran unopposed and secured a third term as District Representative. His reelection reflects the confidence of the Brotherhood and the progress achieved under his leadership. Also reelected were Brother Byron Ferguson, Second Vice District Representative; Brother Jonathan Williams, District Keeper of Records and Seal; Brother Ronald Walker, District Keeper of Finance; and Brother Dean Mosley, Esq., District Counselor. Brother Bryce Pringle was elected First Vice District Representative

A highlight of the weekend was the District's commitment to social action and youth development. Brothers participated in a STEM Fair at Elmbank Junior Middle Academy, where students proudly presented innovative projects demonstrating principles of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The event provided students with the opportunity to showcase their creativity and problem-solving abilities while interacting directly with Fraternity leaders and members from across the District. The presence of the 42nd Grand Basileus, Brother Ricky Lewis, underscored the Fraternity's unwavering commitment to uplifting youth and investing in future generations. In further support of the school's educational initiatives, the Fraternity collectively donated \$4,000 to Elmbank Junior Middle Academy.

The District also celebrated excellence through several recognition programs and ceremonies. The 2nd Annual Peter Mitchell Awards Luncheon highlighted the outstanding achievements of Brothers and Chapters throughout the District, recognizing exceptional leadership, service, scholarship, and community impact.



These recognitions served as a powerful reminder of the tremendous work being carried out across the Thirteenth District and the enduring legacy of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

One of the most memorable moments of the meeting was the presentation of the digital art collection entitled "When I Was a Young Boy..." to the 42nd Grand Basileus along with a portrait of him and First Lady Lewis that was presented by Brother Freddie Thompson IV. The collection was created by Brother Simbarashe Chirisa of Lambda Mu Mu Chapter and reflected themes of growth, aspiration, and achievement while showcasing the extraordinary talents that exist within the Brotherhood. The presentation served as a meaningful expression of appreciation from the Host Chapter and a lasting tribute to the Grand Basileus' visit to Toronto.

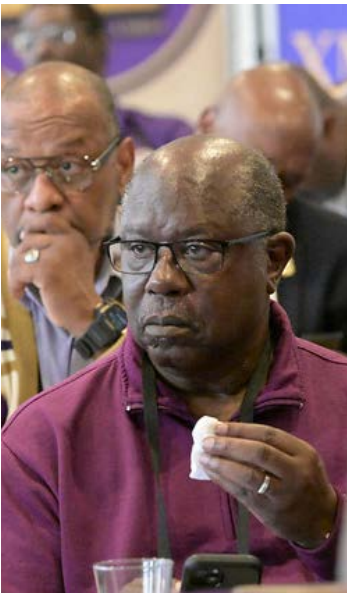
Beyond the formal sessions, attendees enjoyed opportunities for fellowship and cultural immersion throughout the city. Whether taking in breathtaking views from the iconic CN Tower, exploring the vibrant waterfront, visiting the historic Distillery District, or joining fellow attendees on an excursion to the majestic Niag-

ara Falls, Brothers and Quettes experienced some of Canada's most celebrated attractions. Combined with Toronto's diverse culinary offerings and district-sponsored social events, these experiences provided opportunities to build deeper bonds while creating lasting memories. The host committee intentionally designed the experience to provide visitors with an authentic taste of Toronto and Canadian hospitality.

The success of the 33rd Annual District Meeting was made possible through the dedication of countless Brothers, Quettes, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and supporters who contributed their time, talents, and resources. Special appreciation is extended to the District Council, Grand Officers, visiting District Representatives, committee chairs, Chapter leadership, and every volunteer whose efforts ensured a first-class experience for all attendees.

Most importantly, the meeting demonstrated the strength, unity, and continued growth of the Thirteenth District. It reaffirmed our commitment to friendship, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift while strengthening the bonds that connect Brothers and communities throughout the District.





As the final gavel fell for the weekend and attendees returned home, they carried with them not only memories of an outstanding meeting but also renewed inspiration to continue the work of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The city of Toronto was honored to serve as host, and the Brothers of Lambda Mu Mu Chapter remain grateful for the opportunity to welcome the District to Canada.

The 33rd Annual District Meeting will undoubtedly be remembered as a landmark event—one that exemplified excellence in planning, execution, fellowship, and service, while showcasing the very best of the Thirteenth District.



2024 - 2025 *Award Recipients*

Dick Smith Scholarship Award
Brother Quzhan Johnson

Social Action Chapter of the Year Award
Lambda Xi Chapter

Essay Contest Award
Ms. Cayla Diaz

Reclamation Award
Zeta Xi Nu Chapter

Reclamation Award (First Place)
Brother Olaleye Akinyelure

Reclamation Award (Second Place)
Brother James Clarke

Reclamation Award (Third Place)
Brother Lewis Frazier
Brother Matthew Bowman

Retention Award
Nu Nu Nu Chapter

Talent Hunt Award
Mr. James Chapla

Brigadier General Charles Young Military Leadership Award
Brother Freddie Thompson, IV (CSM, USA Ret)

Citizen of the Year Award
Dr. Amie S. Walker

Graduate Chapter of the Year Award
Lambda Xi Chapter

2024 - 2025

Award Recipients

Graduate Omega Man of the Year Award
Brother Robert Taylor

Undergraduate Omega Man of the Year Award
Brother Ezra Bodie

Founders Lifetime Achievement Award
Brother Dr. Bryce Pringle

Founders Superior Service Award
Brother Foster Payne

Committee Chairmen of the Year Award
Brother Clarence Burse

Chapter Keeper of Records and Seal Award (Large Chapter)
Brother Foster Payne II

Chapter Keeper of Records and Seal Award (Small Chapter)
Brother O'Neil Palmer

Basileus of the Year Award
Brother Joseph Monroe II

Service and Dedication Award
Brother Dr Byron Biscoe

Service and Dedication Award
Brother Dr Bryce Pringle

Service and Dedication Award
Brother Robert Morgan Jr.

ZETA XI AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Brother Alfred Francis



On the evenings of March 13 and 14, 2026, the Brothers of Zeta Xi Chapter, on the island of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, participated in the Awards Night ceremonies at Charlotte Amalie High School (CAHS) and Ivanna Eudora Kean High School (IEKHS).

During the ceremonies, the Brothers presented the Chapter's 2026 scholarship recipients with scholarships of \$6,000 each. This year's recipients were Mr. Kelmani Lettsome of Ivanna Eudora Kean High School and Mr. Sekai Pinney of Charlotte Amalie High School.

Since approximately 1995, Zeta Xi Chapter has consistently awarded scholarships to graduating high school young men on the island of St. Thomas. The Chapter remains committed to providing financial assistance to deserving students as they pursue higher education and prepare for future success.

The 2026 Zeta Xi Chapter Scholarship Committee consisted of Alfred "Plow" Francis (Chairman), Dwayne Benjamin (Vice Basileus), Ian Pharoah (Co-Chairman), Delroy "Chimey" Miller, and Brandon Richardson.



COLONEL ALFRED FRANCIS NAMED ST. CROIX CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Brother Melake Whyte

The Brothers of Eta Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly congratulate Colonel Alfred “Plow” Francis on being named St. Croix Central High School’s 2025–2026 Employee of the Year—a well-deserved recognition honoring a lifetime dedicated to service, leadership, mentorship, and excellence.

As a retired military officer and JROTC instructor at St. Croix Central High School, Colonel Francis has become a pillar of the school community and a positive force in the lives of countless students. His impact extends far beyond the classroom, where he consistently challenges

young people to strive for excellence, embrace discipline, and develop the leadership skills necessary to succeed in both school and life.

Throughout the 2025–2026 school year, Colonel Francis has maintained a visible and active presence in numerous school and community initiatives. Whether leading cadets through leadership development activities, supporting academic achievement programs, participating in community service projects, or helping students build character and confidence, he has exemplified what it means to serve others. His commitment to students has made him

more than an instructor; he has become a mentor, role model, and trusted advisor to many young men and women navigating their educational journeys.

His influence has also extended beyond Central High School through partnerships with community organizations and service groups. Colonel Francis has consistently supported youth-focused programs, educational outreach initiatives, military appreciation events, and activities that connect students with opportunities for personal and professional growth. His willingness to volunteer his time, share his experiences, and invest in the next generation has strengthened both the school and the broader St. Croix community.

Those who know Colonel Francis often speak of his unwavering professionalism, calm leadership, and genuine concern for the success of every student he encounters. His distinguished military career instilled in him a deep sense of duty, but it is his passion for developing young people that has made him such a respected figure within the educational

community.

Reflecting on this honor, many would agree that the award recognizes far more than a single year of service. Rather, it represents decades of commitment to leadership, mentorship, and community engagement that continue to inspire everyone around him.

The Employee of the Year recognition serves as a testament to the lasting impact one dedicated educator can have on a school, a community, and generations of students. Through his example, Colonel Francis continues to embody the values of integrity, service, accountability, and excellence.

The Brothers of Eta Iota Iota Chapter salute Colonel Alfred Francis for this outstanding achievement and thank him for his continued dedication to shaping future leaders. His recognition as Employee of the Year is not only a celebration of his accomplishments but also a reminder of the profound difference that committed educators and mentors make every day.



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EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP GO HAND IN HAND. WHEN WE INVEST IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, WE INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY.



CLASSROOM BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT IN OKINAWA

In a continued commitment to community service and partnership, members of the Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. joined the Okinawa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in support of a Classroom Beautification Project at the Amerasian School of Okinawa.

Led by the dedicated sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the initiative focused on enhancing the learning environment for students through deep cleaning, organization, and thoughtful restructuring of a classroom space. The effort aimed to improve functionality, promote cleanliness, and create a more engaging and supportive atmosphere for student learning.

Representing the Okinawa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. were Chapter President Tresha Hamilton; Vice President Shanel Gainey; and members Ciel Rivera, Stephanie Singleton, Danielle Lovelace, Monica Echols, and Krista Hurley.

Supporting the effort, Brothers from the Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.—Christopher Gainey Jr., Matthew Bowman, and Eric Rivera—worked alongside them to bring the project to life. Their contributions underscore the Fraternity's ongoing dedication to service, partnership, and uplifting communities both locally and abroad.

Together, participants transformed the classroom into a more functional and welcoming space, reinforcing the shared mission of both organizations to make a lasting impact through service. The collaboration also highlighted the strength of unity across our organizations in addressing community needs and investing in future generations.

The Amerasian School of Okinawa, under the coordination of Mr. Jonathan Lowen, served as the host site for this impactful initiative. The project stands as a testament to what can be achieved when organizations come together with a shared purpose—to serve, uplift, and empower.





INAUGURAL BLACK HISTORY QUIZ BOWL

Brother Cortez Pree

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I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF THE PREPARATION, SPORTSMANSHIP, AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE DEMONSTRATED BY BOTH TEAMS THROUGHOUT THIS COMPETITION.

The 13th District successfully conducted its inaugural Black History Quiz Bowl virtually on May 3, 2026, bringing together youth from across the District to celebrate and demonstrate their knowledge of Black history and the achievements of influential leaders from around the world.

Brother Cortez Pree served as the Chairman for the event, while Brother Robert Taylor assisted with time-keeping and adjudication to ensure a fair and competitive event.

The inaugural competition featured

two outstanding teams representing Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter in Okinawa, Japan, and Lambda Xi Chapter in South Korea. Prior to the event, participants were provided with a comprehensive study guide highlighting the notable accomplishments and contributions of both historical and contemporary Black icons. The Lambda Xi team consisted of Malachi Conteh, Jade Harris, Amya Prince, Ralph Gee, and Heaven Dawkins. The Sigma Gamma Gamma team consisted of Cortez Pree, Jr., Brandon Pree, Natalie Nakamura, and Luke Nakamura.

Both teams demonstrated exceptional preparation, teamwork, and knowledge as they competed through five challenging rounds of questions. At the conclusion of the competition, Lambda Xi emerged as the 2026 Black History Quiz Bowl Champion, earning the inaugural title through an impressive performance. In recognition of their outstanding efforts, both the Lambda Xi and Sigma Gamma Gamma teams will advance to represent the 13th International District at the International Black History Quiz Bowl Competition to be held in June.

Brother Cortez Pree expressed his appreciation for the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by all of the partic-

ipants. "I am extremely proud of the preparation, sportsmanship, and academic excellence demonstrated by both teams throughout this competition. Their commitment to learning and celebrating Black history embodies the purpose of this program, and I look forward to building on this success and making the 2027 Black History Quiz Bowl even bigger and better."

The 13th International District remains committed to promoting scholarship, leadership, cultural awareness, and youth development by providing meaningful opportunities that educate, inspire, and encourage future generations.





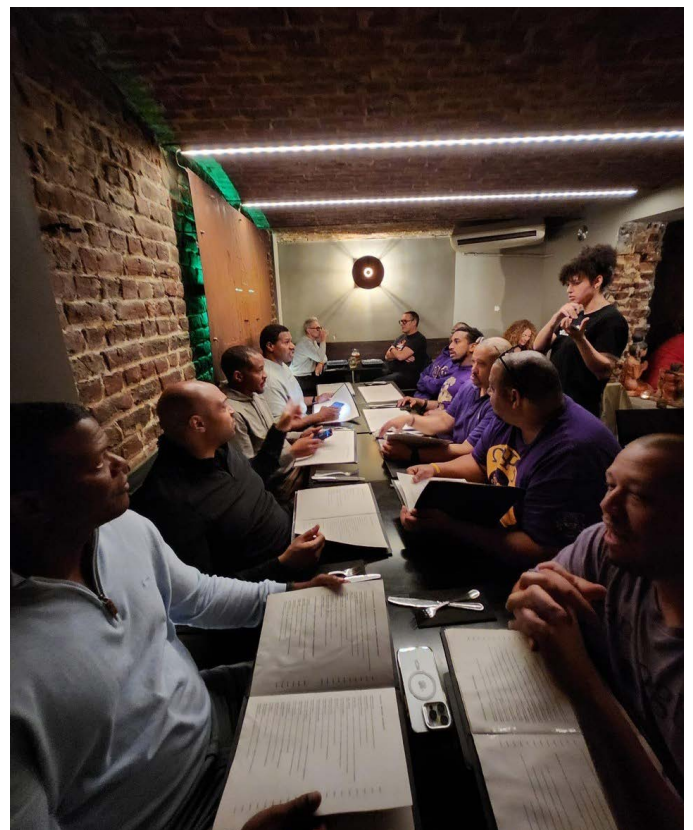
BRITISH QUES STRENGTHEN BROTHERHOOD DURING HISTORIC CHAPTER RETREAT IN BRUSSELS

Brother Lee Townsend

From June 12–14, 2026, the British Ques of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Chi Mu Mu Chapter, embarked on a historic Chapter Retreat in Brussels, Belgium. The retreat marked the Chapter's first formal retreat since 2017, when members gathered in Birmingham, United Kingdom, and was a significant milestone in strengthening the Chapter's vision, strategic planning, and Brotherhood.

The retreat was the culmination of a goal established by Basileus

Brother Rob Taylor in December 2025. His vision was straightforward: create an environment where Brothers could step away from their daily routines and spend meaningful, uninterrupted time together. To accomplish this, he requested that the retreat be held beyond a reasonable commuting distance from any member's residence, ensuring that everyone remained together throughout the weekend and maximizing opportunities for fellowship.



The event began with the majority of the Brothers traveling together aboard the Eurostar, allowing fellowship to begin well before they arrived in Brussels. Upon arrival, the retreat officially commenced with an icebreaker competition featuring a push-up challenge, where Immediate Past Basileus Brother Berhan Kaleb emerged victorious.

The retreat agenda successfully balanced Fraternity business with leadership development, strategic planning, and relationship building. Brothers participated in discussions focused on preparations for the upcoming Grand Conclave, development of the Chapter's annual budget, and long-term strategic planning for the next five to ten years. These conversations enabled members to align on priorities, identify opportunities for growth, and strengthen the foundation for Chi Mu Mu Chapter's continued success.

Vice Basileus Brother Mike Williamson facilitated several interactive workshops designed to challenge Brothers both mentally and physically. The sessions encouraged teamwork, communication, and self-reflection while reinforcing the bonds of friendship that are essential to the Chapter's continued success. Given the geographical distance separating many members throughout the United Kingdom, the retreat provided a rare opportunity for extended face-to-face engagement and meaningful fellow-

ship.

Looking ahead, Chapter leadership discussed incorporating a Social Action component into future retreats. Consistent with the watchword of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the goal is for the British Ques to leave a positive impact on every community they visit while continuing to expand the Chapter's footprint throughout Europe.

Adding to the significance of the weekend, Vice Basileus Williamson coordinated with the 42nd Grand Basileus to secure a special video message congratulating the Chapter and offering words of encouragement for a successful retreat. The message reinforced the importance of leadership, unity, and continued excellence as the Chapter advances its mission.

The retreat concluded with renewed purpose, stronger bonds of Brotherhood, and a shared commitment to the future of Chi Mu Mu Chapter. More than a planning session, the weekend served as a reminder that the Fraternity's greatest strength lies not only in its programs or initiatives but in the relationships forged among its Brothers and their collective commitment to uplifting one another and the communities they serve.



UNITY, HERITAGE, AND PROGRESS: 3RD ANNUAL BLACK CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Brother Voris Crooms



The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Lambda Beta Beta Chapter, were proud to stand alongside students and faculty for the 3rd Annual Black Cultural Festival, where the vibrant sounds of the Caribbean and the powerful echoes of tradition filled the Waipahu High School Cafeteria.

The day began with a stirring tribute to both national and cultural heritage, as the room fell silent for the National Anthem and the Black National Anthem, *"Lift Every Voice and Sing."* The atmosphere was one of celebration and community, drawing together organizations like the Buffalo Soldiers MC, the Barack Obama Museum, and fellow members of the Divine Nine.

From the rhythmic grace of local elementary and high school Hula performers to the infectious beats of an Afro-Latina band, the festival served as a powerful melting pot, celebrating the rich history of the Caribbean Islands and Black culture through food, music, and dance.

Omega in Action: Mandated Programs

Consistent with the Fraternity's commitment to service, the Chapter utilized the festival to advance Omega's Mandated Programs. As a "Manhood" organization, Omega Psi Phi remains dedicated to the uplift of our communities through targeted outreach:

- **STEM:** STEM Chair, Brother Voris Crooms, hosted a hands-on station where students assembled LEGOs and complex figures. This initiative reflects the Fraternity's mission to "encourage students to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics," ensuring our youth are prepared for the global economy.

- **Fatherhood and Mentorship:** Fatherhood and Mentorship Chair, Brother LaShaun Joyner, led an impactful session teaching students the art of tying a necktie. This program aims to provide "positive role models for our youth," and for many young men present, this was their first time wearing a tie—a moment that sparked significant interest in the Chapter's ongoing mentorship efforts.

- **Scholarship & Social Action:** Scholarship Chair, Brother Roddue Hamilton, and Social Action Chair, Brother Deric Burgess, engaged directly with students and patrons. Omega is "dedicated to being a powerhouse of service," and the Brothers highlighted the vital importance of academic excellence and a visible presence in the local community to foster progress.

- **Talent Hunt:** Talent Hunt Chair Brother Dishan Romine was also present and provided information to high school students about the Talent Hunt Program.

Strengthening the Front Lines with the NAACP

In a powerful show of solidarity, the Chapter joined forces with the local NAACP Branch. Brother VB Howard L. Covington, Sr., who also serves as the 2nd VP for the local branch, worked tirelessly to spread the mission of the NAACP: to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

Their joint efforts were highly successful, welcoming 15 new adult and youth members into the fold, reinforcing the ranks in the continued fight for civil rights and social justice. Special thanks to Brothers Brandon Morton and David Dew for their presence and support in making the day a success.

A Call to the Future

The 3rd Annual Black Cultural Festival was more than just a look back at history; it was a snapshot of a brighter future. By mentoring the youth, sparking an interest in STEM, and reinforcing the mission of the NAACP, the Brothers of Lambda Beta Beta are ensuring that the bridge between our heritage and our future remains unbreakable.

As the music faded and the tables were cleared, one thing remained certain: the spirit of community in Waipahu is thriving, and the work of Omega continues.



BRIDGING GENERATIONS THROUGH EDUCATION

Brother Melake Whyte



On May 11, 2026, the Brothers of Eta Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. gathered at St. Joseph High School on St. Croix to celebrate the enduring power of education by recognizing two individuals whose accomplishments represent both the foundation of and the future of academic excellence.

The ceremony honored Dr. Brenda Jackson, a respected English teacher who has dedicated more than 20 years to educating and mentoring students at St. Joseph High School. The Chapter presented Dr. Jackson with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her unwavering commitment to scholarship, character development, and student success.

For more than two decades, Dr. Jackson has helped shape the lives of young people by encouraging them to find their voices through reading, writing, and critical thinking. Her influence extends far beyond the classroom, as generations of students have benefited from her guidance, encouragement, and unwavering belief in their potential.

The Chapter also recognized Ms. Cayla Diaz, who earned First Place in the 13th District International High School Essay Contest, a distinguished achievement that highlights her academic talent and dedication to excellence. Through her award-winning essay, Cayla demonstrated the intellectual curiosity, discipline, and communication skills that are hallmarks of successful students and future leaders.

Together, these recognitions told a powerful story. Dr. Jackson represents the educators who dedicate their lives to planting seeds of knowledge and inspiration, while Cayla represents the students who cultivate those seeds into achievement. Their accomplishments serve as a reminder that educational success is built through the partnership of committed teachers and motivated students.

"Education is one of the greatest investments we can make in our communities," said Chapter Basileus Quincy Lewis. "Today we celebrate both the educator who has spent years shaping lives and the student who is demonstrating the tremendous results of that commitment. They represent two generations connected by the pursuit of excellence."

The annual Omega Psi Phi International High School Essay Contest is one of the Fraternity's premier youth programs, encouraging students to think critically, communicate effectively, and engage thoughtfully with important issues. Cayla's first-place finish reflects not only her individual achievement but also the strong academic environment fostered by educators such as Dr. Jackson and the faculty of St. Joseph High School.

The event brought together Fraternity brothers, students, faculty members, family members, and community supporters in a celebration of scholarship and service. Those in attendance were reminded that behind every student's success story is often an educator who has invested time, patience, and dedication to help that student thrive.

Among those in atten-

dance were Deputy District Representative for the Caribbean Brother Rick Mullgrav, Brothers Richard Schrader, Tyrone Sackey Jr., Clement Heyliger, David Pugh, Alfred "Plow" Francis, and Chapter Basileus Quincy Lewis, along with members of the St. Joseph High School community.

As Eta Iota Iota Chapter continues its commitment to uplifting youth and promoting academic achievement throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands, events such as this reinforce the Fraternity's belief that scholarship remains a cornerstone of community progress. By honoring both those who teach and those who learn, the Chapter celebrates the enduring legacy of education and the promise it holds for future generations.

Friendship Is Essential to the Soul.



“

THE INFLUENCE OF A GREAT TEACHER CAN NEVER BE ERASED, AND THE SUCCESS OF A DEDICATED STUDENT CAN INSPIRE AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

SERVING LOVE AND LEADERSHIP

Brother Zerbin Singleton

On Saturday, May 9, 2026, members of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. partnered with the Kadena Gospel Service Boyz 2 Men program to help young men prepare and serve a Mother's Day breakfast. Brothers from Lambda Xi Chapter in South Korea traveled to Okinawa to fellowship and support the event, demonstrating the reach of Omega brotherhood across the 13th District.

The Boyz 2 Men initiative is a male bonding and mentorship program designed

to build trusting relationships, promote positive attitudes, and strengthen unity among young men. Through cooking, sports, practical skills, and guided discussions, participants learn from men committed to helping them grow into responsible leaders.

A Morning of Service and Culinary Skill

Originally, the morning called for guiding the young men in washing their mothers' cars and performing minor vehicle maintenance, but steady rainfall required that the organizers adjust



the schedule. Thus, the morning shifted indoors to mentorship and culinary training.

Working alongside the Omega Men, the young participants prepared a full breakfast from scratch. The busy chapel kitchen became a hands-on classroom where they practiced teamwork, followed recipes and safety procedures, and learned the pride that comes from preparing something for others.

Honoring the Mothers

After the meal was prepared, the young men served the mothers in attendance. The simple act gave them an opportunity to express respect and gratitude through service rather than words alone.

Throughout the morning, Brothers from Sigma Gamma Gamma and Lambda Xi led discussions about peer pressure, respect, positive decision-making, and the importance of treating women with dignity. The conversations

gave the youth space to ask questions and hear practical guidance from mentors with military, professional, and life experience.

Building a Stronger Community

The partnership among Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter, visiting Brothers, and the Kadena Gospel Service reflects a shared commitment to youth development in Okinawa. By adapting to the weather and keeping the young men actively involved, the mentors reinforced an important lesson: leadership is shown through preparation, flexibility, and service to others.

The event concluded with the mothers enjoying breakfast and the young participants seeing the results of their teamwork. In keeping with the Boyz 2 Men mission, the morning helped build better men while strengthening the community around them.





BRITISH QUES RECONNECT THROUGH FELLOWSHIP AND SUPPORT OF A SISTER GREEK ORGANIZATION

Brother Mike Williamson

On April 25, 2026, the Brothers of Chi Mu Mu Chapter gathered in South London for an evening of fellowship and reconnection, marking the first time that many had been together since the 13th District Annual District Meeting (ADM).

During the gathering, Chapter Basileus Brother Rob Taylor provided a comprehensive debrief of the ADM, sharing key updates, initiatives, and accomplishments from across the District. The evening also featured a special recognition ceremony during which Brother O'Neil Palmer was presented with the prestigious 13th District Keeper of Records and Seal of the Year Award, recognizing his outstanding service, dedication, and commitment to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Following dinner, the fellowship continued at Pop Brixton, a popular gathering place for the British Ques, where Brothers strengthened old friendships, welcomed newer members, and enjoyed an evening of camaraderie.

The following day, the Chapter held its regularly scheduled business meeting before attending a milestone event hosted by the United Kingdom Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The Brothers proudly supported and celebrated the sorority's New Member Presentation, a historic occasion marking the Chapter's first charter line in the United Kingdom.

The weekend served as a powerful reminder of the enduring strength of Brotherhood, friendship, and interorganizational support. It also demonstrated that the Coleman Love spirit remains alive and well across the Atlantic, as members of the Divine Nine continue to uplift, encourage, and celebrate one another throughout the United Kingdom.

By balancing fellowship, Chapter business, recognition of excellence, and support for fellow Divine Nine organizations, Chi Mu Mu Chapter continues to exemplify the values of unity, service, and Brotherhood that define Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



PREPARING FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER

Brother Melake Whyte

On May 21, 2026, Brother Clement Heyliger of the Eta Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. participated in Pearl B. Larsen Middle School's "Getting Ready for High School" program, designed to prepare eighth-grade students for the exciting transition from middle school to high school.

Joining Brother Heyliger at the event was Chapter Basileus Brother Quincy Lewis, along with representatives from several organizations within the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), demonstrating a collective commitment to mentoring and supporting the Territory's youth as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey.

During the session, Brother Heyliger shared valuable insights and practical advice with students as they prepare to embark on the next phase of their academic careers.

Drawing from his experiences as an educator, mentor, and community leader, he discussed the academic, social, and personal changes students can expect when entering high school. Students were encouraged to embrace responsibility, maintain focus on their goals, and take advantage of opportunities that will help them grow both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition to discussing the transition to high school, students participated in a hands-on lesson focused on professional appearance and personal presentation. They were taught how to properly tie both a necktie and a bow tie, providing them with practical skills that will serve them well during future academic, professional, and formal occasions.



The interactive session allowed students to ask questions, share their concerns, and gain confidence as they prepare for this important milestone. The lesson reinforced the importance of preparation, self-confidence, and making positive first impressions as students move toward becoming young adults.

“High school represents a new Chapter filled with opportunities and responsibilities,” said Brother Heyliger. “Success begins with preparation, discipline, and character. The habits you develop today will help determine the success you achieve tomorrow.”

Brother Lewis noted the importance of organizations investing in young people before they reach high school.

“As community leaders, we have a responsibility to help guide our youth as they navigate important life transitions,” Lewis said. “When we invest our time

and knowledge in the next generation, we strengthen our schools, our community, and our future.”

The Eta Iota Iota Chapter remains committed to uplifting youth throughout the Virgin Islands through mentorship, education, and community engagement initiatives. Through partnerships with schools, families, and fellow NPHC organizations, the Chapter continues to provide meaningful opportunities that encourage academic achievement, leadership development, and personal growth.

The “Getting Ready for High School” program served as a reminder that preparing students for success extends beyond academics. By equipping young people with confidence, life skills, and positive role models, community organizations help ensure that the next generation is prepared to lead with purpose and excellence.



BUILT DIFFERENT BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER

Brother Jakari Bradford

On May 30, 2026, families from across Okinawa gathered at Camp Shields for Built Different, an interactive program designed to support childhood development while strengthening connections among parents, caregivers, and children.

Planned and supported by members of Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter, the event featured hands-on stations focused on three areas of early childhood development: motor skills, cognition, and social-emotional learning. Brothers Zerbin Singleton, Kevin Brown, Jakari Bradford, and Terrance Wilburn helped lead activities, guide families through the stations, and

support the overall program.

Children rotated through sensory experiences, storytelling activities, speech and language exercises, fine- and gross-motor challenges, and opportunities to practice communication and positive social interaction. Each station gave families practical ways to recognize developmental milestones and continue learning activities at home.

Parents and caregivers were able to observe their children in different learning environments while receiving information from volunteers and specialists.



Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and other community partners also contributed to the event, creating a collaborative atmosphere centered on family growth and early learning. Built Different demonstrated how community organizations can work together to give families useful tools, meaningful experiences, and greater confidence in supporting children's development. Through planning, service, and direct engagement, Sigma Gamma Gamma helped create a day where learning and playing worked side by side.



RUNNING WITH PURPOSE

Brother Mike Williamson

Chi Mu Mu Chapter would like to congratulate Brother Lee Townsend (XMM FA'25) on successfully completing the Edinburgh Marathon on May 23, 2026, while raising funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society UK.

For many, a marathon is a test of physical endurance. For Brother Townsend, it was also an opportunity to support a cause that makes a real difference to the lives of people affected by multiple sclerosis. Through the generosity of friends, family and supporters, he raised £620 for the charity.

Crossing the finish line in Edinburgh was the result of extensive preparation, early morning training runs and the determination to keep moving forward when conditions became challenging. Alongside his marathon training, Brother Townsend continued to fulfil his responsibilities within Chi Mu Mu Chapter and support a number of community initiatives in Croydon, demonstrating the discipline and perseverance required to achieve long-term goals.

Outside of the Fraternity, Brother Townsend is well known throughout his hometown of Croydon for his leadership in community engagement and his role in helping lead We Run Croydon, a community running group that encourages people of all ages and abilities to embrace healthier, more active lifestyles. The same determination that carried him through 26.2 miles continues to shape his approach to community service, where he regularly supports initiatives that bring people together and promote health and well-being.

Running has become an important part of Brother Townsend's commitment to encouraging healthier communities. Through community running groups and public health initiatives, he continues to inspire others to take positive steps toward improving their physical and mental well-being, regardless of age, background, or ability.

While the marathon medal symbolizes the completion of another personal achievement, the £620 raised for the MS



Society UK may prove to be the most meaningful accomplishment of all. Beyond the financial contribution, Brother Townsend helped raise awareness of a condition that affects thousands of individuals and families across the United Kingdom.

Through his dedication, perseverance, and the generosity of those who supported him, Brother Townsend transformed a personal challenge into an opportunity to serve others—reflecting the spirit of service, perseverance, and uplift that remains central to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Chi Mu Mu Chapter commends Brother Townsend for demonstrating that leadership is measured not only by personal achievement but also by one's willingness to use that achievement to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

DODEA PACIFIC SOUTH DISTRICT COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR

Brother Greg Smith



Education, mentorship, and community service remain cornerstones of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s commitment to uplifting future leaders. Demonstrating these principles in action, the Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter proudly participated in the DoDEA Pacific South District "Empowering Futures" College & Career Fair held at Kadena High School Gymnasium aboard Kadena Air Base.

The annual event brought together more than 50 colleges, community organizations, and career pro-

professionals to provide high school students and their families with valuable information about post-graduation opportunities. As students prepare to transition into higher education, military service, technical training, and professional careers, events such as this play a critical role in expanding their awareness of available pathways.

Representing Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter, Brothers Cedrick McCormick, Matthew Bowman, and Greg Smith engaged directly with high school seniors,



offering mentorship and guidance regarding their educational and career aspirations.

Through meaningful conversations, the Brothers shared their personal experiences, discussed the institutions they attended, and highlighted the lessons learned throughout their academic and professional journeys. Students were encouraged to explore a wide range of opportunities after graduation and to remain open to pathways that align with their talents, goals, and interests.

The Brothers also promoted the Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter Spring Scholarship Essay Contest, providing students with information about scholarship opportunities available through the Chapter. By emphasizing the value of higher education, personal development, and community involvement, the Brothers reinforced the importance of investing in one's future.

In addition to their mentorship efforts, Sigma Gamma Gamma demonstrated its commitment to educational

advancement by contributing donations to the College & Career Fair raffle. These contributions supported the event and encouraged student participation.

The Chapter's participation reflected Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.'s longstanding tradition of social action and community engagement. Through financial support and personal mentorship, Sigma Gamma Gamma helped students gain knowledge, confidence, and motivation as they prepared for the next Chapter of their lives.

Participation in the DoDEA Pacific South District College & Career Fair exemplified Sigma Gamma Gamma Chapter's dedication to creating opportunities for young people and strengthening the communities it serves.

As Omega men, we recognize that today's students are tomorrow's leaders. Through continued engagement, scholarship initiatives, and mentorship opportunities, Sigma Gamma Gamma will remain steadfast in its mission to uplift, inspire, and empower future generations.



BRITISH QUES BRING FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE TOGETHER AT ANNUAL GAME NIGHT

Brother Mike Williamson



On May 2, 2026, the British Ques of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Chi Mu Mu Chapter, hosted its annual Game Night in Brixton, South London. The event attracted more than 85 attendees for an evening filled with fellowship, friendly competition, and community engagement.

The evening began with a meet-and-greet that quickly evolved into an interactive icebreaker, allowing guests to connect, build new relationships, and strengthen existing ones. Participants then enjoyed a variety of games, including Spades, UNO, Twister, and several other crowd favorites, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie, laughter, and friendly competition throughout the venue.

As the night progressed, attendees competed in a series of trivia contests, with winners receiving prizes for their

knowledge and participation. The highlight of the evening, however, was undoubtedly the karaoke session. The energy and enthusiasm inside the venue were so contagious that passersby stopped to inquire about the event, with several even offering to pay admission at the door so they could join the festivities.

The evening concluded with a raffle for an iPad, generating additional support for the Chapter's charitable initiatives. All proceeds and donations raised during the event were dedicated to the Chapter's literacy and community outreach programs, including its annual book drive and its ongoing support of the Brixton Soup Kitchen, which provides meals and assistance to individuals experiencing hardship.

DDPR LETTER



Brothers of the Tenacious 13th,

Since being appointed to the position of DDPR by our DR, Brother Freddie Thompson IV, I've attempted to elevate this office by standardizing expectations, establishing timelines, and ensuring that we show the Fraternity the global impact of our work. With this edition of *Step Into the 13th*, I must say that I've failed to maintain the standard but I won't allow that to become the norm. Deadlines are an integral part of any organization, and this edition of our newsletter is being published far later than I intended. It is unacceptable, and there is no excuse for that. Nonetheless, we must move forward!

At the request of the Editor to the Oracle, Brother Norm Senior, we will no longer publish articles in multiple publications. If it is in the District Newsletter, it will not be in the

Oracle. If it is in the Fatherhood and Mentoring Newsletter, it will not be in the District Newsletter or the Oracle. The intent is to publish exclusive content that has not already appeared elsewhere; otherwise, what's the point?

As my time concludes in the Middle East, I have one more edition of *Step Into the 13th* to publish and it will be on time, so ensure your articles make the cut! Finally, as new Chapter Editors are appointed, please ensure that it is reflected on your Form 50, so I know who to contact and please share our guide for submissions with them.



Brother Clarence Burse

13th District Director of Public Relations



*THE DISTRICT THAT TRULY MAKES OMEGA
INTERNATIONAL!*

STEP
INTO
—THE—
13TH

WELCOME TO THE 33RD
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