

The Boulé Journal

SIGMA PI PHI® FRATERNITY

VOLUME 87 / NUMBER 2 / SUMMER 2023

GRAND BOULÉ SOCIAL ACTION:

Education Committee Hosts Black History Month Mentoring Event



JUNETEENTH



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION AT HOUSTON'S EMANCIPATION PARK IN THE 1880'S. REVEREND JACK YATES IS ON THE FAR LEFT.

HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY / THE AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBRARY AT THE GREGORY SCHOOL

We celebrate our victories in community, however timely or late, to remind ourselves of all that we have overcome, and further encourage us that overcoming is still possible.

Juneteenth celebrations are everywhere. Two years after nationalizing June 19th as a federal holiday, Juneteenth Day half-off sales on mattresses, watermelons and everything you never needed now compete with history for our time and attention while mostly obscuring Juneteenth's meaning.

Official acknowledgement of the significance of June 19th for African Americans comes reluctantly and late by more than 150 years, just as word of the Emancipation Proclamation was late reaching African Americans in Texas. They didn't learn of their emancipation until two and a half years after the proclamation's signing. Kept ignorant of the news of their changed status, they continued as their ancestors had for ten generations, while Texas slave owners extracted the last ounces of free labor before Major General Gordan Granger rode into Galveston, announcing that they, the slave owners, would have to find a new business model (which they found in short order in the practice of sharecropping).

In the 1860's, news traveled at a trot on horseback, and news of slavery's end delivered with all deliberate speed could take years. As indeed it did. Today, with internet and satellite communications, breaking news is almost instantaneous, so the modern would-be slave state bans books to shackle Black and white minds in ignorance. In lieu of true emancipation, we're promised freedom in the heady frenzy of Juneteenth Day sales. Today, we are free to collude in the commodification of our own story, our history and even ourselves. *Consumo ergo sum*. That, in the end, may be what it means to be an American.

We celebrate our victories in community, however timely or late, to remind ourselves of all that we have overcome, and further encourage us that overcoming is still possible. We celebrate Juneteenth rather than the January 1, 1863, Emancipation date because, spiritually, we had to wait for the emancipation of our brothers and sisters in Texas. (And still, Black people in Delaware and Kentucky would have to wait another

six months for ratification of the 13th Amendment.) None of us is truly free until we all are free. (A truism even if inflation has devalued the words' worth.)

Nor is our freedom ever secured once and for all. Vigilance and resistance are required to hold what gains we have made, as Supreme Court reversals of hard-won fights for rights and justice have shown us. Even the 13th Amendment provided a loophole used to re-enslave thousands of Black men convicted of vagrancy and shackled to chain gangs and convict-leasing programs, precursors of the modern prison industrial complex.

Considering Juneteenth as anything more than an invitation to catch a sale, examining its origins, interrogating our past to clarify our present, is the premise of critical race theory, which, along with more than 1600 books that dare to mention race, has been banned in Texas.

In Texas you'd likely never learn that June 19th is also the day a white mob in Fort Worth burned Opal Lee's home to the ground just days after her family moved in in 1939. Opal was just twelve years old at the time. But it was the persistence of a mature Opal Lee that ultimately secured recognition of Juneteenth as a federal holiday. For decades, she walked two and a half miles every June 19th, commemorating the two and a half years it took news of the Emancipation Proclamation to reach Texas. And at age 89, she walked from Fort Worth to Washington, D.C., to promote Juneteenth as a national holiday.

We cannot rest, cannot be seduced with Juneteenth Day sales on the stuff of future landfills. There is yet injustice – in Texas, in Florida and most everywhere throughout the nation. Let Juneteenth instead be a reminder that abolition of the ignorance that shackles much of America is work we all must commit to.



ARCHON KHEPHRA BURNS
GRAND GRAPRIER

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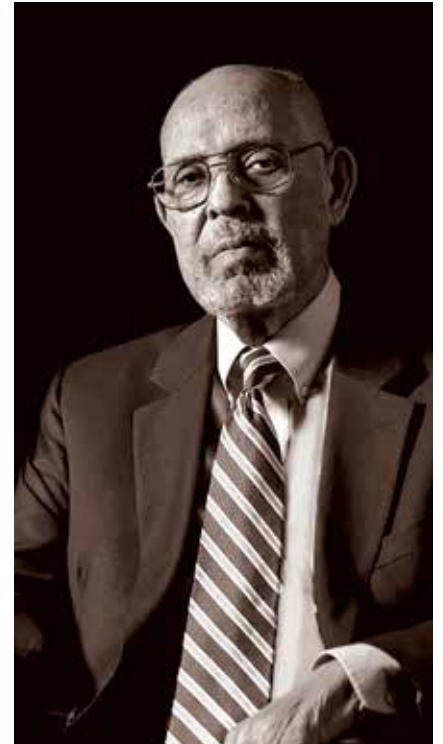
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ARCHON JAMES ALFRED JOSEPH

I'm not an
optimist
because I do
not believe
everything
ends well.
I am not a
pessimist
because I do
not believe
everything
ends badly.



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MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND SIRE ARCHON

Honoring Our History by Recognizing Our Founders and Legends

By Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi

On the first Saturday and Sunday of May, it was my privilege to join Sire Archons Patrick Oates of Alpha Boulé and A. Scott Bolden of Epsilon Boulé to honor three of our founders at two cemeteries just outside of Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Coordinated by Archons Gregory Burrell of Alpha and Archon Michael Fauntroy of Epsilon, the two ceremonies were attended by sixty-five Archons from a dozen member boulés in the Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and surrounding areas, along with Regional Sire Archons Alfred Spencer and Darrell Searcy. Founding Archons Robert J. Abele and Edwin C.J.T. Howard were remembered at their gravesites in Historic Eden Cemetery in Collingdale, Pennsylvania, and Archon Algernon Brashear Jackson in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Suitland, Maryland. These commemorations, which began about a decade ago, pay tribute to the talented and community-focused men who established Sigma Pi Phi as the first African American fraternity in the world on May 15, 1904. Henry McKee Minton, Eugene T. Hinson, Richard J. Warrick, along with Abele, Howard and Jackson – five physicians and a dentist who had achieved distinction in their professions, but were excluded by racially discriminatory practices from membership in the societies to which their professional peers belonged – took the bold step of establishing the fraternity into which we have been invited. The record of their formative years, education and extraordinary careers evidence that these were exceptional men who were ahead of their time and selfless in that they were more focused on their patients and communities than themselves. And, remarkably, most were relatively young and in the early stages of their careers when they established the fraternity. In 1904, Warrick was only 24 years old, Jackson 26, Abele 29, Hinson 31, and Minton 34. Howard, at 58, was the most senior. As beneficiaries of their vision and leadership, we are entrusted to carry on their legacy at this crucial moment in the history of the nation and world.

Nineteen years and a century later, the tradition of excellence inaugurated by our founders flourishes in



contributions and achievements of Archons across the Fraternity. At our business meetings we get to know the best of Archons who are trailblazers, who opened doors for us and others through their extraordinary professional and community contributions. In my view, many of these Archons have not been adequately recognized within and across our member boulés. Last October, though, I saw an excellent example of how distinguished Archons can be honored. Sire Archon Harry E. Johnson, Sr., of Nu Boulé invited me and Regional Sire Jesse Tyson to the boulé's fall meeting as the Archons recognized twelve of their "legends." The occasion served the dual purposes of welcoming back some of the no-

table and Emeriti Archons who had not been able to attend a meeting over the previous few years and also to formally recognize them for their monumental careers. Among the honorees were the first African American partner in a major Houston law firm, the first African American U.S. Secretary of Education and the first senior level corporate executive in a major food and beverage company. The evening was emotionally moving and inspirational, especially for the newer and younger Archons who felt the impact of these pioneers.

Many of our Archons are "living monuments," but most would be too modest to give account of their place in history. Therefore, I ask that you give some consideration either to organizing a special program or dedicating a part of your meetings to hearing a little of the story of your legends and honoring them for their contributions to their professions, communities and the nation.

Over the summer, as you refresh your memory of Boulé history and the backgrounds of our founders in Past Grand Sire Archon Rodney J. Reed's book, *A Grand Journey: The History of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity 1904–2010*, take time to read about the extraordinary lives and careers of Archons who have entered Omega Boulé. Our founders would be heartened that Archons are faithfully following in their Sigma Pi Phi footsteps in 2023.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE HOSTS DYNAMIC BLACK HISTORY MONTH MENTORING EVENT

By Archon E. Ron Kelley, Chair, Grand Boulé Education Committee and Western Region Social Action Committee



ARCHON E. RON KELLEY

In February 2023, the Grand Boulé Education Committee hosted its inaugural Youth Mentoring Symposium. This groundbreaking event was held in conjunction with the Western Region Social Action Committee and the National Mentoring Foundation. Since I currently serve as both chair of the Grand Boulé Education Committee and chair of the Western Region Social Action Committee, I always look for ways to align the activities of both committees to produce synergy and cohesiveness. Having a social action event such as this in Texas, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Western Region, seemed

to be the perfect way to align the two committees in an activity that fulfilled the missions of both bodies. Professionally, I serve as CEO of the National Mentoring Foundation, a nationally recognized 501(c)(3) organization that specializes in providing dynamic mentoring programs for at-risk African American male students in schools nationwide. I founded the National Mentoring Foundation in 2021 after a twenty-two-year career in the education field. After serving as principal of two high-performing schools, as a certified superintendent and former central office administrator, and as a college professor, I then em-



WESTERN REGION SIRE ARCHON JESSE TYSON

barked on a career on the corporate side of education as CEO of the National Training and Education Group (NTEG). During my fifteen years as CEO of NTEG, the company emerged as one of the top education consulting firms, working with hundreds of school districts nationwide on improving student achievement.

Throughout my career in education, I would always engage in mentoring students through my various fraternal organizations. After leading innovative mentoring programs in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Prince Hall Freemasonry, the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Elks, the 100 Black Men of America, Inc., and numerous other community organizations, I envisioned a foundation strictly for the purpose of mentoring at-risk Black males. Upon retiring as CEO of NTEG, I committed myself to making my vision for a foundation dedicated to mentoring a reality. This commitment to the vision led to the formation of the National Mentoring Foundation. Our wonderful Boulé Foundation has been a great supporter of the National Mentoring Foundation over the past few years. The National Mentoring Foundation has developed an innovative and comprehensive curriculum that prepares students for college and career success at the highest levels. I saw that this curriculum would be ideal for the Education Committee's mentoring event, which inspired an additional partnership with the National Mentoring Foundation for this event.

The event was hosted at Westfield High School in Houston, Texas. Westfield High School is a part of

the Spring Independent School District. This school, which is located in a predominantly African American portion of the north side of Houston, was primarily chosen as the event location because Jordan Williams, one of our former Boulé Scholars, is currently a first-year teacher at the campus. Jordan's incredible progress from mentee to mentor has been a phenomenal story. He aspires to become one of the youngest school district superintendents in the nation. His career in education has flourished from day one, all after an almost fatal bout with meningitis that he successfully overcame after several brain surgeries. As Jordan's personal mentor since his college days as a successful student athlete at Trinity University in San Antonio, I am so proud that he was able to overcome his health battles and chose to follow in my footsteps in the field of educational administration. We definitely need more African American males in this field, especially as the principals and superintendents who lead our schools.

Regarding the arrangement of this historic mentoring event, Westfield High School gathered its top African American male student leaders to participate. My son, Edmond Ron Kelley, Jr., who is a ninth grade honors student at an early college academy in San Antonio and a member of the Boulé Scholars Mentoring Program, was able to travel with me to the event and also be a part of this historic occasion. Archons from all of the Houston-area member boulés attended in full support of this unique opportunity for our youth. Archons from Nu Boulé, Epsilon Omi-



BOULÉ SCHOLAR JORDAN WILLIAMS

cron Boulé and Zeta Alpha Boulé attended as lead mentors for the group. The event began with greetings from the Spring Independent School District superintendent, Dr. Lupita Hinojosa; the assistant superintendent, Dr. LaQuita Carter; and Westfield High School Principal Laura Hunter. Dr. Carter is the Archousa of Archon Dana Carter of Epsilon Omicron Boulé in North Houston. As one of the key organizers from the start, she was highly instrumental in making the entire event happen. It is truly amazing what we can accomplish by working alongside our mighty Archousai who serve in key leadership positions in various fields.

Western Region Sire Archon Jesse Tyson was present and gave greetings on behalf of the Western Region. Archon Tyson's inspiring words had the students fully engaged and motivated to learn more. Once all of the greetings and formalities were completed, the students were presented with an intense workshop on leadership skills, college preparation and career success. The students were presented with a memorable three-step life success strategy. The first step is to graduate from high school with a high GPA, high test scores, and leadership experience in student organizations and athletics. The second step is to graduate from college with a high GPA, leadership experience in student organizations, and internship experience. This crucial step is all about graduating from a top-ranked university with the degree or degrees necessary to compete for the top jobs or graduate programs in your desired career

field. The students were informed that engineering, computer science, pharmacy, pre-med and business were among the college majors that receive the highest salaries upon graduating from college. The third and final step is to enter the workforce in their desired career field and excel to the highest levels of their field both professionally and financially. The students were instructed on key strategies for getting accepted into the nation's top-ranked Ivy League schools and also taught the importance and rich history of our HBCUs. The students were also taught the importance of networking, with a special emphasis on how membership in the "Divine 9" fraternities and sororities assists with networking and training for leadership. They were also informed about some of the top-paying careers, which include physician, dentist, lawyer, pharmacist, engineer and others. Entrepreneurship was also discussed as a highly beneficial alternative to a traditional career.

This comprehensive workshop covered the importance of business etiquette, business attire, college selection criteria, career planning and many other self-help topics. Social media etiquette was also a key topic of discussion as the students were informed of the many "dos and don'ts" of social media. Archon Michael Murphy of Nu Boulé was one of the Archons present who served as a mentor. He is a corporate attorney in Houston who discussed his path through Harvard Law School and his later diverse career path and how his knowledge of proper business etiquette allowed him to advance. Archon Nicholas Cormier of



WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS

Gamma Phi Boulé is a former college professor and retired military officer who shared his techniques and philosophy of leadership with the students. Western Region Sire Archon Jesse Tyson shared his tremendous experiences as an Exxon executive and now as owner of multiple successful businesses.

After the workshop portion, the students were matched with Archons in small groups to discuss their individual career plans. The Archons present – representing the diverse fields of medicine, law, business, education, the military and many other career fields – offered expert advice and personal assistance with a wide range of career topic areas. They provided valuable knowledge and wisdom that these talented young men will remember for the rest of their lives.

Black History Month was truly the ideal time to host this historic event. Many students view Black History Month as a time when they merely learn a little about the lives of great Black people. Many of them do not realize that they can be a part of making Black History themselves. The purpose of the workshop was to educate the students on the paths that will lead them to high-level career success which will lead to financial success. Hosting this dynamic in-person event was a well-welcomed progression from the Education Committee's previous virtual workshop format due to the pandemic. The virtual workshops were indeed outstanding and effective, but there is simply nothing like being in-person and connecting with our young scholars in a true mentor-mentee environment. This

was not just a one-time event. The committee plans to host similar events in various cities across the nation to create a nationwide mentoring workshop trend in Sigma Pi Phi. The Archons in the Houston area are in talks to continue the relationship with Westfield High School, possibly leading to an ongoing mentoring program at the school.

The experience that I gained as chair of the Boulé Scholars Program under the outstanding leadership of Immediate Past Grand Sire Archon Dwayne Murray in the previous biennium has proved to be the ideal preparation to lead the Education Committee. The Education Committee encompasses the Boulé Scholars Program, Jackson-Minton Scholars, Commission on Young African American Males, Scholarship Recipients Network and the U.S. Service Academies Initiative. With the close guidance of Grand Social Action Committee chair Archon T. Ramon Stuart and tremendous support from Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi, the Education Committee plans to continue this series of mentoring workshops and establish it as one of the Boulé's signature social action efforts. Many thanks to the Education Committee members: Archon Andre Gordon (chair, Boulé Scholars Committee), Archon Derrick Jackson (chair, U.S. Service Academies Initiative), Archon Patrick Oates (chair, Jackson-Minton Scholars), Archon Brian Johnson (chair, Commission on Young African American Males), and Archon Maurice Gibson (chair, Scholarship Recipients Network). Keep an eye out for a mentoring workshop coming to your city in the near future!

Features

STAND UP FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

By Archon Mitchell F. Crusto, Alpha Alpha Boulé

Since the late 1960's, colleges and professional schools have used race as one of many criteria for admitting students. This practice was adopted as an affirmative action to counterbalance racial discrimination and to achieve a state's compelling educational goal of enrolling a diverse student body. Over the years, such race-conscious admissions have been challenged by some who argue that it violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and results in reverse discrimination against white and Asian applicants. In response to the criticism, several states have banned the use of race in admissions.

Affirmative action in the form of race-conscious admissions is once again being legally challenged by a conservative activist organization. This time, the Supreme Court has decided to revisit the issue and, during its 2022 October term, heard arguments for and against the use of race in admissions programs at two prestigious universities: one private, Harvard University, and one public, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. There has been strong institutional support for affirmative action, with approximately sixty amicus briefs being filed by a broad range of stakeholders, including major American corporations, higher-education organizations, and legal, religious, military and civil rights groups.

Notwithstanding, the court is predicted to order a national ban on race-conscious admissions later this year. Such a ban on the use of race in admissions will effectively resegregate formerly white-only, elite private and public colleges and universities and disenfranchise Black applicants. Furthermore, if the court determines that the Constitution is race-neutral, such a rationale would eviscerate employment discrimination, housing discrimination, voting rights and minority contracting set-asides. Consequently, such a ban on race-conscious admissions will negate the prevailing antiracism paradigm of diversity, equity and inclusion.



ARCHON MITCHELL F. CRUSTO

The likely ban would also come at a particularly bad time for Black college enrollment. That enrollment fell sharply from 2010 to 2020 due to the confluence of the escalating cost of college, skepticism about a degree's payoff, colleges' admissions practices and Black students' not feeling welcome or represented on campuses. The immediate and long-term negative, profound impacts of the Supreme Court's decision on Black people would be:

1. Decline in Black students admitted into and graduating from colleges and professional schools.

2. Demise of historically Black colleges as race-based admission and public funding are banned.
3. Destruction of the Black community as racial legal identity are erased from public records and policies, including voting rights.

This essay posits that colleges and professional schools should be aggressively recruiting Black students in order to achieve the educational goal of diversity, as was envisioned by Justice O'Connor's majority opinion in *Grutter v. Bollinger*. That is because there is still a dire need to redress an educational system where Black people are systemically denied equal opportunity merely because of our race.

VICTIMS OF WHITE SUPREMACISTS

Over the centuries, white supremacists have terrorized Black Americans, from enslavement to murder and intimidation, to political and economic disenfranchisement. My family history is a living testimony to the brutality of white terrorists. Throughout this oppression, my ancestors fought for access to education and the benefits education might bring. During Reconstruction, newly freed Black people established schools of higher learning, acquired property and owned businesses. Unfortunately, Reconstruction was short-lived, ending when federal troops were removed from the South. White supremacists wearing the ghostly disguises of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) literally set fire to our learning centers and stole our property. Throughout the next century, the KKK shot and lynched our people into submission. In fact, they assassinated my great-uncle by boiling him alive in a vat of smoldering liquified sugar and stole his property in rural Louisiana.

When it came to education, white supremacists greatly restricted Black people's access to learning opportunities. The white supremacists' creed was that no Black person would be better educated than the lowliest white person. Higher learning was strictly regulated; secondary schools for Black youths were called training schools instead of high schools and focused on vocational education to appease racist whites. Well-financed public and private schools were racially segregated so as to prohibit Black people from accessing better educational opportunities. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's administration commissioned a federal study that documented the blatant subordination of Black people by way of a segregated educational system. This study led to the 1954 landmark decision of *Brown v. Board of Educa-*

tion, in which the Supreme Court ruled that segregation of public schools violated the Constitution and later ordered states to desegregate their schools. Despite the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown*, it took years of judicial battles with white supremacists to desegregate educational institutions in America.

White supremacist rule meant that Black people were also denied economic opportunities. As a result, in the early 1950's, I was raised in hard-times, racially segregated Louisiana. Added to that circumstance, in 1963, when I was 9 years old, my father, Alvin, a Navy veteran and business owner, died of cancer at the age of 35. This was a great personal and financial loss – our family lost our home, while my mom secured employment to feed her five children.

Still, despite these hardships, I saw a glimmer of hope. When I was an elementary school student in 1963, I recall, the John F. Kennedy administration deployed federal marshals to force then-Mississippi governor Ross Barnett to enroll at the University of Mississippi its first Black student, James Meredith.

However, segregation remained the rule in my world in inner-city New Orleans. I experienced racial segregation in education. I attended an all-Black Catholic elementary school, St. Peter Claver. Then I attended an all-Black, Catholic, male high school, St. Augustine. I remember that we were the only private school that was required to compete in the all Black, segregated *public* high school academic and sports league. To gain access to the white-only Catholic league, St. Augustine sued the Louisiana High School Athletic Association and the State Board of Education and obtained a court order to integrate the league. Unfortunately, with integration came new challenges: It was my eighth-grade school year and my first speech-and-debate competition when I faced a team from a white, Catholic high school. To my chagrin, the white judges graded my speech before I even delivered it. This was a significant disappointment. Just when I thought that the world was changing to ensure fair treatment of Black people, I became painfully aware that centuries of white oppression of Black people were not going to be remediated within my lifetime.

Racial segregation left a deep scar on my emotional and psychological development. Despite benefiting from the loving environments in my Black community, I existed in – and was constantly aware of – a racially disadvantaged society. A society where I was not permitted to swim or take amusement-park rides in the white-only Pontchartrain Beach; was restricted to drink water from the “colored-only” faucets in the Schwegmann Brothers Giant Supermarkets; and could

not sit and eat food at the breakfast and lunch counter at the F.W. Woolworth's store. My local race-based traumas were exacerbated when I witnessed on national television the violent assassinations of several civil rights leaders, including Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, President John F. Kennedy and attorney general Robert F. Kennedy. Suffering through segregated New Orleans was a very depressive thought. I set my mind on escaping the madness.

As a result of racially segregated private and public schools, Black people were denied admission into the then-white-only universities throughout the country, including Ivy League schools such as my alma mater, Yale College. Notwithstanding, many Black people, including my family members, obtained superior education at historically Black colleges, particularly Xavier University in New Orleans.

DECISION TO APPLY TO YALE

In the late 1960's, I became aware that several white-only colleges were beginning to admit a few Black students. In the fall of 1970, I received a phone call from Michael Bagneris, a graduate of my high school who was in his second year at Yale College. I remember that phone call as if it were yesterday. "Mitchell, Yale is looking for highly qualified Black students, and it is a great place to learn!" I trusted Michael's sage advice and applied for admission into Yale. Yale granted me admission and I matriculated to Yale in the fall of 1971.

I received many personal benefits from my decision to attend Yale because of its commitment to affirmative action. One was not obvious. As I was completing high school, the United States was fighting the Vietnam War. My apparent destiny was to be drafted into the military and die in Vietnam. However, affirmative action saved my life, as my acceptance into Yale meant that I didn't have to fight in Vietnam. Another benefit was the opportunity to leave the racially segregated, impoverished Black community in New Orleans and to flourish on the affluent, success-oriented, resource-rich Yale campus.

Most important, the Yale community provided a phenomenal education, especially in my chosen major of antebellum African American history. I had the opportunity to work with exceptional professors, including the noted historians John W. Blassingame and C. Vann Woodward, and to receive the loving support of Black and white faculty and administrators, including Head of College Charles Davis, Dean Eustace Theodore, Fellow William Ferris and Dean Guido Calabresi. They made me feel that Yale College and the city of New Haven were great places to call home.

During my four years as an undergraduate, the Yale campus life was a cultural center. It was a time when Yale's African American Studies Department was the best in the country, introducing the campus to the beauty and awe of the Black experience.

There were cross-cultural exchanges with students of all backgrounds, including students from around the world. I recall that it was the protest against the Vietnam War, often on the Old Campus or in Battell Chapel, that was a unifying force that transcended race, class and status. These were the times to make lasting friendships with highly intelligent, ambitious and inspirational fellow Black classmates. The music on the Yale campus was also a unifying feature, including free performances by fellow student and jazzman Nat Adderley, Jr., as was Yale football and the memorable contributions of my Black roommate, James Archer.

I believe that my enrollment at Yale enriched the Yale community. Academically, as a Scholar of the House, I proved to a skeptical history department that some Black people, both female and male, owned substantial tracts of land and successful businesses in the antebellum South – a little-known and controversial subject. In the classroom, I offered a unique perspective on various subjects by drawing on my Catholic education, my knowledge of southern and creole cultures, and my experiences as a Black man from New Orleans. There were rich intellectual exchanges in the classroom and in private discussions with my white classmates, many of whom had never engaged intellectually or socially with a Black person.

Socially, as a College Fellow, I ran the guest speakers' program, bringing to the campus diverse and distinguished luminaries, such as author Hunter Thompson. My experiences at Yale convinced me that diversity makes for a rich educational environment – it promotes intellectual exploration, facilitates dialogue and understanding between people from different backgrounds, and challenges university administrators to respond positively to the real-life issues that make for a more relevant learning experience.

Overall, my inclusion as a Black person at Yale, I believe, benefited me and my Black peers as well as my white peers. It allowed me to interact with some of the most talented students in the country. Along with my fellow Black students, I reinforced our shared belief that we were qualified to be enrolled at Yale, in part by receiving and promoting mentoring from one another. For my classmates who were white, I challenged their sometimes-held misconceptions that Black people were intellectually and socially inferior, which, in some instances, resulted in lifelong friendships.

Once admitted, I had to negotiate a myriad of obstacles to graduate. Of course no one gave me a good grade because I was Black. To the contrary, I had a few professors who questioned whether my outstanding work was mine originally. In one case, a philosophy professor wrongly accused me of plagiarism. Upon the conclusion of his oral interrogation, he admitted that my analysis of a philosophy question was the most insightful he had seen in all his years of teaching. He subsequently apologized for doubting the authenticity of my work and awarded me an honors grade.

Nevertheless, being exposed to very articulate, brilliant classmates, some Black and some white, who were returning to Yale from junior years studying abroad, I was inspired to apply and was awarded a Marshall Scholarship by the British government to attend Oxford University, where I earned my first of two law degrees. Ultimately, my outstanding performance at Yale College as a Scholar of the House facilitated my matriculating to Yale Law School.

As to opening doors, a Yale degree helped tremendously; however, it did not erase racism in the workplace. In 1981 I applied for jobs with the largest white law firms in New Orleans, where there was a total of two Black lawyers. Most of the firms did not return my phone calls or acknowledge my applications, apparently not interested in hiring a Black associate. Later that year I was hired as an associate attorney with the Jones Walker, LLP, law firm in its litigation department, a major milestone for them and a personal achievement for me. Needless to say, my Yale College educational experience and degree were tremendous assets that facilitated my intellectual development and financial security. Despite my stellar credentials, I believe that being Black was an obstacle in obtaining equal opportunities, particularly in academic circles.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY

I believe that affirmative action has benefited society as a whole. This is evidenced by the contributions made by a critical number of very intelligent, highly motivated and accomplished Black Yale graduates. These included Henry Louis Gates, Jr., now the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University; Steven Cousins, who went on to become a leading corporate bankruptcy attorney; Larry Thompson, who became general counsel and vice chairman of the Depository Trust & Clearing Corp.; and Hamilton Cloud II, who became one of the youngest executives at NBC television and producer of the annual NAACP Image Awards.

By the way, Michael Bagneris, who first encouraged me to attend Yale, became a prominent attorney and distinguished judge, in addition to Archon Raymond Diamond, who is a brilliant law professor at the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Affirmative action was also significant for Black women as Yale admitted its first class of women in the fall of 1969. One of many notable Black female Yale grads is Unjeria Jackson, who became a groundbreaking maternal and fetal-medicine specialist, mentor, author and philanthropist (and teapot collector). For me, who came from an all-male high school, it was a welcomed experience to compete with and learn from some of the most intelligent women in the world.

As a prominent law professor, I develop lawyers with a passion for social justice. As an avid writer, I develop legal arguments that support equal justice. Moreover, as a good citizen, I give money and other needed resources to my community in my hometown of New Orleans. Furthermore, over the years, I have provided valuable public service at all levels, including as a trustee at Lincoln University in Missouri, a presidential appointee at the Small Business Administration in the George W. Bush administration, and an adviser to President Bill Clinton's transition team for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Most important, I serve as a beacon of hope and proof as to what an underprivileged Black or brown person can accomplish in America, given the right educational opportunities. As a Loyola University law professor in New Orleans, a member of the John Mercer Langston Black Male Faculty Writing Workshop, and a mentor in the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, I have supported and advised the professional development of many students and those entering the law-teaching profession, from all races and backgrounds. Later, as an alumnus, I lectured at Yale Law School on my book describing the civil liberties horrors in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

My testimonial to the benefits of affirmative action is not atypical. Many current and past contributors to society, including our first Black president, Barack Obama, and our second Black Supreme Court justice, Clarence Thomas, are further evidence of the impact of affirmative action in higher education. In their pathbreaking book, *Shape of the River*, William G. Bowen and Derek Bok lay out how tremendously successful Black alumni from Ivy League universities have been postgraduation, making the metacase to my position. Hence, I believe that my experiences show that affirmative action is a public policy that

greatly benefits its recipients, institutions of higher learning and the nation as a whole, by developing the incredible talents of historically underrepresented members of our society.

GOOD PUBLIC POLICY

Consequently, I urge universities to encourage, not discourage, Black students to enroll in higher education and professional schools. Furthermore, the Supreme Court should broadcast to Black students that they are welcome on elite college campuses and not to resegregate those campuses, for the following public policy reasons:

Schools Should Be Allowed Academic Freedom to Manage Their Educational Goals Without Undue Court Interference. I believe that a ban on race-conscious admissions would violate principles of federalism, as applied to state-owned schools, and the separation of church and state for private schools that are affiliated with religious organizations. Relative to federalism, currently, under the court's prior holding in *Schuette*, any state that chooses to ban the use of race in college admissions at their state schools can do so. While nine states have banned the use of race-conscious criteria in public university admissions, many states have chosen to use race to achieve diversity. Given this fact, a ban on race-conscious admissions would be redundant and supersede state laws, violating the principles of federalism. When it comes to private schools, a ban on the use of affirmative action would have a chilling effect on the scope of federal authority.

This is made even more relevant where the private school is affiliated with a religion, such as the many Catholic universities across the country, like Georgetown University and Loyola University New Orleans. Further, universities should enjoy the freedom to achieve their educational goals, which may include having a racially diverse student body. Racially diverse student bodies increase cultural exchange and empathy for others, promote diverse experiences and perspectives, and reflect the national population.

A Ban on Race-Conscious Admissions Signals to Black Students That They Are Unwanted at a Time When Talented Labor Is in Great Demand. In my opinion, an unintended result of banning affirmative action admissions policies would be to send a negative message to Black applicants that they are not welcome on elite college campuses. As I mentioned in my personal story, I was encouraged to apply to Yale College because I understood from my Black colleagues that Yale was welcoming Black applicants and that it was, in fact, a great environment for Black students. Evidence shows

that a ban on race-conscious admissions discourages Black students from applying to the most elite of public and private schools, as documented in a 2020 study from the University of California, Berkeley. That study concluded that the 1996 California ban on race-conscious admissions deterred Black students from applying to California's public universities; reduced underrepresented minority UC applicants' undergraduate and graduate degree attainment overall and in STEM fields; and resulted in a reduction in average wages earned by underrepresented minority UC applicants.

Moreover, evidence shows that bans on race-conscious admissions in state schools are countered with other strategies to achieve the same goal because, in a nutshell, the majority of schools want to enroll Black students in their student body. Furthermore, banning race-conscious admissions practices will likely increase the cost of recruiting Black students who are of interest to colleges and professional schools.

At a time in our country's history when employers are desperately seeking qualified skilled labor, regardless of race, what sense does it make to deny qualified people of color the educational opportunities to make a needed contribution to our economic growth? Such an assault on affirmative action is a regressive development that will result in a multigenerational loss to the educational development of Black people achieved following the *Brown* decision.

A Ban on Race-Conscious Admissions Would Send a Signal to Society as a Whole That the Court Does Not Value Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. I believe that promoting the vision of diversity, equity and inclusion is a great proposition for this nation, especially to support national unity in these politically divided and economically stressful times. If the court bans race-conscious admissions, that decision will send a signal to society as a whole that the highest court does not value diversity, equity and inclusion broadly. A ban on affirmative action may fuel the national resentment of government mandates and further erode the current lack of public confidence in our institutions. Even if the court were to mandate such a ban, I am skeptical as to how it would be enforced. Overall, I believe that such a ban is divisive and will create greater skepticism in the integrity of our legal system following the failure to follow precedent in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

Some Black people who have benefited from race-conscious admissions argue, understandably, that affirmative action stigmatizes their achievements, which are seen as merely resulting from an unfair advantage based on their race. For example, Justice Thomas claims that because his Blackness was con-

sidered when he applied to Yale Law School, prospective employers questioned his qualifications and academic abilities as he applied for jobs after graduating from law school.

Honestly, I don't think that banning the use of race in admissions will eliminate critics who see Black people's progress as undeserved and government-mandated. These and other critics argue that we should move to a color-blind or color-neutral society and that the continued use of race in university admissions perpetuates racial division. These are counterfactual thoughts. Unfortunately, because racial discrimination is still prevalent in America, proposing a color-blind society is simply naive.

Then there is the argument against affirmative action that it amounts to discrimination by favoring certain racially disadvantaged students over allegedly more qualified applicants. The concept of "reverse discrimination," or wrongfully discriminating against a white or an Asian applicant in favor of a Black applicant, has been central to many historical cases challenging affirmative action policies, making it a worthwhile concept to address.

I disagree with the reverse-discrimination contention for several reasons. First, no person, regardless of background, is guaranteed admission, and universities have the right to admit whomever they wish; this is particularly true of private schools. Second, unlike Black people, white people are not protected as a historically disenfranchised group due to their innate privilege. Third, many of the claimants are proxies for conservative groups who are using the named plaintiffs to promote a white supremacist, racist agenda.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Enrolling Black people at elite, formerly white-only colleges and professional schools remains controversial. Some argue that Black students are on elite campuses merely to be exploited – that they are political pawns, used to divert attention from the true unfortunate social and economic plight of Black people in

general. Others argue that Black people studying on elite campuses are being indoctrinated to support conservative, white, anti-Black agendas. Further, talented Black athletes who attend elite colleges have mixed blessings – receiving a great education while playing without pay and historically forfeiting the right to monetize their name, image and likeness. Despite critiques of affirmative action, for me and many other beneficiaries, affirmative action has been a positive policy that provides equal opportunity regardless of one's Blackness.

Since the inception of affirmative action in 1961, hundreds of thousands of Black people, and hundreds of millions of Americans, have benefited from the vision of diversity, equity and inclusion. In a land of opportunity, no person should be denied access to any educational institutions because of historically based inequities, economic hardship or their race. We need to continue to work to make all college campuses and professional schools places where Black students feel welcomed and valued for being themselves. I hope all people of goodwill will stand tall in support of the noble goal of diversity, equity and inclusion.

In conclusion, the nation and the Supreme Court should embrace the positive use of race as an affirmative action tool to achieve diversity, for three reasons: First, my personal story exhibits that enrolling Black people in formerly white, elite colleges and professional schools benefits those Black students, their fellow students of all races and backgrounds, and society as a whole. Second, affirmative action is not merely about adding diversity to campus life and culture, but it is also remedial, as a debt owed by these schools in particular and by society in general for their past discriminatory practices and disenfranchisement of Black people. Third, academic institutions recognize the market demand from employers who seek Black people to fill various professional and skilled positions. For these three above-stated reasons, I believe that we should insist that the Supreme Court promote, not demote, affirmative action.

A peer-reviewed article entitled "A Plea for Affirmative Action" by Archon Mitchell F. Crusto, Henry F. Bonura, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Law at Loyola University New Orleans, appeared in the *Harvard Law Review*, Volume 136, Issue 3, in January 2023. This was followed up with an appearance on CBS News Sunday Morning with Jane Pauley on June 4, 2023, featuring a segment with Rita Braver. The entire segment can be viewed at <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/affirmative-action-supreme-court-deciding-cases-on-college-university-admissions/>.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL: CREATING ARCHON WEALTH THROUGH INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION

By Grand Sire Archon-Elect Loren R. Douglass

The pandemic has revealed that the Black community is disproportionately exposed to many forms of risk. Black and brown people lead the country in COVID-19 mortality rates, unemployment due to shut-downs, business failures, food insecurity and other maladies, and dislocations created through wealth inequality and lack of equal access to opportunity. That being said, the pandemic has fostered the growth of new ways of working and interacting that reveal some exciting opportunities for those with the motivation and creativity to seize them.

The financial industry is in the midst of massive change due to the impact of deregulation and rapid technological change. Large industry players once insulated by their size and economies of scale and scope are now being challenged by far more nimble players armed with innovative technologies and approaches emerging from unanticipated vantage points. While attending a conference in business school at Wharton in the late 1980's, I heard Archon Ken Chenault, conference guest speaker and then president of American Express, utter prophetic



GRAND SIRE ARCHON-ELECT LOREN R. DOUGLASS

words that I never forgot: “Where there’s chaos, there is opportunity.” Needless to say, reasonable minds can agree that there has been a fair amount of chaos these past few years.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Sigma Pi Phi is fortunate to include a wealth of investment talent from the financial services industry that covers a broad array of asset classes (private equity, hedge funds, private credit) and industry sectors (health care, technology, manufacturing). Additionally, the Boulé is home to a deep bench of professionals such as attorneys, accountants, financial analysts and others who make their living as part of the “investment ecosystem” and who, at best, are loosely connected to other Archons engaged in the same or adjacent areas of business.

Reflecting on my own eighteen-year Wall Street experience as well as informative conversations with Archons in the private equity space – namely Archons Craig MacKay, Sire Archon, Mu Boulé, and Charles Corpening, Sire Archon–Elect, Zeta Delta Boulé – as well as Archons in other asset classes, I see a clear need for us to create spaces where Archons can come together, network, build relationships, compare notes and invest with each other. Creating affinity groups along asset classes powered by collaboration tools and database technologies will have the impact of aggregating the Boulé’s vast investment talent into a powerful network accessible “by Archons for Archons” (coined by Archon Corpening).

Coinvesting among Archons has been part of Boulé culture and history for generations; however, with the proliferation of ubiquitous communications technologies and powerful off-the-shelf database and collaborations tools, the Fraternity has an opportunity to vastly improve our internal personal and professional engagement, which could result in consummation of Archon-dominated and/or comanaged investments – an objective that is congruent with the preamble of our august Fraternity. When combined with the necessary and appropriate collaboration protocols and supported by a comprehensive database that includes professional invest-

ment expertise and other relevant descriptors, this network could be leveraged to facilitate proprietary investment opportunities that Archons encounter in their respective industry sectors.

The technology to accomplish this task has long existed, so nothing new need be developed. Whether the Fraternity’s new social network, BLuE, could be adapted for this purpose would require further review and assessment. That being said, the need, the will and the desire are clearly present. Now, all we must do is assemble enough like minds interested in this idea to get it done!

HOW TO DO IT

The tools needed to facilitate active participation in investment ecosystems (by asset class) are all around us and are of marginal cost. By combining them with smart organization and available “off the shelf” database technologies we can create a dynamic community of Archons and Archousai that actively engage one another in activities such as on-demand peer-to-peer communications, customized forums where Archon entrepreneurs seeking funding can make deal pitches, coinvestment presentations and other value-added interactions.

Exhibit 1 illustrates how these groups will be connected to each other as well as Archon (A) connections within their respective groups. Of course, these virtual spaces would provide a secure environment to share emergent ideas and opportunities and offer networking and connection opportunities with prospective transaction parties. Once these were developed, we’d raise awareness by hosting a series of virtual round-table discussions designed to demonstrate the system’s features and capabilities along with information on emerging industry trends, market opportunities and “heard on the Street” intelligence. These virtual spaces and supporting systems would be managed by Archons and accessible only to Archons in good standing. Additionally, it would be necessary that all processes, procedures and supporting systems of our affinity groups comply with all applicable securities regulations.

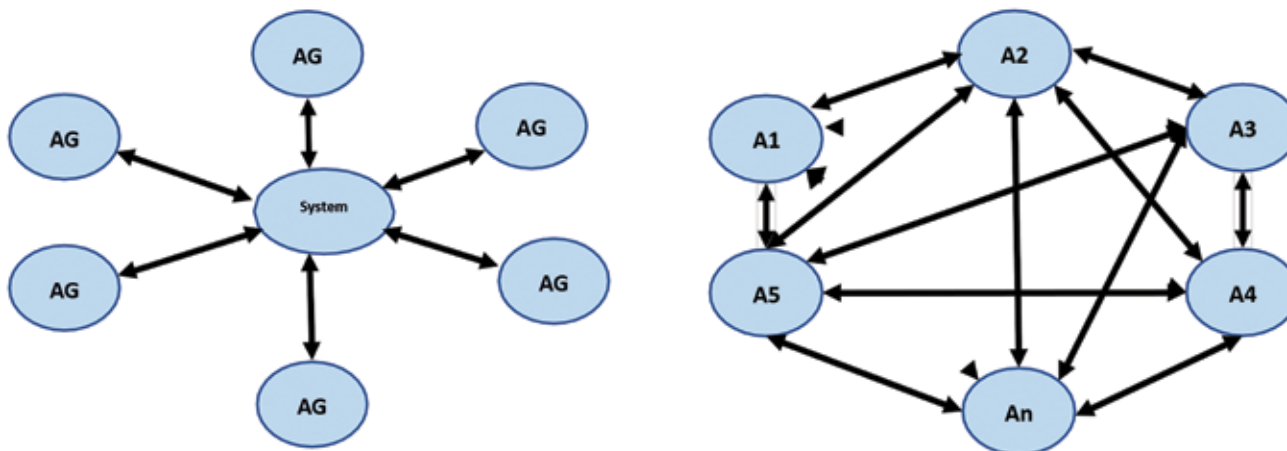


EXHIBIT 1: CONNECTIONS BETWEEN AND WITHIN AFFINITY GROUPS (AG)

WHY DO THIS?

It is often stated that “getting to know the best of one another” is our primary reason for existing as an organization. Those words can be found in the Boulé Constitution. However, the second half of that sentence is often either unspoken or overlooked entirely, thus leaving one with an incomplete notion of our beloved fraternity’s reason for being. The preamble to the Boulé Constitution encourages us to “know the best of one another, and that each in this life may to his full ability aid the other, and by concerted action bring about those things that seem best for all that cannot be accomplished by individual effort.” Succinctly stated, social connections are paramount, but having a stake in each other’s success is also. Using technology to build and maintain industry-focused affinity networks for this purpose is perfectly congruent with the spirit of our preamble. No mutually beneficial business relationships can be formed without care and feeding of personal relationships. In fact, they are mutually reinforcing. These virtual spaces combined with compelling in-person events facilitate those motivations while delivering on our collective commitment to be of service to one another and to help achieve that which could not be accomplished by singular effort. Archon MacKay stated in one of our recent chats that “our making this happen models the

audacity of our Founders, who openly collaborated 117 years ago to bring state-of-the-art health care services to Philadelphia.”

In recent speeches that I’ve made at the 2021 series of Regional Boulés, I’ve talked about creation of ecosystems capable of creating and sustaining wealth for Archons and their families and communities as well as the Boulé Foundation. These affinity networks are a basic building block of such an ecosystem where we turn our hard-won gifts (education, professional experience, industry access and the like) into a strategic and competitive advantage for our families in an environment that in some corridors has turned hostile to Black progress.

Archons MacKay and Corpening and other like-minded Archons from around the country are part of the brain trust looking to build upon this idea whose time has come. Important industry perspectives from Archons Michael Smart, Kelly Holloway, Walt Pearson, Greg Davis, Kevin Nickelberry and Ray McGuire have also greatly informed the direction of this current initiative, which will begin as a collaboration between the Northeast and Southeast regions. Of course, Archons from other areas of the country are welcome to join us on this journey. Meanwhile, we’ll keep the entire Fraternity informed on how we’re coming along. We’ll see you on the other side.

ANTHONY HOLDER: A TRUE PIONEERING CHAMPION OF AVIATION

By Archon Kevin E. Woods, Grapier, Kappa Boulé

Kappa Boulé Archon Anthony “Tony” Holder started to dream of flying at age 7. After watching an episode of *Superman* on his family’s black-and-white TV, his imagination took flight. Using a bath towel as his cape, he opened the front window of their first-floor apartment in The Bronx, New York, and leaped from the building. Fortunately, he wasn’t hurt, and decades later he still remembers that defining moment in that Throgs Neck public housing project. Today Archon Holder is a retired FedEx international jumbo jet captain of the Boeing 777, one the world’s largest twinjets, and he has traveled to nearly every corner of the earth. In addition, he has captained the MD-11, DC-10 and Boeing 727 jets and more than fifteen different civilian aircraft.

Now retired, he was involved as the director of the Atlanta Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Aviation and STEM Training (TAAST). In order to teach and introduce his students about the developing field of drones, Archon Holder successfully completed the certified FAA training course with a near perfect exam score of ninety-nine out of one hundred. After more than forty-two years of flying, he has accumulated more than 22,000 hours of flying time and more than 3,000 landings, which puts him in the upper echelon of experienced international airline pilots.

Archon Holder’s journey into the world of aviation is a story about dreaming big and beating the odds. “Growing up in my neighborhood, I had no aviation mentors, and no one in my family had ever gone to college,” he said. As one of six kids in a four-room apartment that housed his parents, along with an aunt, uncle and their two children, Holder learned early how to make ends meet. “I applied to Howard University, in the spring of my senior year and was accepted as an alternate if someone else decided not to attend. Although I didn’t have the money to go to Howard,” added Archon Holder. “I really didn’t know where to go for help so one day I walked into a bank and asked to see the branch manager. I told him that I wanted to go to college and asked if the bank would give me a loan. The bank manager asked if I had any collateral and I replied no (I didn’t know what collateral meant). The manager handed me an application and told me to fill it out and have my parents sign it. I did, and to my surprise, the bank approved the loan.” After graduating from high school, “I didn’t have any advance courses such as physics or mathematics, so I enrolled in a New York City College course for the summer and audited both classes.”



ARCHON ANTHONY HOLDER RECEIVES FIFTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN AVIATION SAFETY PLAQUE IN FEBRUARY 2023.

Taking the advice of his high school guidance counselor, Archon Holder had applied to Howard University as an English major. When, at the age of 17, he arrived on campus, he found that one of his freshman roommates was majoring in civil engineering. “We went to register for classes together and instead of signing up for classes as an English major, I signed up for everything my roommate signed up for, which put me on the engineering track.” My roommate chose Army ROTC but my curiosity about airplanes helped me to choose the Air Force ROTC program.” Despite

the fact that he had no previous experience in aviation or aircraft, the hopeful young student passed both the aptitude and physical requirements to be accepted to USAF jet pilot training.

In 1971, after graduating from Howard with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering, young Holder was commissioned second lieutenant through the university's Air Force ROTC. However, he decided to delay pilot training until he completed an intensive one-year master of business administration program at the University of Pittsburgh. One of his friends and classmates that year was Wesley Coleman, later to become Grand Sire Archon of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

While attending classes in Pittsburgh, Archon Holder noticed that an Air National Guard facility was located near the university. "I could see fighter jets taking off while I was sitting in business classes. For me, this was a distraction because I really wanted to be a pilot," he stated. After completing the second semester of the tri-semester M.B.A. program, he decided to leave Pittsburgh and begin Air Force pilot training in a one-year program at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas.

In the beginning, he was one of two African Americans enrolled in a class of sixty pilot trainees. At the end of that year of intensive training, the remaining graduating class was now twenty, with him as the only person of color to receive his wings as a USAF jet pilot. While stationed in California, Archon Holder also returned to graduate school and completed a master of science degree in systems management at the University of Southern California School of Engineering. He was later transferred to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam flying the B-52 jet bomber with eight engines and four nuclear weapons on board with targets in Russia. In May 1978 he was honorably discharged from the Air Force with the military rank of captain.

Despite his exceptional accomplishments in aviation, Archon Holder still felt the need to have a mentor in his field. One day, while reading *Jet* magazine, he came across a story about Lieutenant Colonel Spann Watson, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen fighter pilots. "I was impressed with his story and wanted to get to know him, but I didn't know how to make the connection," he recalled. "I decided to write a letter to Johnson Publishing Co. to inquire about him." Johnson Publishing forwarded Archon Holder's letter to Colonel Watson. "Before you knew it, we were talking to each other on the phone. He became my mentor. About a year later, Colonel Watson called to tell me about a new company in Memphis called Federal Express and asked if I would be interested in interviewing with them. I was 28 at the time. I told the colonel that I was interested, and he assisted in arranging a job interview."

Archon Holder went to the library to learn as much as he could about the company. In 1979 FedEx offered him a position as pilot, making him the fourth African

American aviator out of the first cadre of seven pilots during its initial growth in eight years to be brought on board in the late 1970's. "I was most fortunate to have an original Tuskegee Airman as a mentor," continued Archon Holder. "In addition to career guidance, one of the things he told me was to help others to succeed, and that's what I've tried to do."

One evening, Archon Holder stopped at a Memphis supermarket and while walking down an aisle saw an African American teenager stocking the shelves. "His name was Jacques Rogers and he was kneeling down, wearing an apron," he recalled. "I suddenly saw myself in that young man because I used to stock grocery shelves while in high school wearing an apron. Although he and I were strangers to each other, I decided to stop and say something to him. 'Young man, what are your plans for your life?' I asked. He looked around and stood up. Then he said to me, 'I want to graduate from high school, go to college, major in engineering, and become a pilot.' " Archon Holder was stunned. He told young Rogers that he was a FedEx airline pilot, but he didn't stop there. He became a mentor to the young man.

In due course Rogers completed his degree in engineering at the University of Memphis, was accepted in a pilot training program in Pensacola, Florida, and earned his wings as a U.S. Marine pilot. After serving twenty years as a Marine pilot, he finally got his career wish to become an airline pilot. Rogers is now a pilot with American Airlines, flying as a first officer on the Airbus aircraft. Archon Holder has also mentored other teens who aspire to become pilots or has advised them in aspects of STEM. "Throughout history, African Americans have continued to prove themselves in so many ways," said Archon Holder. "I am inspired by the accomplishments of past generations, but I am also proud of the young people who are distinguishing themselves in various fields throughout our nation and world. Education, STEM and Black history should be a daily awareness that we continue to pass along to our young people."

In addition, crowning his stellar aviation career, in 2023 Archon Holder received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. The award is named in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright, who were two American aviation pioneers credited with inventing, building and flying the world's first successful motor-operated airplane. This award is the most prestigious award the FAA issues to pilots certified under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations part 61. It recognizes individuals who have exhibited exemplary aviation expertise, distinguished professionalism and steadfast commitment for at least fifty years of piloting experience or fifty or more years combined experience in both piloting and aircraft operations. Archon Holder received this award during Black History Month.

Diversity In Dentistry: A Conversation With Laila Hishaw

By Archon Kristian Salter, Gamma Alpha Boulé

Gamma Alpha Boulé is proud of the work we do, the work we are able to accomplish personally, professionally and within our communities. As we get to know the best of one another, it is impossible to know us without our highlighting the strong Archousai that continue to do the work that upholds our mission. Here we highlight Archousa Laila Hishaw, a leading board-certified pediatric dentist in the Tucson and surrounding areas, with her own private practice as the founding partner of Tucson Smiles Pediatric Dentistry.

An Amazon best-selling author of *Cavity Free Kids*, Archousa Hishaw is the mother of three, a board leader, and a champion for change in diversity and inclusion in dentistry. She created Diversity In Dentistry Mentorships, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to strengthening the diversity pathway from middle school to dental school through mentoring, educational and hands-on programming. It also provides scholarships to youths and pre-dental students from African American and Black, Latinx and Native American backgrounds. She is married to Archon Alex Hishaw, a neurologist.

Archousa Hishaw is a thought leader and change agent for diversity in dentistry and an authority in children's oral health. After earning her dental degree with honors in pediatric dentistry from the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Dentistry, she specialized in pediatric dentistry at UT Health San Antonio. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. She is a national speaker on pediatric dentistry, DEI and belonging, and topics relevant to women in healthcare. Her podcast, *Beyond the Smile*, is available for registration on Tuesdays.

Her demonstration of professionalism, leadership and service to others has been recognized by two prestigious honorary dental societies, the American College of Dentists and the International Colleges of Dentists. She currently serves on the ADA Task Force to Eliminate Barriers for Underrepresented



ARCHOUSA LAILA HISHAW

Minorities Into the Dental Profession and volunteers on the board of directors for the Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation and the Arizona Dental Foundation. She is an alumna of the ADA Institute for Diversity in Leadership.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Archousa Hishaw for the following discussion:

Archon Kristian Salter: First, thank you for taking the time to answer a few questions about everything you have going on. I'll kick us off. At what time in your life did you realize that pediatric dentistry was a calling? And tell us about Diversity in Dentistry Mentorships, Inc.

Archousa Laila Hishaw: Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to share my passions around mentorship and oral health equity and how the two intersect. To answer your question, I have to provide some context. My mother was a single parent who worked two jobs as a school teacher and interior designer to provide for me and my three sisters. For as long as I can remember, she wanted me to become a doctor. She reasoned that people are always getting sick, so being a doctor would guarantee the financial stability she never had as a single parent on a teacher's salary.

After college I returned to my birthplace in Iran to see my father and felt the professional satisfaction my father experienced by practicing and teaching dentistry. My love for pediatric dentistry came because I've always loved working with children, from my summer jobs as a camp counselor to caring for my two younger sisters, who were nine and ten years my junior. As I began to do my rotations in dental school, pediatric dentistry felt natural to me. I'm so glad I specialized in it – I love knowing I've had an impact on a child's overall health during the formative years.

The experiences from my own background have given me the context to discern the hardships faced by young people from underserved and underrepresented groups. But over the last four years my calling to be a champion for change for my community and nationally for diversity in dentistry through mentorship has become clear and confirmed. In 2018 a Health Policy Institute report by the American Dental Association on the lack of diversity among U.S. dentists sparked my attention. It shocked me to know that only 3.8 percent of U.S. dentists were Black, and that number has had flat growth in the years since I was a dental student. The report also showed 5.2 percent Hispanic and 1.1 percent totaled American Indian, Alaska Native and Pacific Islanders. It was also surprising that only 16 percent of new dental student enrollees came from underrepresented groups.

I felt very strongly that something needed to be done to provide mentorship for historically underrepresented children in middle and high schools to help them pursue a career in dentistry. It was evident that these Black and brown children could not identify dentist mentors who looked like them and could help them navigate the pathway toward dentistry.

K.S.: What does the word “diversity” mean to you?

L.H.: Diversity is having the opportunity to hear and appreciate the perspectives from a larger group of people. When we are working together and collaborating, only then can we truly move forward. Diversity is having all groups represented, and inclusion is a measure of culture that helps that diversity thrive – to help everyone feel seen, heard and valued. Thinking back to my youth, it was really hard to try to figure out where I fit in, being Iranian and Black. It wasn't until college that I began to truly appreciate the beauty of my diverse cultural background.

There is so much untapped talent and leadership in the Black community, but there has been a lack of opportunity for us to thrive. Mentorship will close that opportunity gap.

K.S.: Did you ever find that the process for becoming a BIPOC dentist was different? Were there roadblocks in the process you are working to fix?

L.H.: The process is no different, but there are certainly many barriers to dental school faced by BIPOC students, as well as challenges for practicing dentists, dental educators and dental researchers from historically underrepresented groups. When we look at barriers, our mission is to increase an equitable applicant pool of students. We want to prepare the pool to have a greater number of qualified and competitive candidates. This is why we must start early to get these students in STEM programs, providing them volunteer experiences, and working on leadership and interview skills. There are educational barriers. Certain communities don't have resources to provide these opportunities for students. We need more grassroots organizations to help supplement the school district in STEM education and outreach. The cost of getting into dental school is another barrier. It's important to provide scholarships and help predental students who want to apply to give them a fighting chance.

It is also important that dental schools use their deans of diversity and inclusion and train their faculty and staff to be inclusive. To start, children from underrepresented and underestimated backgrounds often face financial hurdles. The cost to take preparatory courses for the Dental Admission Test – and for the test itself – can exceed \$1,000 depending on the programs you can afford. Then there is the exorbitant cost of applying to dental school, where there is a base fee of \$265, then an additional fee of \$115 for each dental school you apply to. Those with financial means can apply to five times the number of schools as those who can afford to apply to only two or three schools.

There are social barriers, when these students don't have the same vast support network and find it challenging to find shadowing experiences in dental offices, a necessary requirement for dental school admissions. With the lack of shadowing experiences, it also prevents them from developing meaningful

relationships with dentists who can speak to their experience and dedication, whom they can shadow in their offices, and who can then write strong letters of recommendations. Finally, they may often be the first in their families to pursue a career in health care, and their families may be unable to guide them in choosing college courses to support their ambitions. This is where mentorship helps in creating pathways to eliminate these barriers to dentistry.

When we speak of roadblocks for BIPOC dentists, the stories are often the same. Unconscious bias and systemic racism can truly affect their dental school and postdoctoral experience, patient relationships, business capital lending, and assumptions from colleagues and employees. Unconscious racial bias and microaggressions are frequent reminders that underrepresented dentists must work twice as hard to prove their competence and fight their way to leadership positions and promotions, and for equity in salary.

All these components can affect the overall wealth, joy and success for BIPOC dentists. It is also important to highlight the data that tells us that more dentists from underrepresented groups will provide care in underserved communities and take Medicaid, which increases access to care and improves oral health equity.

K.S.: What does Diversity In Dentistry Mentorships assist in and offer for mentees?

L.H.: The mentee-mentor relationship established through Diversity In Dentistry Mentorships allows for a long-term nurturing relationship to the student. The mentor and our organization prepare the students through mock interviews, editing personal statements and enrichment through hands-on activities. Since our incorporation in 2021, we have conducted an annual Diversify Dentistry Youth Summit, where middle and high school students are invited to an introduction to dentistry. After a daylong immersive experience in dentistry, the students have a mock white-coat ceremony with their mentor to inculcate a sense of pride and inspiration. The young people and our predental mentees receive access to videos and other resources to help them apply to dental schools.

K.S.: What advice would you give to a young BIPOC who is going into a health-care profession?

L.H.: Find a mentor! In addition, I would tell them that the preparation starts now, wherever they are in their educational journey. If they are in middle school, they need to continue to develop study skills to help them succeed in school and take interest in STEM courses. High schoolers can begin to get shadowing experience in a dental practice over their summer break, take AP courses in sciences, and prepare rigorously for standardized tests to get into the college of their choice. I advise my college students to join the predental club in their school, and if there isn't one, to start one! They should be getting shadowing experiences and find hobbies or projects to hone their fine motor skills, which come into play in clinical dentistry. But again, finding a mentor will help them navigate their path to dental school and empower them to know that if, as we say, We D.I.D. It – So Can They.

K.S.: Now that DEI work can be both passion work and a profession, when did you realize you wanted to push forward and expand with Diversity in Dentistry Mentorships?

L.H.: I realized that DEI goes hand in hand with developing pathway programs and advocating for oral-health equity as a dentist. What propelled me to speak on DEI and belonging was when students of color, especially young Black women, would approach me after my presentations on unconscious bias in dental school. They were so relieved to know they weren't alone in what they were feeling and grateful to be able to put words around their emotions and the experiences they had. When our mentees hear from dental students and dentists who look like them, they are prepared to know how to navigate potentially difficult encounters from biased instructors, classmates and/or patients. I firmly believe mentorship can elevate our profession, and this is how I am addressing racism and bias in our dental schools and the dental workforce. I am more than just a dentist, I am a role model for my young pediatric patients and emerging leaders in dentistry. I feel it is my duty to bring all of this out to the forefront so we can discuss it and help dental professionals be aware of their own unconscious bias so they can be better dental providers and colleagues. My favorite Maya Angelou quote sums it up, "When you know better, you do better."

K.S.: In connection with your mission for DEI, you started the Beyond the Smile huddle. What is the content of those huddles, and when can we listen?

L.H.: We are trying to reach students everywhere we can, so we started a podcast this year. *Beyond the Smile*, our huddle, brings together our mentees with successful dentists of color to get the winning game plan and be encouraged and inspired by their stories of leadership, perseverance and resilience.

Our goal is to build a diverse, equitable pool of candidates for dental school and help our mentees succeed in dental school and beyond. We stream our episodes on our YouTube channel, Spotify, and Apple and Google podcasts. Please check it out and subscribe so we can reach more students. We talk about how to prepare and succeed in dental school, financing dental school, and your career goals: leadership development; diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging; business and entrepreneurship; and boundaries and work-life harmony.

K.S.: You are also a best-selling author. Give us a rundown on your books, and tell us if you plan on writing another dealing with diversity in dentistry.

L.H.: Thank you for asking – I’ve been thinking about writing another book, but I want to focus on building a strong foundation for our young nonprofit and serving our mentees and mentors first. I actually started writing my first book, *Cavity Free Kids: How to Care for Your Kids’ Teeth From Birth Through Their Teenage Years* in 2018, right before I created the Diversity In Dentistry Facebook group. With my demands of running three dental practices, while raising three active children, it took a couple of years to complete, and I launched the book in March 2020 – right at the start of the pandemic. I used the net proceeds to help fund the incorporation of the organization that was outgrowing the community Facebook group.

With the success of the nonprofit and my practices, I started accepting speaking requests around the country. From there, I was invited to contribute to two more Amazon bestsellers, *Mommy Dentists In Business: Juggling Family Life While Running a Business* and *Innovative Women in Healthcare*. I am very proud to have coauthored a paper published in the special issue of the *Journal of Dental Education* on

diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, “Dental School Pathway Programs: Best Practices for Increasing Workforce Diversity.”

K.S.: How do you find balance while working with Diversity In Dentistry, having your practice, hosting podcasts and a YouTube, and being a wife and mother?

L.H.: I am a work in progress. To be able to find the time to do the things that are most important to me, I must set and protect my boundaries by saying no to some requests. I also know the power of my “village,” which helped shape me as I was growing up and continues to help me with my family. We all need to lean on our village of help around us. It is important for me to spend quality time with family and friends and stay connected to the community that lifts me up.

K.S.: Where can Archons and Archousai find you? How can we support you as allies for Diversity In Dentistry mentorships?

L.H.: I would invite Archons and Archousai in the dental field to sign up to be a mentor on our website at DiversityInDentistry.org. Our mentees are eager for someone who can open the door for them into the world of dentistry. These mentors are so important to facilitate shadowing opportunities and guidance, and having someone support you through it all.

We could also use financial support to purchase preparatory resources and memberships for the Dental Admission Test, scholarships for dental school applications fees, and supplies for our annual Diversify Dentistry Youth Summit: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/diversity-in-dentistry-mentorships-inc>.

Finally, the best way to change those staggering statistics mentioned earlier would be to share our organization with your network so we can reach more Black and underrepresented youths and encourage them to explore dentistry and plant the seed of hope in them, so that they, too, can be a dentist.

Health Disparities in Alzheimer's Disease: A Wakeup Call

By Archon Karl E. Gentles, Pacific Region Grapier, Gamma Mu Boulé

Health disparities in the African American community are taking center stage along with a concerted effort to raise awareness of the prevalence of chronic diseases and associated disparities in prevention and treatment. One such disease, dementia and specifically Alzheimer's, has a disproportional impact on our community. Consider these facts from the Alzheimer's Association:

- There are currently more than 6 million Americans aged 65 and older living with Alzheimer's, a number expected to more than double by 2050.
- COVID-19 hit people with Alzheimer's hard, registering more deaths in 2020 than expected, a 16 percent increase.
- Disease-related costs continue to rise. In 2021: \$355 billion, up \$50 billion from 2020.
- Almost two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's are women.
- Older Black and Hispanic Americans are disproportionately more likely than older whites to have Alzheimer's or other types of dementia.

According to Gamma Epsilon Archon William Jahmal Miller, moderator of a recent Pacific Region panel discussion on Alzheimer's and health disparities, the impact on our community is all too real. "Our population, in particular, experiences a higher rate of discrimination when comparing ourselves with Hispanic or white Americans," said Archon Miller. This is according to a report on race and ethnicity by the Centers for Disease Control and the Alzheimer's Association. "When you think about care disparities that are driven by bias and discrimination, that inherently leads to higher incidents and more aggressive later-stage diagnosis that disproportionately impact our community." He added that 50 percent of Black Americans reported higher rates of discrimination, versus 42 percent of Native Americans, versus 34 percent of Asian Americans. Non-Hispanic white Americans reported discrimination at a much lower rate at 9 percent.

The projected increases of the disease in minority populations is one of the reasons why we need more awareness, communication and outreach, and particularly among African Americans and Hispanics. They will see the largest increase in the future. By 2024 cases are predicted to rise to an estimated 14 million, with our population likely being the largest part, which is a four-time increase specifically for our community over today's estimates.

Defining Dementia and Alzheimer's

Alpha Pi Archon Arthur Flippin, a participant on the panel, defines Alzheimer's and dementia as the loss of cognitive functioning, thinking, remembering and reasoning to the extent that it interferes with a person's ability to function in daily life. A physician, he also has a personal interest in dementia. His mother passed away from the disease, so he is intimately familiar with both the clinical and personal side of helping someone through the journey. "Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, with approximately 62 percent of patients diagnosed with dementia suffering from it," said Archon Flippin. "While there are other types they are less prevalent, including temporal dementia, which has a younger onset – in people between the ages of 45 and 60. Lewy body dementia also occurs in a younger age group than Alzheimer's, on average, and shares some features with Parkinson's disease, and is relatively rare. Vascular dementia is most common of the lesser occurring dementias."

Pacific Region Sire Archon Michael Keeley has made the discussion on health disparities a central theme of his administration. He recently convened a panel of experts on the subject of Alzheimer's and dementia. Several Archons from across the region participated in an informative and emotional discussion addressing issues that have a disproportional impact on African American families, including some who participated in the panel.

Signs and Symptoms of Dementia

Forgetfulness is at the top of the list of signs and symptoms of dementia as it relates to people's cognitive function, according to Archon Vernon Williams, a sports neurologist. Is there a difference between old age and forgetfulness? "This is more significant, taking the form of forgetting where you parked your car or how to get home from work. Even though these symptoms may show up mildly at their onset, they tend to become more significant over time," said Archon Williams. "People become confused and forgetful and disoriented and may have difficulty with finding the right word. It's dramatic in many cases involving difficulty in concentrating and reasoning."

Archon Williams says the issue of getting lost in familiar places is troublesome. "Over time people may have more behavioral changes, become angry and aggressive, and may see things that are not there," he stated. "Signs and symptoms may vary but the key is that they start off mildly. This is important because in many cases people do not get a diagnosis until two or three years after the symptoms develop. That's critical because treatment can be more effective when the disease is identified early on. When it is caught early, people can participate in clinical trials, change direction or course of the disorder, slow the progression. But in many cases it's too little, too late when the diagnosis is made. Now there are efforts to increase screening for these symptoms early on." He added, "If it's left to family members to notice changes and convince the patient to be seen, it's often too late."

Archon Marc Loupe, Beta Upsilon, whom Archon Nathan Cox, Gamma Epsilon, credited with providing significant support during his experience with his father, said he was extremely surprised by how difficult it is to care for someone with Alzheimer's. Archon Loupe's brother, who also had Down syndrome, succumbed to Alzheimer's. "Knowing when you know is good; however, when you don't know, that is not good," said Archon Loupe. Not long after his brother passed away, Archon Loupe became an advocate for others by joining the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, the largest chapter in the United States. Since then, he has been a big advocate for people who want to learn more about the disease. He quickly realized that everyone had a story, but no central body of

knowledge to share. As he had conversations with Archons, including Nathan Cox and others, it became about how important it was to inform Pacific Region Archons who did not have access to information on Alzheimer's.

"I am amazed at the body of medical research, the multipillar advocacy approach at the federal and state levels, the concerted community engagement, and help for service providers to become more informed on how to treat patients. I want to be helpful where people want to be met," said Archon Loupe. "I hope what we share resonates with people and is useful."

African Americans and Alzheimer's

- Among Black Americans ages 70 and older, 21.3 percent are living with Alzheimer's.
- While older Black Americans are twice as likely as older whites to have Alzheimer's or another dementia, research hasn't yet identified the cause. Higher rates of cardiovascular (heart and blood vessels) disease may play a role. Some studies indicate that after correcting for overall health and socioeconomic status, these differences disappear.
- Only 20 percent of Black Americans say that they have no barriers to excellent health care and support for Alzheimer's or other dementias.
- Half of African Americans say that they have experienced discrimination while seeking care for a person living with Alzheimer's.
- Only 48 percent of Blacks report being confident they can access culturally competent care.
- Only 53 percent of Blacks believe that a cure for Alzheimer's will be distributed fairly, without regard to race, color or ethnicity.
- 55 percent of Blacks think that significant loss of cognitive abilities or memory is a natural part of aging rather than a disease.

Archons Discuss Alzheimer's

The moderator of the all-star panel of experts and lived experience, Archon Miller discussed the subject with several Archons and invited guests, including Archon Nathan Cox, Sire Archon, Gamma Epsilon; Archon Marc Loupe, Beta Upsilon; Archons Arthur Flippin, Rodney G. Hood and Vernon Williams of Alpha Pi; and Carl V. Hill, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, Alzheimer's Association.

Archon Hood gave a compelling historical overview of the causes of health disparities for African Americans, which he set against the phrase, “Post-Traumatic Slavery Disorder (PTSD),” a subject he has explored over the past thirty years. Archon Hood says the ethnohistoric legacy of slavery in America is the root cause of health disparities today. “Alzheimer’s has become the most prevalent in the African American community over the last thirty years or so,” he said. “When I began my research, African Americans led in fifteen of twenty leading causes of death. At that time Alzheimer’s was more prevalent in the white community. Over the years it’s become more prevalent in our community. The question to explore is why.”

Following that historic backdrop, special guest Carl V. Hill outlined how important and fundamental diversity, equity and inclusion are in the race to ending Alzheimer’s and other dementias. “African Americans and Latinos are disproportionately affected and unlikely to be recruited into clinical trials. This is important because we need to know the treatments are safe in all people and all communities.”

Hill went on to say that from a diversity perspective this is critical. “Inclusion means we have to be intentional in putting inclusion of our community at the forefront of research, of care and support, and concern and awareness. Finally, equity is different from equality. Equality gets the same invitation or we think about everyone’s risk in the same way, and we know that’s just not true.” Hill added that we have to get more information out to our community because research shows that African Americans are less likely to get timely diagnosis and that may be tied to not knowing the ten warning signs of dementia or just who to call.



Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks
4. Confusion with time or place
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
8. Decreased or poor judgment
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities
10. Changes in mood and personality

Source: Alzheimer’s Association

Pacific Region Grapier Karl E. Gentles discussed the issue with some of the participants and what they all hoped to accomplish through this important conversation.

Archon William Jamal Miller: This is my twenty-fifth year in the health-care industry in a variety of private sector health systems. I am currently CAO of Mercy Medical Group, part of Common Spirit Health System, where I have been for three years. I am also the Sire Archon–Elect of Gamma Epsilon, and now Rhetoricos of the Pacific Region under Region Sire Archon Michael Keeley. He has prioritized the importance of addressing health issues that uniquely and disproportionately impact African American and Black people.

Archon Karl E. Gentles: How did you arrive at Alzheimer’s as your focus?

W.J.M.: Two drivers led us to this, one of which was more of a personal nature. We’ve come to know many Archons who are affected themselves, or who have aging parents or family members who are affected. With people, fortunately, living longer now, the prevalence of Alzheimer’s disease, with the unique impact it has on our community, is rising. When it comes to disparities and inequities in health, we often talk more about diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, stroke and other conditions that have a unique impact on us. Alzheimer’s disease and dementia are lesser known, and we don’t pay too much attention to them unless they affect us directly.

K.E.G.: Can you elaborate on the higher incidences of care disparities and discrimination among African Americans?

W.J.M.: Unconscious or implicit bias is real. When you think about the importance of having culturally and linguistically appropriate care, the more culturally and linguistically diverse the health-care workforce is, or even other industries or sectors, whether it's the boardroom or C-suite, when you have a great demographic representation of the patients and communities you serve, you have better experiences. You have the ability to overcome cultural and language barriers, training for providers on the cultures and languages represented in the population, and patience and practice signage that are translated into or sensitive to cultural norms.

While it's not a guarantee that the care will be sub-par or less, the outcomes show the difference in care is real. These differences are often driven by cultural, racial and ethnic competency. Surveys like this give you a sense of why 50 percent of African Americans feel they are discriminated against, particularly Alzheimer's patients.

K.E.G.: What were the key takeaways from the panel discussion? Did any stories really stick with you?

W.J.M.: We focused on two very important components before we got into the specifics of what Alzheimer's disease is from a clinical, diagnostic and research standpoint. Doctors Arthur Flippin and Vernon Williams, both Archons, did a phenomenal job. Archon Rodney Hood, a physician of internal medicine based in San Diego and past president of the National Medical Association, painted a picture of the root causes of health disparities in American medicine. He discussed the last 400-plus years that inform the traumas we see today. This was a great way to view the big picture to help understand the history and what informs modern-day disparities and inequities.

The other thing that resonated with me is how we closed, and that was with Archon Cox, whose father put up a valiant fight against the disease. He told a very powerful personal story about what is entailed in caring for a family member stricken with the illness, including the economic responsibility and burden. He spoke of the importance of being an advocate for your family member and shared an

inspiring message that resonated deeply. It's not real until someone, especially a fellow Archon, shares a personal experience. We are grateful for the Alzheimer's Association's Carl Hill, who joined us to help us understand the issue. We left with a number of priorities, including charging other member boulés to increase outreach and awareness efforts, and have had several follow-up conversations with the Pacific Region leadership team about what we can do in 2023 at the member-boulé level to advance the cause.

Dementia

- Dementia is not a disease, but a term used to describe impairment of memory, communication and thinking.
- In the United States, 6 million people are living with dementia.
- Normal aging may include age-related memory loss, such as not remembering names, misplacing keys or struggling to find a word, but the knowledge and experience built over time, old memories and language stay intact.

Risk Factors

- Increasing age (>65).
- Family history (parents, siblings who are affected).
- Race and ethnicity (African Americans are twice as likely as whites to be afflicted).
- Poor heart health.
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI).

K.E.G.: Archon Cox, what can you share from your experience about early signs of the disease?

Nathan Cox: To frame the discussion I referenced Archon Marc Loupe, who was a great source of information and support because he was the caregiver for his brother who died of early-onset Alzheimer's. He became personally involved in the journey as my sister and I took care of our father. I made sure to commend his involvement.

Let me give you some background on why this issue hits close to home. Dementia runs pretty deep in the family – a total of seven members including my grandmother, dad, uncle, great-uncle and others passed away from some form of the disease. It's pretty real for me, and genetically it may come very close to me. I

framed my conversation at the event into three areas that someone dealing with Alzheimer's will face.

First is the medical side. I have to commend my sister who is eleven years older than I, a retired nurse who was at the forefront of a lot of the medical issues in terms of appointments, follow-up meetings with doctors, managing the myriad of medications and so on.

The financial part is another and these are real figures. We were very blessed that my mom and dad had some real estate. Unfortunately, we had to liquidate some of it to pay for their care, which totaled about \$11,000 a month to support his care in a facility. Now, he was in essentially a four-star facility so it was not cheap.

The third aspect that really hits home for many, including our family, was the emotional side. I shared a story about visiting my dad a few weeks after my mom passed, and I had taken my dad's keys. Just as I was leaving my dad asked me, "I have a question for you. I don't know why I can't remember what I used to." With a straight face he looks at me and says, "What's wrong with me?" You could hear a pin drop because it made the issue real, and that's what I wanted to relay. I wanted people to understand that someone with Alzheimer's is not crazy, they have a neurological disease that affects their ability to function. From that point on I went from the son who was tolerating Alzheimer's to the son who was dealing with Alzheimer's with my dad who had it.

Shortly thereafter we moved my dad up from L.A. to the facility in Roseville, not too far from where my sister lives. My dad had always been a very active man, worked out three times a week – ate right, weighed about 165 pounds. The night before he passed, the people at the facility called me and said you need to come see him as we are not sure how much longer he will be here. We went and saw him in the room and hugged him. When I hugged him, I could actually feel his bones, and when he passed he might have been a hundred pounds, if that. He literally was a shell of himself.

I give the personal testimony because the journey is complicated and I wanted to be very transparent. Archon Loupe deserves a lot of credit in our journey because he was so supportive of me and my sister. There were times he would give me books to read, we would talk and he would give me guidance. The emotional support he gave to me and my sister was great. There's a bond there that, until you go through

it, it's hard to understand. I was very blessed because my son had a chance to see my dad's demise up close, so if I do get Alzheimer's he will understand what he will have to deal with – the financial, the emotional, the business and medical decisions. It really has been a family journey for me.

K.E.G.: How did the disease start to show itself to you and the family, and what started to happen that gave you early indications that something was going on?

N.C.: I started noticing it from 2011 to 2013. I would take the train from Sacramento down to Los Angeles to just check on him. I started to notice that my dad would pick me up from the station later and later. He started being ten minutes, then twenty minutes, thirty minutes late. That was not like my dad, and he would say he just forgot, or he made a wrong turn or something like that. We would also go to family events or barbecues, and my dad would always go down the same surface streets. You and I would probably take the freeway and be there in about twenty minutes, but my dad would always take the same streets because that's the only way he would remember to get there.

When my mother passed in 2013, two things popped up. My dad was such a creature of habit, and after my mom passed, I remember something vividly. I was blessed to be at her side at 11:18 in the morning on Sunday, July 28. I was there with the mortuary people and some family, and my dad gets his keys and walks to his car. I asked him where was he going and he tells me he was going to get his lottery tickets. And I said to him your wife just passed, what are you doing? He lived by habit. On Friday mornings at 9:00 he would go get a manicure. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday he went to the gym at 7:00 A.M. On Sunday and Wednesday, he would get his lottery tickets.

My parents were married for sixty-two years, and when they were interring my mother, at the service my dad was just sitting there, and, literally, there were no tears. There was nothing, he was expressionless, and that's when the disease really started picking up steam. We began to notice what's called sundowner syndrome. When people show signs of dementia, when the sun goes down they begin to get very agitated and irritated and become combative. We began noticing that more and more at family gatherings. From there it really went downhill.



ARCHON WILLIAM JAHMAL MILLER

K.E.G.: So what advice would you give people going through this with their family?

N.C.: The journey will have its ups and downs. There are three things you must have when dealing with someone with Alzheimer's. You have to have patience because they will ask you the same question over and over. You need to have a sense of humor because if you don't you will go crazy. You need a team of people for emotional support because there's so many moving pieces. You have to lean on family members, friends, a therapist, you have to have emotional support. It's very draining, to be honest.

My old college roommate from Loyola called me one day. He's going through a similar situation with his mother. I said don't focus on what the end will be, just focus on each day and celebrate her journey and the legacy she's leaving. Because when the end comes, they are going to be at peace and they're not going to suffer anymore. At the end that's not the parent that you knew or grew up with. She's going to be somebody totally different. Focus on what you're seeing today; that way you can appreciate it because when they get closer to their transition it's going to



ARCHON NATHAN COX

be hard. For me it was really a sense of relief because I didn't want to see my dad suffer like that.

The night before my dad passed, I gave him a hug. I just leaned over and said I love you, and sleep well. Then I got a call at 6:30 the next morning. When the phone rang, I knew who it was. I went out to the hospital, cleaned out his room, and I just kissed him on his forehead and told him I loved him. And that's all I could do.

Maintaining Brain Health

One in three cases of dementia could be prevented by addressing these factors:

- Become educated.
- Be physically active.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Maintain a healthy blood pressure.
- Manage blood sugar.
- Stay engaged.
- Get enough sleep.
- Seek help for hearing loss.
- Manage depression.
- Stop smoking.

BRIAN FLORES: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ON THE NFL PLANTATION

By Archon Louis L. Fletcher, Epsilon Chi Boulé



ARCHON LOUIS L. FLETCHER

When referring to President Obama's comments after the George Zimmerman verdict in the Trayvon Martin trial, Cornel West stated, "You keep folks so intimidated. You can give them money, access, but they're still scared. And as long as you're scared, you're on the plantation" (Goodman, 2013). West's comment could apply to any situation where powerful corporations use their influence to control the civil rights of their employees. Gretchen Carlson was able to file a lawsuit against Fox News CEO Roger Ailes at the onset of the #MeToo Movement, but Fox was protected from being a codefendant by an arbitration clause in Carlson's employment contract. Brian Flores, former coach of the Miami Dolphins, filed a class action discrimination suit against the National Football League (NFL), but the NFL invoked its arbitration clause to overcome Flores's Title VII right to sue for discrimination based on his membership in a protected class. Does the NFL have the right to overcome Brian Flores's Title VII protections, force arbitration, and keep Coach Flores on the NFL's plantation? More broadly, this article examines the rocky relationship between Title VII and forced arbitration of Title VII claims.

Coach Flores's lawsuit primarily focuses on NFL franchises undermining the NFL's Rooney Rule, "which requires the consideration of underrepresented minority candidates for (NFL) leadership positions" (Reed, 2022). The alleged discrimination came to light when Bill Belichick, the head coach of the New England Patriots, sent Flores an email congratulating him for getting the New York Giants's head coaching job. The problem was that Flores was not scheduled to interview for the Giants position for a few more days. Coach Belichick thought he was texting Brian Daboll, who had been selected for the coaching position four days before Coach Flores's interview was scheduled to occur. This meant that Flores's interview would be a sham to give the appearance of honoring the Rooney Rule. Flores had allegedly previously had a similar experience with the Denver Broncos. He alleged that Broncos general manager John Elway and other franchise executives came to his interview hungover or perhaps still drunk. None of the aforementioned experiences, according to Coach Flores's assertion in the lawsuit, gave him the impression that the teams took his interview process seriously; hence, Flores alleged that all of his interviews were Rooney Rule shams.

Coach Flores's allegation against the Miami Dolphins does not directly involve the Rooney Rule. However, it could feed a narrative that would act as a roadblock to the hiring of Black head coaches generally, and Flores specifically, by NFL franchises. Allegedly, the Miami Dolphins owner offered Flores \$100,000 per loss while he was head coach of the franchise. The purpose of the losses was to position the team for higher draft picks (better college players) during the off-season. Coach Flores refused to lose for money; despite having a mediocre roster, he led the franchise's first back-to-back winning seasons since 2003. Then he was terminated, shocking many of the franchise's fans.

Although the following has not been discussed in the press, my analysis of how the Miami Dolphins owner's request meets the elements of discrimination is: (1) if Black head coaches like Flores have losing records (member of a protected class); (2) if it feeds a narrative that Black coaches like Flores do not have the intellectual acumen to be head coaches (unwanted behavior from NFL franchises toward Black coaching candidates); and (3) if the aforementioned attitude about Black candidates like Flores becomes a commonly held belief across franchises (pervasive); so (4) Black candidates do not get head coaching jobs (adverse action). Hence, while it can be argued that the request was purely for its expressed purpose, the secondary narrative also causes damage to Black candidates seeking head coaching jobs regardless of the Rooney Rule.

TITLE VII VERSUS FORCED ARBITRATION

This article is not a categorical recounting of the Brian Flores lawsuit, but the aforementioned lawsuit serves as a timely backdrop and comparison for the discussion of whether Title VII should be subservient to forced arbitration. The NFL's response to Flores's lawsuit is an attempt to settle a Title VII concern under the NFL's arbitration clause: "Flores will undoubtedly fight, arguing that neither the commissioner nor his representative can be fair," which echoes the thesis of whether arbitration proceedings objectively administer Title VII protections.

In 1997 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) was not in favor of arbitrating Title VII disputes because it could "harm both the individual civil rights claimant and the public interest in eradicating discrimination." The EEOC released its 1997 policy statement on the latter topic to prevent employers from abrogating civil rights laws by means of forced arbitration. The EEOC was concerned that arbitrating Title VII claims would have impacts for accountability, judicial review and systemic biases. Hence, arbitrating Title VII claims was viewed as public policy foul by the EEOC in 1997.

Contrary to the EEOC policy on arbitration of Title VII claims were the rulings of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). The SCOTUS opposition to the EEOC's 1997 policy statement is based on the strength of the Federal Arbitration Act (also known as the U.S. Arbitration Act) of 1926. The case of the *Southland Corp. v. Keating* established that arbitration provisions enforceability was binding on the states, and the state law that invalidated such provisions was preempted by federal law on the arbitration issues, which put the enforceability of arbitration clauses in contracts above state laws. Hence, SCOTUS consistently ruled against the EEOC's 1997 policy statement for decades. This persistent opinion from the SCOTUS created a substantial body of case law in opposition to the EEOC's 1997 policy statement.

The EEOC rescinded its 1997 policy statement, on the public policy impact of arbitrating of Title VII claims, in 2019 after years of defending the position. It was a 2-1 vote for rescission, which played out along political lines, with the two Republican commissioners voting for rescission and the lone Democrat commissioner voting against rescission. Charlotte Burrows, the Democrat commissioner, stated, "I'm disappointed that the commission is rescinding our longstanding position, particularly given the commission's ongoing efforts to combat sexual and other forms of harassment in employment," which was primarily in reference to the #MeToo Movement. Her concern was an acceleration of forced arbitration agreements being used to silence sexual-harassment victims by keeping claims from being publicly litigated. Ironically, the EEOC officially stated, "Nothing in this rescission should be construed to limit the ability of the commission or any other party to challenge the enforceability of a particular arbitration agreement" after the rescission.

Although the EEOC stated that any specific arbitration agreement is still liable to be challenged for enforceability by the commission or any other party, the rescission still has second and third order ramifications. The 1997 policy statement was influential guidance for state and federal courts below the SCOTUS level. The 1997 policy statement also influenced state agencies and employment attorneys. Absent this guidance, even if a complainant exhausts administrative remedies and receives a right to sue letter, they could still be bound by contract to participate in a forced arbitration. Does this equate to an individual's signing away the rights guaranteed to them under Title VII for the privilege of employment?

In *Gilmer v. Interstate/Johnson Lane Corp.* it was stated that "so long as the prospective litigant effectively may vindicate [his or her] statutory cause of action in the arbitral forum, the statute will continue to serve both its remedial and deterrent function. The latter statement equates arbitration using the

courts' Title VII culture. I personally believe that independent arbitration could certainly achieve this standard based on arbitrator professionalism and a code of ethics. A metanalysis found that the 160 labor arbitration awards examined show that labor arbitration is a forum in which employment-discrimination claims can be, and often are, resolved successfully. Hence, the fear of arbitration may be unfounded when resolving Title VII claims. However, the selection of arbitrators may be the biggest factor in the fairness of Title VII outcomes with respect to arbitration.

FLORES'S TITLE VII ARBITRATION CLAIM

This brings this study back to the concerns of Coach Flores concerning the NFL's record with arbitration. The commissioner of the NFL is the de facto employee of the league's thirty-two owners, despite the fact that he may take action against an individual owner if it is the will of a majority of the owners. The commissioner was able to self-select as the arbitrator for all issues prior to the March 15, 2020, Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the NFL and the NFL Players Association (NFLPA). Prior to 2020 a series of decisions by the commissioner compelled the NFLPA to press for independent arbitrators under the next CBA, who are not the league's commissioner, "employing proactive measures now to prevent the misuse of power in the future will ultimately serve to protect the integrity of, and ensure public confidence in, the game of professional football."

The NFL's 2020 CBA should put Coach Flores's mind at ease because the commissioner can no longer self-select as arbitrator. The CBA does provide for an independent arbitrator; however, the independent arbitrator is an "in house" NFL non-injury grievance arbitrator who is designated the independent arbitrator for a period of two years. The selection is approved by the NFL and the NFLPA and subject to removal by either party. Although this is not the commissioner, this is an employee of the NFL who derives his or her livelihood from being in good standing with the league. The NFLPA may remove the independent arbitrator, but it would likely follow a controversial decision that neither the NFLPA nor a court could reverse. The NFL CBA Article 16, section 3 Effect of Rulings states: "Rulings of the Impartial Arbitrator shall upon their issuance be final and binding upon all parties, except as expressly specified under this Agreement or as expressly agreed to among all parties."

The NFL has a history of getting favorable rulings from courts with respect to the evident partiality vacatur provisions (arbitration can be overruled if arbitrator bias is proven) of the Federal Arbitration Act (FAA), which could cause apprehension for Coach Flores with respect to his Title VII discrimina-

tion claim. The World Boxing Organization (WBO), an international boxing league, had the portion of its Appeal Regulation providing for arbitrator selection ruled as unconscionable by the First Circuit Court of Appeals. The issue was that the WBO could appoint its own employees, to include direct reports to the head of the WBO, to an arbitration panel without giving a right of refusal to complainants.

However, the Eighth and Second Circuits "have upheld arbitration awards under the collective bargaining agreement between the NFL and the football players' union where the head of the NFL unilaterally selected an NFL employee/subordinate as the arbitrator for players' grievances." The aforementioned circuits each considered the FAA, but the NFL prevailed in two circuits, but the WBO was found unconscionable for the same behavior, which may justify Coach Flores's apprehension.

In the interest of fairness, Coach Flores, through his status as a former NFL head coach and a current NFL assistant coach (Pittsburgh Steelers), may have some advantages over the average union worker when it comes to obtaining judicial review of an arbitration. The typical union worker who files a discrimination claim does not benefit from coverage by major and minor news outlets for multiple news cycles. For clarity, Coach Flores was management, but the negotiated CBA for players would likely guide aspects of the arbitration process if the NFL were able to compel arbitration. Nevertheless, Coach Flores is both highly compensated and highly visible compared with the average manager in corporate America. He used his substantial means to hire a prominent law firm and likely has the war chest to fight for an appeal of arbitration if forced to arbitrate by the NFL. The average employee or manager lacks the funds to mount a challenge to arbitration, let alone afford to go to trial.

The hope of many employees is that the union will take up their cause, but often there is weak or nonexistent union representation because slightly less than 11 percent of the U.S. workforce and slightly more than 6 percent of the private-sector workforce is unionized. Hence, a well-heeled individual like Coach Flores may have advantages that could set a precedent for the disadvantaged when it comes to achieving judicial review of Title VII arbitration processes.

LIMITING NFL FORCED ARBITRATION

The NFL's strategy to force arbitration was recently demonstrated when the league filed a successful motion to dismiss and compel arbitration with John Gruden, the former head coach of the Las Vegas Raiders. He was accused of having sent racist emails about Black players to NFL team officials. The forced arbitration prevented Coach Gruden from making thou-

sands of emails that could have been embarrassing for NFL franchises available for public scrutiny. However, in Flores's case, a study was released in 2002 by Cyrus Mehri, a civil rights attorney, demonstrating the NFL's unequal treatment of Black head coaches compared with that of white coaches. This investigation ultimately led to the creation of the Rooney Rule. Therefore, foundational evidence established the Rooney Rule and demonstrates a pattern of Title VII violations by the NFL that has not been resolved by the existence of the rule. Forced arbitration may not in fact be sufficiently transparent to satisfy the public good.

Coach Brian Flores is not content to wait for the NFL to compel a forced arbitration and dismiss his case based on the aforementioned. Coach Flores is working with Congress as the face of a bill that, if it becomes law, would prohibit forced arbitration of Title VII claims. The bill, H.R. 963 Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act of 2022, or the FAIR Act of 2022, is sponsored by Georgia Democratic representative Hank Johnson. The bill would prevent federal courts from enforcing arbitration clauses in employment, consumer, antitrust and civil rights cases. It was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee after two readings in the Senate. A companion bill in the Senate has thirty-nine cosponsors, but no Republicans have signed on as cosponsors.

Coach Flores is not wearing rose-colored glasses and he stated, "I'm no politician, I'm no lawyer, I coach football, but I know you need support from both sides to get something passed." The FAIR Act would change the landscape of employee arbitration, but the pattern of the SCOTUS upholding the FAA could bring its constitutionality into question.

There is hope for H.R. 963 because President Biden signed a bill into law that makes it illegal to compel an employee to arbitrate a claim of sexual assault or sexual harassment. The Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021 was made law on March 3, 2022. The National Law Review in 2022 stated that the law actually amends the FAA, "By banning mandatory arbitration of sexual assault or harassment cases, and claims of retaliation resulting from internal complaints of sexual assault or harassment, and gives claimants the option either of participating in arbitration of such claims on a voluntary basis or pursuing them in federal, state, or tribal courts." Several states had already passed laws limiting forced arbitration in sexual-assault cases, but the laws were challenged as being preempted by the FAA. However, since the new law amends the FAA, it makes all arguments about FAA preemption nonexistent.

The Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021 amendment to the FAA only addresses sexual assault and sexual harassment,

so all other Title VII discrimination claims could still be forced into arbitration by contract. The act was a response that codified remedies for future #MeToo-like complainants similar to Gretchen Carlson, who could not sue Fox Corp. because of a forced-arbitration agreement. Under the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021, claims previously settled by arbitration cannot be reopened to litigation – for example Gretchen Carlson cannot retroactively serve Fox Corp. with a subpoena because of the new amendment to the FAA.

Another approach to ending forced arbitration of Title VII claims, which does not require an Act of Congress, is negotiating an arbitration clause that specifically excludes Title VII claims when the contract is created. Although Coach Flores cannot go back in time to modify his arbitration clause, it is not implausible for organizations to voluntarily exclude Title VII as part of future arbitration clauses. In the NFL, where a majority of the players are members of a protected class, the NFLPA would likely support this voluntary move. However, on the management side of the NFL, nonwhite head coaches are a distinct minority, so the proposed modification for coaches could face resistance from that cohort. Furthermore, if an organization as prominent as the NFL adopted the voluntary practice of excluding Title VII claims from arbitration, it could influence public and private organizations to follow suit. The latter voluntary practice may draw criticism from corporations and political constituencies that think private arbitration is a better place for Title VII claims.

Trading fear for fairness is the way to end the perception of the NFL as a modern-day plantation. The NFL is both highly visible and influential, so its actions set the tone for public and private organizations. Brian Flores's lawsuit underscores the debate of whether Title VII claims should be litigated or forced into arbitration. The EEOC's 1997 policy statement endured as public policy for years before its rescission in 2019. The SCOTUS decisions yielded case law against the 1997 policy statement until it finally succumbed to political pressure.

The process of arbitration is an objectively fair and ethical process, which has been shown to be equitable when deciding Title VII claims. However, powerful organizations like the NFL have a history and tradition of stacking the deck with arbitrators that objectively are not independent. Congress can make laws to amend the FAA with the goal of supporting more Title VII protected classes. However, it would be far more productive, and perhaps more civil, if public and private employers, who use in-house arbitrators, elect to voluntarily exclude Title VII claims from arbitration clauses in the spirit of the EEOC's 1997 policy statement.



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PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

"Son, I know you had your heart set on it, but I just don't know how we're going to cover the cost..."

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity
has proudly sponsored
hundreds of young black men
seeking education and
advancement since 1904.

As the cost of a college education continues to increase, so must our rate of financial giving.

Won't you help us keep up the pace by making a sizable donation to the Boulé Scholars Program?

A typical recipient receives \$10,000 over a four year period. Since 2013, we have committed to provide more than \$250,000 in aid to 37 scholars. **We want to increase the number of young men we propel to success.**

Our strategic plan, our dedication to social action and our participation in the *My Brother's Keeper* initiative create a climate of excellence for high school males from underserved communities. Your generous donation to the Program paves the way to professional and personal accomplishment for these young men.

Contribute to the Boulé Scholars Program to make an investment in the future of our community today.

PURGING 'THE FIRST': RECASTING BLACK ACHIEVEMENT

Four centuries after our arrival in the world's most industrious nation, citing African American achievers as "the first Black" is more regrettable than desirable, more embarrassing than prideful, more abominable than honorable. Yes, "first" refers to the act of coming before all other Blacks in time or order. It describes acts that are foremost in position, rank or importance. But it also suggests that the Black achievement was theretofore impossible.

It is time to purge references to "the first" as an honorific label of African American achievement. The moniker is so fraught with adverse historical baggage and qualitative irrelevance that it should be banished to linguistic perdition to fester alongside "sissy," "icebox," "floppy disc" and "old maid." Its several iterations justify an unceremonious retirement.

First, stripped down to its core, the real meaning of "first Black" is the loosening – or overcoming – of Caucasian restrictions that are due mostly to white supremacy. Arguably, touting one's self as "the first Black . . ." is implied homage to the "graciousness" of the majority for opening a racist door or lifting a prejudicial ceiling. Absent those doors and ceilings, "the first Black" to achieve any status of moment could have done so one hundred years earlier.

Brandishing "the first" also implies that, prior to it, no other African American was sufficiently prepared, talented, educated, skilled or otherwise capable of the task or deserving of the status. Why else would so many whites have achieved the status sooner? In truth, "the first" is often a contrived probity hoist upon a fictional platform of white superlativeness. Consistent with the presumption of white supremacy, the subliminal messages of "first Black" labels are that (1) African Americans need more time and training to reach heights of achievement, (2) mingling with whites accelerates Black achievement, and (3) whites should decide when Blacks are entitled to recognition for their achievements.



BY ARCHOUSA VANZETTA PENN McPHERSON, PHI BOULÉ

Are any of those messages valid? Were the players in the Negro Baseball League really less skilled than the "Major League" players? Was *Training Day* really Denzel Washington's first Oscar-worthy role? Twenty-five years after the Harlem Renaissance – after Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston and Claude McKay – were Gwen Brooks in 1950 (poetry) and my nephew, James Alan McPherson, in 1978 (fiction) really the first Blacks whose writing objectively merited Pulitzer favor? Seriously? The point is that merely becoming the first Black to join the years-long pantheon of whites is not a presumptive

indication of unprecedented Black excellence. The greater likelihood is that it is evidence of one more hole in the wall of exclusion.

The second adverse iteration of typical references to “the first” is its pejorative racialization of Black achievement. Have you ever noticed that African Americans who are the first persons to invent or introduce a thing are never branded “the first”? If no one has ever done it, the Black who is first to do it is noted without racial heralding. In those instances, the effect of racial disregard – if not the intent – is to dilute the achiever’s accreditation. In fact, when a Black person is the first of his or her race to eclipse a previous white achiever, the act can generate press-enabled racist taunts, race riots and presidential censorship (Jack Johnson); death threats (Hank Aaron); contrived prosecutions (Muhammad Ali); and years of delegitimization (Barack Obama).

Moreover, if an unprecedented Black achievement – the very first – is a societal transformation rather than an individual enhancement, watchful majoritarians may try to usurp credit altogether or outlaw the act. Consider jazz, a Black first whose musical elements reflect Afro origins but whose invention is assigned to a white male. Or the slam dunk, banned in colleges to nullify Kareem Abdul Jabbar’s advantage. The Black creators of these transforming developments are seldom if ever accredited as firsts. One of the most incredible censorships of a Black

“very first” is *Rolling Stone’s* 2008 designation of Jerry Wexler as the “inventor of rhythm and blues” (definitely untrue), rather than its labeler (probably untrue)!

It is one thing for African Americans to acknowledge and embrace “the first” as self-evident historical fact worthy of documentation. But historical accuracy is not the accustomed motivation. Instead, “the first Black” is most often cited to aggrandize the achiever – in résumés and introductions and at award ceremonies. Against an overwhelming backdrop of single-adjective firsts – the adjective being “Black” – many acts of contemporary African American achievement, some of which are commonplace or unremarkable, are articulable only as long, winding trains of unrelated adjectives and conditionals. As a result, we are invited to heap praise upon “the first Black lawyer from the North Side of Bobo County, Georgia, born to a single mother before 1990.” Or “the first Black female Democratic county commissioner who won a full term in an off-year election.”

In recognition of the countless African Americans who languished “in the day[s] when hope, unborn, had died,” whose creations as chattels were misappropriated, and whose artistry and industry were ignored, let’s cease this irrelevant head count. After all, 400 years into this acclaimed democracy, “the first Black” anything these days signals American shame more than it signals African American esteem.



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PROCESSING THE TRAUMA OF ANOTHER POLICE MURDER

By Archon Matthew Horace, Omicron Boulé

On January 7, 2023, Tyree Nichols, another young Black man, was killed at the hands of police. While we didn't know much about the circumstances of his death, we did know that he was dead, that a Black mother and father were without a son, and that Memphis police officers had some material actions to do with his death. Tyree Nichols was never coming back, and we all wanted answers. The early story was not to rush to judgment, but that story changed very quickly to "This is not going to be good for the Memphis Police Department" and "We need to prepare the communities for what could be the worst case we have ever seen."

In anticipation, I and others asked how this could be any worse than what we have become all too accustomed to seeing and feeling. I was traumatized just knowing that another Black man was killed and police were responsible. For me and many of you, these incidents are not news, they are personal, they hurt and there is trauma.

As if Rodney King, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, LaQuon Macdonald, George Floyd, Breanna Taylor and Philando Castile weren't enough? Each time I think that what I just saw with my own two eyes was the worst that I have ever seen, there is yet another incident to take its place. In a book I wrote with Ron Harris in 2018, *The Black and the Blue: A Cop Reveals the Crimes, Racism and Injustice in America's Law Enforcement*, I conveyed that the next worst incident is not a matter of if, but of when, until we move to achieve complete police reform in the United States.

When America finally had the opportunity to see the video, we all watched yet again the horrors of bad policing and criminality against one of our own young Black men at the hands of police. Tyree

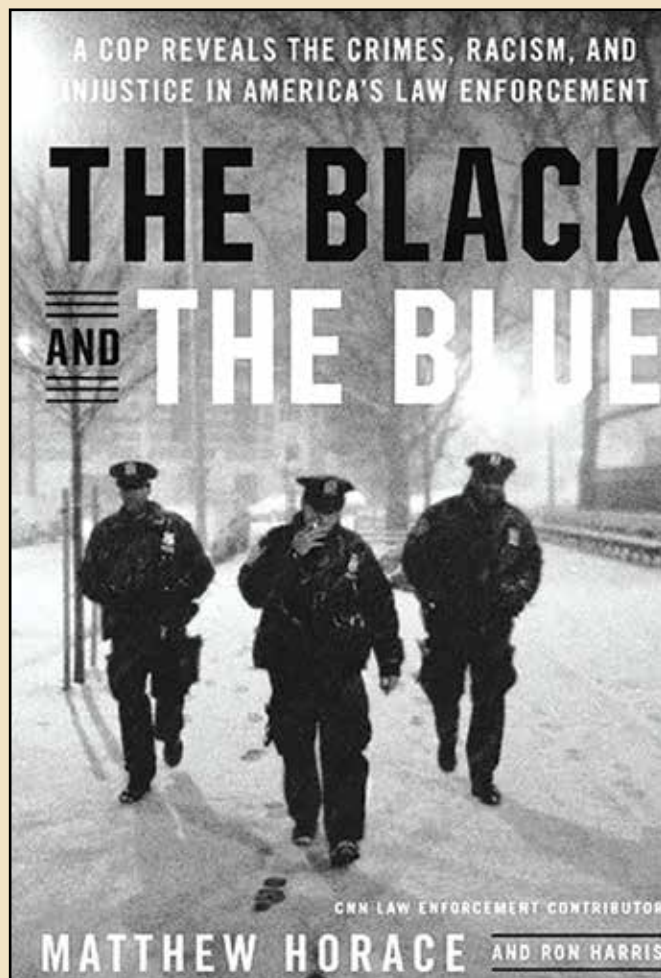


ARCHON MATTHEW HORACE

Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man, was assaulted and beaten to death by five Memphis police officers, and this time the officers were all Black. What we knew and felt prior to the release of the video paled in comparison to how we felt after its release. As a twenty-seven-year veteran of federal, state and local law enforcement, I was again traumatized, hurt and ashamed of my own honorable service. I always felt that I have seen it all and experienced some, but I have never seen anything like that.

My book addresses the reasons why these incidents continue to happen. My coauthor and I discuss such topics as the "thin blue line," police culture and police training and why many times these incidents continue to occur even in police departments that are led by and majority-staffed by Black police officers, as was the case in Memphis.

We also addressed the leadership nuance that "Culture eats strategy for lunch" – the adage pointing to the fact that policing culture in an organization can be so strong



that even the greatest and brightest leaders with the most innovative ideas can face an uphill battle against culture that battles strategy every step of the way.

As a member of Omicron Boulé, I, like all of us, have gotten used to trauma. Minneapolis has been at the international epicenter of social justice for the past several years. Because of our familiarity with and proximity to Minnesota's shameful contribution to the lexicon of the discussion, we feel the hurt and we experience real trauma.

In the Omicron backyard, the names of George Floyd, Philando Castile and Daunte Wright are forever etched in our psyches, and with every Black man who is killed by police in a violent and unprovoked attack, we feel the hurt again. George Floyd was denied his civil rights and basic right to breathe on a hot Minneapolis street by Derek Chauvin, a white police officer. Some eleven miles away, Daunte Wright was shot to

death by a white Brooklyn Center police officer, who mistakenly drew her sidearm instead of her taser. And who can forget Philando Castile, a Black man killed by a police officer after he told the police officer that he was armed and had a permit?

In my book, we address the implicit bias quotient, police culture, inadequate police training and poor police tactics that continue to plague our communities. I know about trauma. While growing up in Philadelphia under the overpolicing and brutality of a mayor named Frank Rizzo, a former police chief, I, too, had seen what I thought to be enough to last a lifetime. That was until one summer evening in 1982. As a matriculating NCAA Division student athlete attending Delaware State University, one of the nation's historically Black colleges and universities, I was home for summer break and attending a parade in downtown Philadelphia. I learned very quickly how all the things I had seen in my childhood and heard from my family about policing could happen.

On that evening, I was brutally attacked by a Philadelphia K-9 police officer and his dog, Macho, and left on the hot pavement bleeding and crying for help. The officer didn't render aid, arrest me, charge me or ask a question; he simply yelled some expletives for me to get the f--- out of there and disappeared into the crowd. Eventually other police officers arrived on the scene and took me to the hospital, where I remained for weeks. The officers took a complete report – or so it seemed – in which I conveyed the recollection of the incident I could.

What my parents learned after a two-week hospital stay was that the official police report cited me as a suspect and not a victim and cited the origins of my injuries as "unknown." Welcome to the "thin blue line." I subsequently got to understand the thin blue line all too well as a member of federal, state and local law enforcement for twenty-seven years. Working in America's cities from east to west, north to south, I felt the nobility of serving communities that raise us but also the heartache and humiliation of being exposed to racial slurs in squad rooms and patrol cars, minor slips of the tongue by those upon whom I depended to save my very life and the internal politics of racism and implicit bias. My book addressed in detail the nuances of being a Black police officer, from many voices, and also how and why what happened in Memphis is not so uncommon. Our eyes didn't lie: Police brutality is not only a white officer phenomenon.

Archon Matthew Horace is a twenty-seven-year veteran of federal, state and local law enforcement. Currently the chief security officer of the Mayo Clinic, he has been a paid on-air contributor to national news on CNN, ABC, NBC and CBS and written for The Wall Street Journal.

HISTORY AND REPRESENTATION IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA: THE DEBUT OF AAMSAZ

By Archon Marques A. Elliott, Gamma Alpha Boulé



JODY AVANT CUTS THE RIBBON AT AAMSAZ WHILE ARCHON LEHMAN BENSON AND JODY'S GRANDPARENTS, ARCHON BOB ELLIOTT AND ARCHOUSA BEVERLY ELLIOTT, LOOK ON.

When I was growing up in Tucson, Arizona, the home of Gamma Alpha Boulé, it was important for me to see diversity, equity, inclusion and representation. Although the Olde Pueblo has grown from a population of 400,000 people in 1973 to more than 1 million in 2023, there remains a large disparity in Black educators and Black historians. A place where one can find resources, history and celebration of Black culture was missing from southern Arizona.

My father, Archon Bob Elliott, graduated from the University of Arizona, where he was a College Bas-

ketball Athletic and Academic All American, went on to play in the NBA, and then made a home in Tucson, founding his own accounting firm. My mother, Archousa Beverly Elliott, also graduated from the University of Arizona, had an accomplished counseling career with the Tucson Unified School District, and continues to be involved in charitable endeavors in the Tucson community. She has always had a passion for studying history and genealogy and had the amazing opportunity to study under the late, great Alex Haley at the University of Arizona. My siblings and I were

raised in an atmosphere of “know where you come from to know where you are going.” Through examples and teachings of our parents, we always had a strong understanding of the significance of education, history, philanthropy and representation.

In the spirit of history, genealogy and education, on Saturday, January 14, 2023, in conjunction with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend on the University of Arizona campus, Southern Arizona made strides in representation. On this day, my parents opened the doors of the newly founded African American Museum of Southern Arizona (AAMSAZ), a long overdue addition to the Southern Arizona community. Archon Bob Elliott is the founding member of the museum’s board of directors, and Archousa Elliott is the museum’s executive director.

Together they welcomed an enthusiastic crowd of more than 300 attendees to the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony. My 7-year-old nephew, Jody Avant, was the inspiration for the museum after not having the representation and resources needed for a school assignment about Black history. Jody proudly cut the ceremonial ribbon inscribed, Actions speak louder than words. The AAMSAZ website explains that the museum is intended to empower the community to connect, to respect the past, to honor the present and pay reverence to the future, and to sustain social action.

Indeed, the museum’s presence in the community is significant and multifaceted. The entire process took almost two years of planning, collaborating and perseverance. Archousa Beverley Elliott, a past governance chair of the National Basketball Wives Association and a member and officer of the Tucson Chapter of The Links, Inc., worked countless hours to bring Southern Arizona Black history to the forefront. This included numerous virtual meetings, virtual tours, face-to-face consultations and seminars at K–12 schools in the Tucson area. This rich Black history complements the content of the importance of antiquity and Black representation at the museum.

The museum publishes a monthly newsletter to keep the community apprised of its good work and

updates. The most recent newsletter congratulates Archon Richard Davis on his recent induction into the Order of Omega Greek Hall of Fame. He earned his J.D. from the University of Arizona College of Law in 1972. Among his many other achievements, Archon Davis formed the University of Arizona’s Black Student Union and was its first president. He is also an AAMSAZ board member, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a philanthropist and a founding member of Gamma Alpha Boulé.

Social action and philanthropy are not new to Archon and Archousa Elliott. They also opened the African American Cultural and Historical Museum (AACHM) of Washtenaw County, located in their hometown, Ann Arbor, Michigan, the home of Gamma Rho Boulé. Furthermore, Archon and Archousa Elliott founded the Elliott Family Charities, an organization that helps fund education and leadership. The Elliott Family Charities, in collaboration with the NBA Retired Players Association-Phoenix Chapter, led by President Lafayette “Fat” Lever, spearheaded an effort called Feed the Children to bring the Tucson and Southern Arizona community together for a positive collaboration to support families in need during the pandemic. They worked to provide four truckloads of food and household supplies and were able to raise more than \$110,000 for the community.

It is no surprise that the Elliotts, through determined efforts and collaboration, filled a void in the Southern Arizona and Tucson community – a site to preserve and celebrate Black history. A place where representation matters.

The AAMSAZ will continue to grow in historical and educational content, resources and impactful programs. The Elliotts invite you to visit the African American Museum of Southern Arizona at <https://www.aamsaz.org>. Charitable contributions can be made to the African American Museum of Southern Arizona through the UA Foundation’s website: <https://give.uafoundation.org/AAMSAZmembership>.

From the Bench



By Archon Curtis L. Collier, Gamma Pi Boulé

This short series of articles explores legal topics discussed by Archon Curtis L. Collier, U.S. district judge and chair of the Eastern District of Tennessee Civics and Outreach Committee. Carrie Brown Stefaniak, past president of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and Karen L. Sheng, both law clerks to Archon Collier, assisted in the preparation of these articles.

Openness to New Ideas, an Essential Attribute of Judging

In past columns, we have discussed how the judiciary functions, its importance in our democratic republic, and how federal judges are appointed. In this column we will discuss the importance of judges being open to new ideas, even challenging ideas. Because one aspect of judging that is necessary, even if not widely discussed, is that judges must not be so committed to preconceived thoughts or ideas that they have difficulty reaching a fair and impartial decision in a case.

Judges have to resist preconceived notions about a case.

When a judge is assigned a case, there are at least two parties, or sides. An experienced judge may be somewhat familiar with the law that pertains to the issues in the case and may even have a general idea from the parties' filings as to which side might have the better argument. The judge may even have presided over a case with apparently similar facts before. Judges, however, must put aside preconceptions and not only be open to new information and arguments, but also welcome them.

Judges learn the facts in a case from the parties.

It is the obligation of the parties to present the relevant facts to the judge, whether through written or oral presentations or the introduction of evidence through witness testimony or exhibits. This evidence will be new to the judge. And this evidence will be particular to the case and not the same as evidence in prior cases. The judge must be open to appreciating

how the facts in this individual case differ from the facts in prior cases.

In addition, at the beginning of a case, the judge will be presented only with limited factual allegations. As the case develops, the judge will become aware of more facts through the parties' stipulations or agreements on certain facts, their written motions, various hearings, and perhaps even at trial. The judge must therefore keep an open mind throughout the development of a case, because things are not always as they may seem at first.

Judges must determine pertinent law.

While it is up to the parties to present the relevant facts, it is the responsibility of the judge to determine the relevant law. The parties must present their arguments to the judge as to their positions on the law, but ultimately, it is the judge's responsibility to determine what the relevant law is. The judge has to approach this task with an open mind, appreciating that laws do change over time, and the applicable law may therefore be different in a new case from what it had been in a similar case in the past. A judge must also recognize that a single different fact may call for a different decision on the applicable law. For example, the law may recognize justification for an action in certain circumstances that in other circumstances would be illegal. This occurs specifically with such subjects as self-defense, defense of others, or duress. A change of just a few facts will lead to a totally different decision. In sum, because of changes in the law or differences among facts, a judge may have handled a previous sim-

ilar case, but the particular facts in a new case may call for a totally different result.

Judges apply the correct law to the relevant facts to reach a decision.

In reaching a decision, judges have to understand the specific facts pertinent to the decision, and then apply the correct law to those facts. This is more complicated and more difficult for judges than it sounds.

Judges are human beings, and our tendency as human beings is to make quick and easy assumptions about facts. As human beings, we also tend to assume that we already know the answer about something even before we hear the question. Judges must always resist this prevalent human tendency.

Thus, to judge effectively, judges must always be open to new information and new ideas.

The Federal Judiciary: A Separate and Coequal Branch of Government

To better secure the people's liberty, the Constitution divides the power of the federal government among three separate and coequal branches. The judiciary is one of these separate and coequal branches. What does this mean in practical terms?

In its most basic sense, it means the judiciary is on the same level of authority as the legislative and executive branches. It is neither superior to Congress and the presidency nor subordinate to them. It would not be proper for the judiciary to take it on itself to try to run the legislative or executive branch. By the same token, it would not be proper for Congress or the president to try to run the judiciary. As head of the judiciary, the Supreme Court is deserving of the same respect and deference as Congress and the president in their respective spheres.

Being a separate and coequal branch of government means that the judiciary is not a department, agency or bureau of government. It is not like the Department of the Treasury, the Postal Service, the Internal Revenue Service, or the Department of Health and Human Services, each of which is a subordinate agency of the executive branch. These agencies are under the authority of the president and are subject to some congressional oversight. But the judiciary, like Congress and the presidency, is a separate branch of government.

Core Functions and Responsibilities

The Constitution assigns each of the three branches certain core functions and responsibilities. Core functions are unique to each branch, and the other branches cannot assume or invade these responsibilities. For the judiciary, Article III, Section I of the Constitution provides: "The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in

such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish." The judicial power is thus exclusive to the judiciary and is the judiciary's core function. Neither Congress nor the president can lawfully assume the judicial power, invade the judiciary's implementation of the judicial power, or control the judiciary in carrying out the judicial power.

For example, the power to conduct a trial to resolve a dispute between two or more parties rests exclusively with the judicial branch. Neither Congress nor the president may convene a trial to take evidence and resolve such a dispute. Only the judiciary can do this. Nor can Congress or the president dictate the outcome of such a trial.

This does not mean Congress may not establish and the president may not oversee entities they refer to as courts that administer specific government programs, such as Social Security courts or immigration courts. Administrative courts do not invade the judiciary's province because they are not courts within the meaning of the "judicial power" of the United States. Ultimately, if an individual is not satisfied with the resolution of a matter in an administrative court, he or she has the right to appeal to a court of the United States, where the resolution of the dispute will be final.

The Judicial Power of the United States

The judicial power clearly encompasses certain powers and responsibilities. Foremost among these is the responsibility to say what the law is and what the Constitution means. It thus includes the responsibility to interpret the laws passed by Congress and to determine whether the other two branches are acting within the bounds of the Constitution. As discussed above, it includes the responsibility to settle disputes between citizens and others under the law. And it

includes the responsibility to protect citizens from government power when the government enforces federal criminal laws against them. The judiciary fulfills this responsibility by, for example, empaneling grand juries; presiding over initial appearances and the appointment of counsel where necessary; conducting fair and open jury trials; ensuring that guilty pleas are knowing and voluntary; and imposing appropriate sentences in open court.

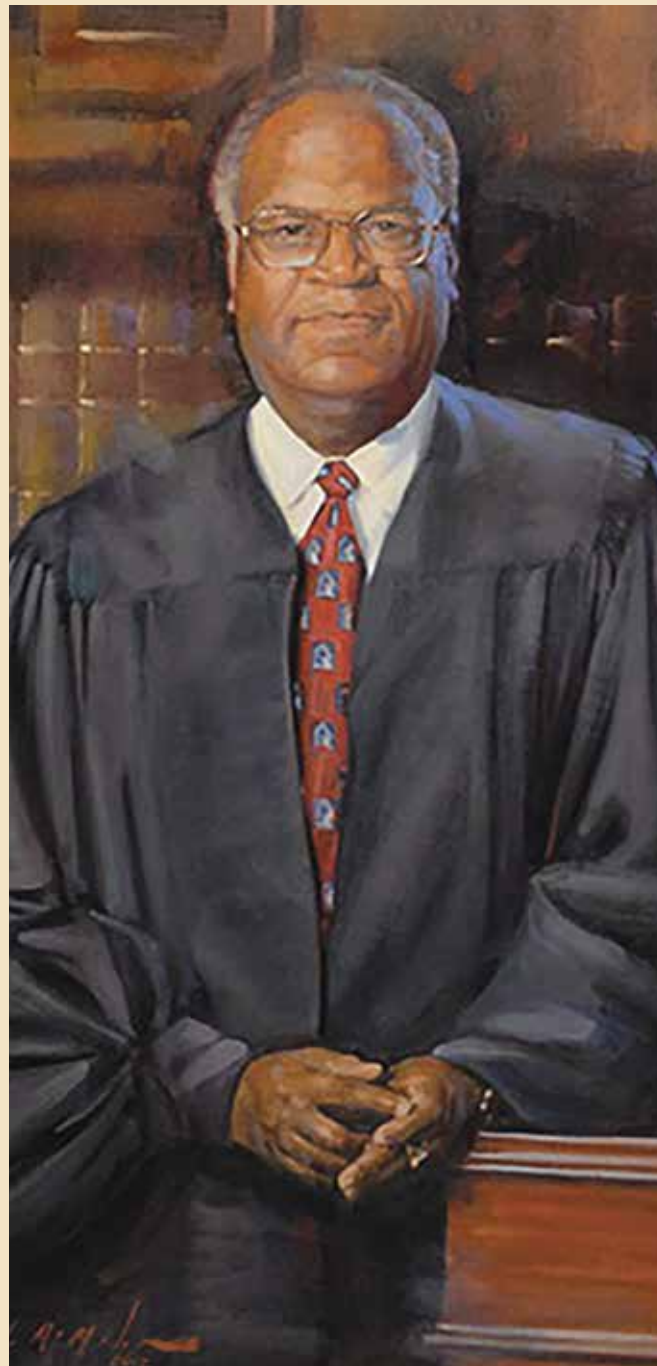
For the judiciary to exercise the judicial power requires that the judiciary have sole responsibility for its personnel decisions and policies. While judges themselves are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, judges must then determine whom to hire to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities and how to manage the judiciary's workforce. Just as the judiciary does not have the authority to dictate to the Congress or the president whom they should hire or how to manage their personnel, these two branches do not have the authority to dictate personnel policy and matters to the judiciary.

Overlap in Functions and Responsibility

Although each branch of government has certain core functions and responsibilities, there is overlap as we get to the outer edges of each branch's powers. The further away from the core function and responsibility of one branch, the more likely it is that another branch has some authority. For example, although a particular court has the authority to set rules for participants in a single matter before that court, for general rules that pertain to large numbers of people and govern the entire mechanism of practicing in court, such as the Federal Rules of Evidence, Congress has a role to play.

The Constitution also provides for checks and balances through which each branch acts as a check on the power of the others. Some of these are explicitly stated by the Constitution, while others are implied. The president acts as a check on the judiciary by nominating justices and judges to the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeals and the District Courts. The judiciary acts as a check on Congress when it examines whether a law complies with the Constitution. Congress acts as a check on the courts when it enacts a law that clarifies or corrects an error the courts observed in an earlier law.

Tension between branches is most apt to arise at the outer edges of core functions. In this area there are more likely to be issues where two, or perhaps even all three, branches believe they have authority to act. Where the Constitution does not provide a clear answer, the branches must, formally or informally, fashion a negotiated solution.



ARCHON CURTIS L. COLLIER

Separation of Powers – to Better Secure the People's Liberty

Our judiciary has functioned for more than 200 years largely as the framers envisioned. By acting as a separate and coequal branch of our national government, the judiciary helps to prevent concentration of power in the other branches. By doing so it serves as a bulwark in protecting the people's liberty.

CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY: A LAWYER'S LAWYER

By Archon Curtis L. Collier, Gamma Pi Boulé

February is Black History Month. It is designed to honor and recognize “the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans,” as stated by President Gerald Ford in 1976. We devote this article to one such Black American’s accomplishments.

“When I was 15, I decided I wanted to be a lawyer. No one thought this was a good idea.” So said Constance Baker Motley, who went on to become a veritable giant in the law. She wrote the original complaint in the monumental Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education*. She litigated the case that resulted in the admission of James Meredith to the University of Mississippi. She was the first Black woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, ultimately arguing ten such cases and winning nine of them. She was the first Black woman appointed to the federal bench. Her amazing career proved wrong all those who thought her desire to become a lawyer was a mistake.

Motley was born on September 14, 1921, in New Haven, Connecticut, to working-class parents who had immigrated from Nevis in the British West Indies. Neither of her parents had advanced past a secondary education. Despite her humble roots, she excelled academically in New Haven. Doubts concerning her desire to become a lawyer thus did not arise from her intellect, but rather from her race and gender. She graduated with honors from high school but did not have the financial means to enter college. Fortuitously, she so impressed a New Haven businessman and philanthropist who heard her speaking at a community center that he offered to finance her education.

She enrolled at Fisk University in Nashville, but only attended for one year. Her stint traveling to and



CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY, 1964

living in Nashville exposed her to the racism and segregation prevalent in the South. She described her experience with racism and Jim Crow laws in her memoir. On reaching Cincinnati during her travel to Fisk, she was ordered to leave the train car in which she had traveled from New Haven and enter an aging, rusty car marked COLORED. She wrote of the experience: “Although I had known this would happen, I was both frightened and humiliated. All I knew for sure was that I could do nothing about this new reality.” After beginning her studies at Fisk, she transferred to a school closer to home, New York University. Three years later, in 1943, she graduated from NYU with a degree in economics. From NYU she went to Columbia Law School, where she received her law degree in 1946.

While in law school, Motley met Thurgood Marshall, who was then general counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF). Marshall hired her to work as a law clerk for the LDF before she had completed her legal education, and she became the LDF’s only female associate attorney after her graduation.



CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY, 1965

During her two decades at the LDF, Motley was instrumental in some of the crucial cases facing the nation, executing the LDF's legal strategy attacking the separate-but-equal doctrine. She worked with and represented some of the most important civil rights figures of the century. In 1950 she wrote the original complaint in *Brown v. Board of Education*. She represented the Little Rock Nine and Freedom Riders. She represented the Birmingham Children Marchers, overturning their wrongful expulsion from school for engaging in nonviolent demonstrations. She represented Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., for the first time when he was incarcerated in Albany, Georgia, in 1962. She stayed in the family home of NAACP Mississippi field secretary and director Medgar Evers while he was under armed guard due to threats against his life.

Most famously, Motley represented James Meredith throughout his efforts to integrate and attend the University of Mississippi, from the district court all



MOTLEY WITH JAMES MEREDITH, RIGHT, AND AN UNIDENTIFIED COLLEAGUE IN 1962. FOUR YEARS LATER, SHE BECAME THE NATION'S FIRST BLACK FEMALE FEDERAL JUDGE. (GETTY IMAGES)

the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Both the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the Supreme Court ruled in her favor and ordered the university to admit Meredith.

She once explained that the LDF gave her difficult cases in the South because Marshall believed that only a woman would be safe there. She commented, "I don't know how he's got that figured. But, so far, I've never been subjected to any violence." She did, however, have to contend with rudeness, condescension and hostility from white male lawyers and judges time and again, while responding with poise and professionalism.

Motley was thus one of the crucial players in the LDF's legal attack on *de jure* segregation. Her litigation helped to desegregate southern buses, restaurants and schools – including in Tennessee, where she first attended college. In recognition of her outstanding legal experience and abilities, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Motley for a U.S. District Court seat in New York on January 26, 1966. She faced opposition and delay in the Senate from southern segregationists, but upon her confirmation seven months later, she became the first Black female U.S. judge. She later served as chief judge of the Southern District of New York. She was known for mentoring numerous female lawyers and judges during her time on the bench.

This remarkable "lawyer's lawyer" died in New York City on September 28, 2005.

Archon Curtis L. Collier is a U.S. district judge and chair of the Eastern District of Tennessee Civics and Outreach Committee. Carrie Brown Stefaniak, past president of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and Karen L. Sheng, both law clerks to Archon Collier, assisted in the preparation of this article.

FORT WORTH ARCHON AHEAD OF HIS TIME IN CREATION OF NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL MUSEUM

By Archon William T. Slater, Grapter, Delta Mu Boulé



ARCHON JAMES AUSTIN

Shrouded in a legacy that dates to the days when horses and their handlers reigned supreme, an artifact-filled museum sits proudly in the heart of Fort Worth's famous Stockyards on the North Side of the city. When Archon Jim Austin of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, conceived the idea of such a

place, he was unaware that twenty-five or so years later, there would be calls from conservatives across the country to, in fact, eliminate from the history books the contributions of Blacks and other minorities, or even to teach such materials in the secondary schools.

Nevertheless, shortly after Archon Austin arrived in Fort Worth, he said he was invited to a rodeo. There, he said, he discovered that nearly one third of the participants were either Black, Native American or of Mexican heritage. "I asked myself, *Why don't we know about this?*" He said he did a bit of research and discovered that not a great deal had been recorded about minority cowboys or their contributions to the West or to western culture.

Not long afterward, it was obvious that the cowboy bug had bitten him. At his recommendation, he, with the help of a few rodeo producers, created the Cowboys of Color Rodeo, aimed primarily at minority performers. A full day is set aside for this event each year, and Archon Austin usually serves as parade marshal. By the way, he has become a full cowboy, easily recognizable by his cowboy hat, expensive cowboy boots and enormous belt buckle. He said he feels comfortable in western wear, "and besides, it helps with the branding of the museum."

In 2002 Archon Austin and his Archousa, Gloria, who is the museum's general director, had accumulated a great deal of western and rodeo-oriented material, so much that they decided to create the Cowboys of Color Museum and Hall of Fame and share their largess with the public.

Rodeo, perhaps more than most sports, often has a multigenerational lineage of participants. Current cowboys are often from a long line of family members involved in the sport or who are involved with

livestock in general. The history of these relatives even predates organized rodeo, all the way back to the development of the Old West. Almost immediately the Austins began to hear and mentally collect fascinating stories about the exploits and accomplishments of cowboys of African, Native American and Mexican heritage. So many of the stories were Hollywood's version of the Old West, and most had heard little or nothing about anything but Anglo cowboys. Having not seen a rodeo before, Archousa Gloria remembers thinking, *Knowing about this would have had a great impact on my self-perception if I'd experienced it as a child.*

The more the two heard stories of people like the Buffalo Soldiers or Stagecoach Mary Fields, the greater their desire to pass it on to the current generation of learners. And that's how the Cowboys of Color Museum and Hall of Fame was born. As the facility began to take on new responsibility – that is, as it took on an educational function with a component that takes the exhibits to various facilities such as schools and various civic organizations – it began to recognize and honor community achievers publicly, and the name was changed to the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum.

The museum is peppered with art, and a particular emphasis on depiction of the Buffalo Soldiers, and artifacts, including many different championship saddles donated or lent by the winners. What draws one in, though, are the stories of the people. Just as Archon Austin and his Archousa must have been pulled toward these fascinating but nearly forgotten people, one finds oneself soaking up the exploits of people like Stagecoach Mary Fields.

Like any woman of the era, Mary was caught in a man's world. But this seemed to do little to stop her. Born a slave in Tennessee, she eventually made her way west to Cascade, Montana. After scoring the fastest time for hitching a team of mules, she was hired as the first African American to work for the U.S. Postal Service. That was impressive in its own right, but even more so by the fact that she was 60 years old at the time. Ten years of service later, she picked up the moniker "Stagecoach" because of her and Moses's (her trusty mule) perfect attendance record.

Mainstream rodeo buffs may be more familiar with Charlie Sampson, a charter member of the Hall of Fame. For many, though, the name might not ring



BILL PICKETT, ONE OF THE FIRST COWBOYS OF COLOR

a bell. Sampson is a classic example of the type of character the Hall of Fame is all about. At five feet one inch, the Watts native (yes, the Los Angeles Watts) ultimately became pro rodeo's first African American world champion with a title in bull riding in 1982. Charles Goodnight is familiar enough to most people in Texas today. Bose Ikard rode with him on the cattle trail for four years, overseeing many duties outside his responsibilities as a cowboy, most notably taking care of the payroll. Goodnight has been quoted as saying, "I trusted him farther than any man." Nat Love was a nineteenth-century cowboy, portrayed as "Deadwood Dick" in dime store novels and John Wayne movies (though cast as white by race-sensitive Hollywood). Jose "Pepr" Diaz, the father of trick roping and a retired master charro, or Mexican trick roper, was a charter member.

Other exhibits include that of Bill Pickett, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2003. Pickett is known as the father of Bulldogging. Helping children (and unaware adults) appreciate their heritage is only part of Archon Austin's vision, however. He's also working to encourage the pursuit of dreams. To that



THE NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL MUSEUM IN THE HEART OF FORT WORTH'S HISTORIC STOCKYARDS.

end, he founded the Renaissance Cultural Center. The center serves a primarily minority, often neglected section of inner-city Fort Worth and focuses on culture and education. It offers career guidance workshops and has awarded more than a half-million dollars in college scholarships to high school seniors in the past twenty years. To focus full attention on the museum, the Austins secured an agreement with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to assume responsibility for running the center.

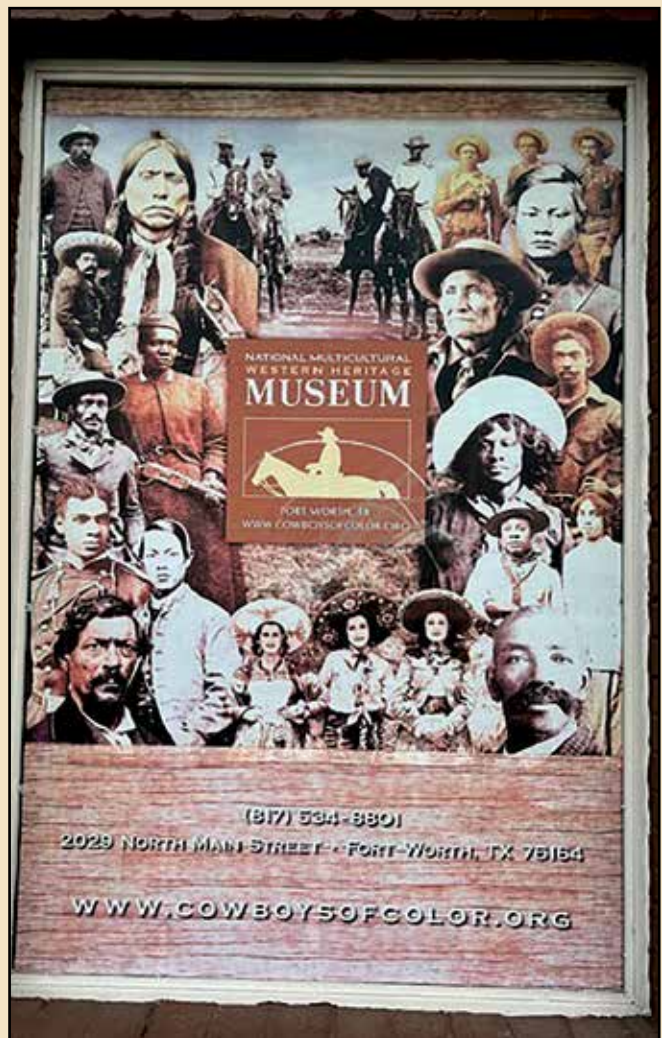
While Archon Austin is pleased with his success with the museum and the Hall of Fame, he recognizes the contributions of numerous organizations that contributed to the project. Among them are Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. Several local and regional foundations and individuals also contributed.

Since his time in Fort Worth, Archon Austin and his wife have been recognized and honored numerous times for their service to the community and region. Archon Austin was again to be honored for his outstanding work at historically Black colleges and universities on October 20, 2023, at a banquet in Houston by the Grambling Friends of Football.

A charter member of Delta Mu Boulé, Archon Austin came to Fort Worth in 1976 with a degree in business administration and marketing from Howard University. He rapidly assimilated into his new position as district sales manager for American Express. It took two years for the entrepreneurial spirit to grasp him. Under the guidance of a long-time commercial real estate agent, he acquired the appropriate licensure and opened Jim Austin Commercial Real Estate, a business he has owned for more than forty years. He and his Archousa, Gloria, have been married for twenty-five years. They have five adult children.



COWBOY MUSEUM EXHIBIT



GRAND BOULÉ SOCIAL ACTION

THE BOULÉ AND ITS IMPACT ON YOUTH THROUGH SOCIAL ACTION

By Archon Paul L. Griffin, Jr., Alpha Epsilon Boulé, Chair, the Parity Project



ARCHON PAUL L. GRIFFIN, JR.

The power and influence of Sigma Pi Phi is one of America's greatest secrets. For 119 years Archons have quietly and effectively brought positive and productive change to America. They have dedicated themselves to doing their part, privately and publicly, to create opportunities for all. It is written that our founders formed a brotherhood "not for itself alone, but for the larger purpose of aiding the community in which they lived." Our first Grand Sire Archon and founder, Henry H. Minton, said, "I believe that one of the greatest functions of history is to create inspiration, to inspire us to do greater things than have been done." This quote recalls a welcomed realization that Sigma Pi Phi affects history by acting on innovative and bold initiatives.

In 1913 our third Grand Sire Archon, W.C. McCard of Gamma Boulé, powerfully said, "If we are the flower of our race in this country, as we sometimes try to flatter ourselves into believing, we must do more than pat each other on the back and eat good food. We owe more to ourselves and the colored people of this country. We confidently believe that with concerted action and strict secrecy, we could lead and manage every moment for the betterment of our people in this country. We should have some program or line of action that will occupy our time..." His passion in delivering those words rings loudly today as a reminder of our historical commitment to a cause larger than ourselves.

In speaking about the founders of Sigma Pi Phi, Archon Hobart S. Jarrett, Alpha Sigma Boulé (author of *The History of Sigma Pi Phi, First of the African American Greek-Letter Fraternities*, Vol. II),

said, "...the founders were not activists in the present sense of the word." At the 1962 Grand Boulé, Grand Sire Archon Percy L. Julian, Zeta Boulé, advocated for the Fraternity to have a "program of national significance." He added that not having such a program "is embarrassing for a group of our intellect and achievements." Out of the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement, Sigma Pi Phi began to embrace social action as an organization, but not as an activist organization. And in 1964, during the 27th Grand Boulé in New York City, the Fraternity rather unexpectedly witnessed the beginning of a renaissance. Two of the major actions taken were the decision to go public rather than maintain a policy of secrecy, and the creation of a social action program, which also led to the establishment of the Boulé Foundation.

As a result of these two decisions, Archon Jarrett wrote, "this elite body of successful, fully mature professionals began aiming in a new direction." Grand Sire Archon Julian further said that "since most Archons apparently dislike the idea of 'activism' for the Fraternity, the Social Action Program should concentrate on the philosophy of social responsibility, rather than social activism." Thus, one of the Social Action Committee's first guidelines was focused on youth motivation.

It is not by happenstance that the preamble to our constitution describes Boulé men as "...men of ambition, refinement, and self-respect..." It further states "...that each in this life may to his fullest ability aid the other, and by concerted action bring about those things that seem best for all that cannot be accomplished by individual effort." So, as we continue to "... know the best of one another..." through our social gatherings, we know that there is much more we embrace. Together, since our founding, we have achieved impactful results that would not have been possible if we acted alone. We acknowledge the honor and privilege of being Archons, and we proudly accept the responsibility that comes with the title Archon.

As Boulé men, we know our call to action is represented by the investment of our economic and social capital poured into our work in Sigma Pi Phi. Almost three years ago, Past Grand Sire Archon Dwayne D. Murray brought the Parity Project to the Fraternity. Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi is committed to continuing to use this as a vehicle for the Fraternity's investment of economic and social capital for our youths. The Parity Project and the Boulé-Base

11 Fellows Program promote highly compensated STEM-related career opportunities to Black students in high school and college, as well as early-stage career adults.

The goal is to address the Black-to-white wealth gap and accelerate economic achievement in Black America through greater representation in lucrative STEM careers, in corporate board rooms and in the C-suites. The Boulé-Base 11 Fellows Program is designed through the partnership of Base 11 and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity to provide students, early career adults and entrepreneurs (up to age 34) with the access, awareness and belief they need to become highly trained leaders in STEM through the development of networks and relationships with well-connected mentors and role models.

With the support of Archons and member boulés across the county, this ten-year initiative will help us achieve our goals for parity by 2030. As we know, Sigma Pi Phi is not a "boots on the ground" fraternity. Instead, we partner with those organizations that do have boots on the ground to help create success. We use our influence, relationships and experiences to help the goals of the Parity Project come to fruition. Go to ParityProject.com to learn more about the impact we are having on this initiative.

Social action has been vitally important within the Boulé since the 1960's. During the 56th Grand Boulé in The Bahamas this past summer, the Grand Social Action luncheon program was held. A total of twenty-six member boulés received acknowledgement for their great work with various social action initiatives. Sire Archons, social action chairs and other leaders within these member boulés were provided certificates of award for their work in social action. Additionally, thirty-two member boulés were also recipients of grant funding from the Boulé Foundation for aiding their communities in social action. All of them were congratulated for their dedication to offering inspiration and motivation to the young people of our communities.

Archon Benjamin E. Mays, president emeritus of Morehouse College, shared with us his thoughts on greatness, saying, "Wealth, position or power are no measure of greatness. Greatness is defined by what we have become and what we might have been. The people who close this gap we call great." Archons, we can help close the Black-to-white wealth gap in America. Let's make it happen!

ON THE SOCIAL ACTION FRONT

GAMMA BOULÉ FOUNDATION HOSTS ANNUAL WINTER SCHOLARS RECEPTION



ARCHONS BERT HASH, ROLAND SELBY, TONY TORRAIN, DAVID SAUNDERS AND KENNETH GRANT, SR.; SCHOLARS CHIDEBELUM NNAKE, BOUBACAR SALL, BRANDON FOSTER, DONZELL BROWN, DAVID ADEBOGUN AND OLUWATONI AKINTOLA; AND ARCHONS TRENT WILLIAMS AND ATHOL MORGAN

On December 28, 2022, the Gamma Boulé Foundation held its annual Winter Scholars Reception. This is an informal opportunity for current and alumni scholarship recipients to gather with Gamma Boulé Archons and mentors to share knowledge and experiences, offer assistance, and deepen the community network through fellowship and food.

Scholars David Adebogun (attending Yale University), Donzell Brown (attending the Cooper Union College) and Oluwatoni Akintola (attending the University of Notre Dame) shared their recent experiences in completing their first semester and received support from Archons and peers on furthering their goals and achievements. Alumni scholars Chidebelum Nnake (attending Columbia University Medical School) and Brandon Foster (attending Stanford University Medical School) also shared their progress in medical school matriculation, as well as offering peer advice to the undergraduate scholars.

All Archons in attendance continued to provide support, advice and assistance in garnering future training, internship and professional experiences. Additionally, Archons said they were committed to exposing the scholars to their own personal networks to broker additional opportunities in the scholars' professions as they continued to advance.

Gamma Boulé is committed to financially assisting academically gifted young African American men from the Baltimore area to attend and complete undergraduate degree programs. The Scholars Program provides professional mentorship and a four-year college scholarship granted through the Gamma Boulé Foundation.

*Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé*

DELTA BOULÉ ARCHONS INITIATE SOCIAL ACTION PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL COLLEGE



ARCHON STANLEY DOWELL, A PHYSICIAN, AND ARCHON MELVIN BURGESS, SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIR, INVITE STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT STEM CAREERS.

Memphis's Delta Boulé, in partnership with LeMoyne-Owen College, a historic Black college in Memphis founded in 1870, are sponsors of the Memphis Parity Project Initiative. The initiative is a resource for Black STEM students and early-career professionals. Delta Boulé social action committee chair Archon Melvin Burgess is spearheading the effort.

Delta Boulé held its first rooftop party attended by college students and junior and senior high school students on March 1, 2023, at the college. The area where the college is located is considered the poorest zip code in Memphis and one of the poorest in all of America.

An aim of the initiative is to develop and cultivate networking and engagement skills of students in a comfortable and secure environment. The setting also exposes students to the rigors of academic and business challenges. Another aim of the program is to introduce the students, many of whom are the

first in their families to attend or aspire to attend college, to STEM careers, summer jobs and for-credit internships.

The first rooftop party was heralded as a success. An impressive turnout of students attended and it was notable that they came "dressed to impress."

Delta Sire Archon Matthew Thornton III commended Archon Burgess on this successful endeavor. "Bravo Archon Burgess on your leadership and commitment," said Archon Thornton. "Very well done!" Delta Archons are gearing up for a yearlong campaign that will feature these kinds of networking gatherings the first Wednesday of each month. They hope to make a change in the lives of these participants as they enter young adulthood and transition to careers in the sciences.

*Archon Ronald A. Walter
Grapter, Delta Boulé*

DELTA BOULÉ EMPOWERS MEMPHIS AREA STEM STUDENTS



COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS HOLD PENNANTS.

Beginning on March 9, 2023, Memphis's Delta Boulé participated in the eighth annual spring college fair presented by the HBCU Awareness Foundation, in partnership with the SchoolSeed Foundation. The fair was held at the Memphis Sports and Event Center. More than thirty-five HBCU recruiters and 300 high school students attended the five-day gathering, with a STEMinar hosted by Delta Boulé during the evening segment of the fair. Spearheaded by Archon Melvin

Burgess, social action chair, Delta Archons engaged with students and HBCU recruiters, providing awareness of the Parity Project initiative and the Boulé-Base II Fellows Program and equipping the students with resources to accelerate their STEM pursuits.

*Archon Ronald A. Walter
Grapter, Delta Boulé*



ARCHON ANDRE WHARTON, SIRE ARCHON-ELECT ROBERT COX AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIR ARCHON MELVIN BURGESS

CHI BOULÉ FOUNDATION DONATES TO HIGHER-EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



CHI BOULÉ FOUNDATION TREASURER ARCHOUA VALERIE MOLETTE, CHI BOULÉ FOUNDATION CHAIR OF FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS ARCHON DARRELL S. FREEMAN, SR., NASHVILLE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT SHANNA JACKSON, CHI BOULÉ FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR ARCHON MICHAEL A. CARTER, SR., AND PHILANTHROPIST AND ATTORNEY ARCHOUA PHYLANIE NASHE



FIK UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT JENS FREDERIKEN, CHI BOULÉ FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR ARCHON MICHAEL A. CARTER, SR., CHI BOULÉ FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEMBER ARCHON PATRICK JOHNSON, FISK UNIVERSITY ACTING PRESIDENT FRANK SIMS, FISK UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR AND CURATOR OF GALLERIES AND ASSISTANCE PROFESSOR OF ART ARCHON JAMAAL SHEATS, PHILANTHROPIST AND ATTORNEY ARCHOUA PHYLANIE NASHE, AND CHI BOULÉ FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR-ELECT ARCHON TURNER NASHE, JR.



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT LOLITA TONEY, CHI BOULÉ FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR-ELECT ARCHON TURNER NASHE, JR., TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT GLENDA GLOVER AND CHI BOULÉ FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR ARCHON MICHAEL A. CARTER, SR.

Funds raised during Nashville's Chi Boulé's inaugural Closing the Gap Gala allowed the Chi Boulé Foundation to donate \$75,000 to higher-education institutions in Middle Tennessee. Foundation board members presented donations of \$25,000 each to Nashville State Community College president Shanna Jackson on May 10, 2022; Fisk University interim president Frank Sims on November 10, 2022; and Tennessee State University president Glenda Glover on January 20, 2023.

Chi Boulé established the foundation in 2020 as the fundraising arm of the member boulé. It created the Closing the Gap initiative to generate financial assistance for students in jeopardy of being removed from colleges and universities for financial reasons and to assist students who experience financial emergencies.

The presidents of the institutions in receipt of the funds expressed their appreciation. Jackson said, "These funds will go directly to students to help them complete college. Many students have barriers that are beyond tuition and fees. Sometimes it is a textbook that costs \$300 for one course. If they do not have their textbooks, they get behind and are unsuccessful. We are so grateful to be the first recipient of this gift and are working to maximize the impact for our students."

Sims noted, "I would like to thank Chi Boulé for its significant contribution to our university. It will go a long way toward supporting our students; we appreciate this gift. I look forward to having a continued relationship with the Boulé."

Glover added, "I know what it means when you are in a registration line, there is a hold on your account, it is the last day, and you cannot get back in school. Chi Boulé's record of service is unparalleled; the things you do for education, economic development, and your focus on uplifting the African American community. This donation is a part of the uplift needed in our community, and we appreciate that."

*Archon Billy R. Ballard
Grapter, Chi Boulé*

PSI BOULÉ SPONSORS AN AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES



The Archons of Louisville, Kentucky's Psi Boulé sponsored more than sixty-five children and chaperones to an afternoon at Baxter Avenue Theatres in Louisville, where they attended a showing of *Wakanda Forever*. Everyone had a wonderful time. Most of the children came from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kentuckiana, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana and the West End School. Baxter Avenue Theatres provided popcorn and each child received \$10 for a drink and candy. The kids had an absolute

blast and a memorable experience. Archon Houston Mills, event organizer, said, "Psi should make this an annual event." We all agreed. Special thanks to Sire Archon Sean Owens and Archons Alfonso Cornish, Lamont Gholston, Larry McDonald, Gerald Neal, William Porter and Daryl Williams for representing Psi Boulé so well.

*Archon George Demaree
Grapter, Psi Boulé*



BETA ALPHA BOULÉ HELPS YOUTHS NAVIGATE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As COVID-19 ravaged our nation and the world, Archons of Milwaukee's Beta Alpha Boulé became acutely aware of the negative implications for Milwaukee-area youth. While member energy and commitment were high, the challenge was to understand and determine how to best address evolving needs. Initial research and debate led to five potential actions, in an initiative to wrap up at the end of the 2022–23 school year:

1. Facilitate a conversation about the inequitable funding for students in Milwaukee schools.
2. Enforce actionable guidelines for schools and educators to support students and improve learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Create physical safe spaces for students both in distant and in-person learning for the educational development and mental health support of students.
4. Address the mental health of students as a result of COVID-19.
5. Form a task force to address the inequalities in the educational system based on race, access and wealth.

Following outreach with government officials, educators and community leaders, it was determined that one of the most critical and least-served opportunities was to support the mental health of students struggling to cope with impacts of the virus in the classroom, in the community and at home. Armed with this insight, the member boulé crafted a targeted response and sprang into action.

Four Schools Initiative

The Four Schools Initiative was developed in partnership with public and charter schools serving predominantly Black and brown children from lower-income families in Milwaukee. The stated objective was to address the psychoeducational and mental health needs of students as a result of COVID-19. With such lofty goals, several program components were necessary to ensure success, including:

- Funding: More than \$300,000 was raised and deployed.
- Leadership: Marquette University Center for Peacemaking was engaged.
- Delivery mechanism: The partnership to include mental health providers was engaged.
- Program deliverables:
 - Psychoeducational services.

- Clinical mental health services for students and their families.
- Group grief counseling.
- Intervention in coordination with school staff.

Serving children and families from the fourth to eighth grades during the pandemic proved to be both challenging and fulfilling. Children at participating schools – Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy, Milwaukee Academy of Science, Ralph Metcalfe Elementary School and Marvin E. Pratt Elementary School – raised many concerns to be addressed, including separation from their peers and school community, fear of the virus, fear of the vaccine, loss of loved ones, loss of family income, homelessness, and anger. The initiative to date has touched more than 200 students and supported more than 300 family contacts and interventions.

Most rewarding is the evidence that the effort is making a positive impact. In addition to improvement in grades and in the feeling of safety and security, students and parents reported subtle benefits of the work. For example, one student reported to his teacher, "I used my breathing techniques when someone tried me today." Though the initiative will conclude at the end of the current school year, we are confident the impact for all involved will be realized for years to come.

Beta Alpha Boulé extends a special thanks to:

- Laurel Cooke, daughter of Archon Brian Cooke and Archousa Dawn Cooke, who, as a recent graduate of American University, researched the topic, framed the discussion, and highlighted mental health concerns as a brewing tragedy and priority.
- Archon Charles Harvey, who championed the project early on and spearheaded fundraising.
- Archon Vincent Lyles, a trustee of Marquette University, who was instrumental in securing the university's support and forming the additional partnerships that made the project possible.
- The Marquette University Center for Peacemaking.
- New Beginnings Are Possible, Lutheran Social Services.
- The educators, students and families who welcomed the support and remain on the journey.

*Archon Brian W. Cooke
Grapter, Beta Alpha Boulé*

BETA LAMBDA SCHOLARS VISIT JEFFERSON LAB



ARCHONS CASEY M. ROBERTS, ALAN K. ARCHER AND JAMES "JIMMY" A. GRAY, JR., WITH BETA LAMBDA BOULÉ SCHOLARS

On February 24, 2023, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé Scholars Program students visited Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News, Virginia. The program, to further the Next Frontier Initiative's goal "to empower 50,000 African American students, early-career adults, and entrepreneurs to be successful in the nation's fastest-growing and most highly compensated STEM industries," continues to highlight and explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math. The program actively recruits scholars interested in STEM from three local high schools: Hampton High School, Hampton; I.C. Norcom High School, Portsmouth; and New Horizons Regional Education Center. The programs include in-school presentations and field trips that provide experiential learning opportunities.

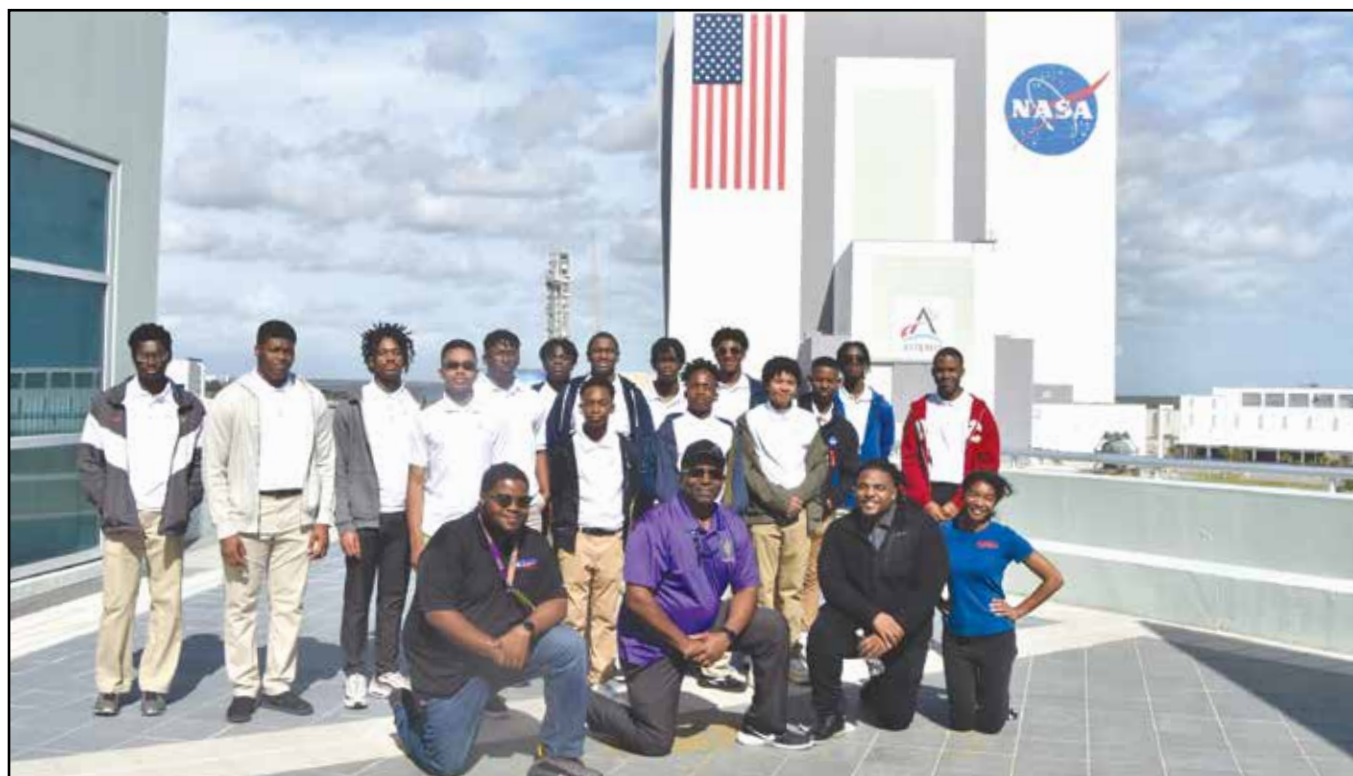
Jefferson Lab is a U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science national laboratory. Scientists worldwide utilize the lab's unique particle accelerator, known as the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility, to probe the most basic building blocks of matter, helping us to better understand these particles and the forces that bind them – and ultimately our world. In addition, the lab capitalizes on its unique technologies and expertise to perform advanced computing and applied research with industry and university partners. It provides programs designed to help educate the next generation in science and technology.

The scholars were welcomed by Archon James "Jimmy" A. Gray, Jr., chair of the Beta Lambda social action committee. Archon Casey M. Roberts, executive director of New Horizons Regional Education Center, led the scholars in a discussion concerning the reason for the visit and the unique opportunity that was being offered to them. Archon Roberts and one of his colleagues, Daryl Crosby, a career specialist at New Horizons Regional Education Center, led the scholars in small group exercises and group discussions centered on leadership and success.

The scholars were then welcomed to Jefferson Lab by the staff of the facility and engaged in a discussion about the various STEM career pathways. They learned about STEM disciplines that collaborate on various cutting-edge research projects at Jefferson Lab. They discussed how the research performed at Jefferson Lab advanced scientific knowledge and had real-world implications. The scholars were then given an opportunity to engage in experiential learning through a group makerspace exercise. The trip ended with a guided group tour of the facility, where the scholars were afforded the opportunity to ask questions and observe some of the work of the researchers at the facility.

*Archon Steven D. Bond
Gapter, Beta Lambda Boulé*

NASA OPENS ITS DOORS TO YOUNG BLACK MEN OF EXCELLENCE



The race to the moon was a pivotal time that unified our country and shifted our culture. The Apollo/Saturn V Center at the NASA Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, pays homage to the 400,000 people that made that seemingly improbable possible. Young Black Men of Excellence (YBME) is a leadership development and enrichment program for young African American males created by Beta Xi Boulé's social action committee to provide mentorship and leadership training that will inform, inspire and build skills for future leaders.

In February a select group of high school students from YBME were given the opportunity to explore history with a private tour through the Vehicle Assembly Building and Apollo/Saturn V Center to see the crawler-transporter, which transports rockets to the launchpad, and the VIP observation deck, where Vice President Kamala Harris watched a recent launch.

As the group toured the center, they were encouraged to immerse themselves in the experiences of those who came together to make the moon landing possible – those leaders in STEM and space exploration. Getting to hear the stories of African American leaders whose contributions shaped space exploration as we know it made a lasting impact on the students. Archon Arthur Lee, chair of the social action committee, said, "This trip showed the YBME students the importance of a STEM education in the

space industry. Our young men needed to see people who looked like them holding key positions at NASA and the space industry."

Students had the opportunity to walk under a restored Saturn V launch vehicle, which is the centerpiece of the Apollo/Saturn V Center. It is the largest rocket ever built, at 363 feet long – taller than the Statue of Liberty – and is one of only three remaining in the United States. The opportunity to learn more about the work of great men like Clyde Foster and Major General and Archon Charles Bolden, Jr., allowed the young men to see what can be accomplished when passion meets leadership, a cornerstone of the YBME mission.

The Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB), one of the largest buildings in the world, is capable of holding several rockets and spacecraft simultaneously. Constructed for the assembly of the Apollo/Saturn V moon rocket, the VAB was the final assembly point for space shuttles, external fuel tanks and solid rocket boosters for thirty years. The history and potential of the building encourage students to ask themselves, *What next?*, not only for the U.S. space program but for themselves as well.

*Archon Jude H. Wilson
Grapter, Beta Xi Boulé*

BETA SIGMA BOULÉ HOSTS FORUM ON BLACK MEN'S HEALTH



ARCHON VICTOR WOOLRIDGE, ARCHON SCOTT M. BARNETT, MARVIN E. MORRIS, ARCHON FRANK ROBINSON, CHRISTOPHER LATHAN, SIRE ARCHON MICHAEL WEEKES, ARCHON VINCE JACKSON, ARCHON DAVID WILLIAMS AND ARCHON JOHNNY WHITEHEAD

The inaugural Dr. William A. Darity, Sr., Black Men's Health Forum, "Bridging the Gaps," was presented by Beta Sigma Boulé in Springfield, Massachusetts, in partnership with Baystate Health on October 22, 2022, at the UMass Amherst Center. Named in honor of late Archon William A. Darity, Sr., founding dean for the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the idea for the forum was the brainchild of Archon Frank Robinson, vice president of public health at Baystate Health, and members of Beta Sigma Boulé to create a space where Archon Darity's aspirational ideas for health and well-being for all live on.

Aligning with the report "Bridging the Gaps: Racial Health Equity Gaps for Black Men in the Commonwealth and Western Massachusetts" prepared by the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts for Baystate Health, the forum addressed four major health issues which disproportionately impact Black men's health: prostate cancer, heart disease, diabetes and mental health.

The keynote speaker was Christopher Lathan, M.D., M.P.H., who is chief clinical access-and-equity officer, and Christopher and Constance Hadley Family Chair at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; associate chief medical officer and director at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Network; and associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. Lathan's remarks highlighted his roots in the community, the current disparity in health outcomes and efforts to bridge the gap.

Additional expert speakers and panelists:

- Reheem Allen, M.A., in-home-therapy clinician, Carson Center for Health Human Services

- Archon Scott M. Barnett, M.D., medical director, Meadows Medical Association, Baystate Medical Center
- Edison Bond, M.P.H., M.Div., D.Min., CPXP, director of patient relations, Baystate Health
- Maria Consedine, R.N., CDCES, senior diabetes educator, Novo Nordisk
- Cecelia A. Davis, M.D., interim chief, Division of Endocrinology/Diabetes, and assistant professor, UMass Chan Medical School
- Henry Douglas, Jr., facilitator, Men of Color Health Awareness (MOCHA)
- Archie Emmanuel, Jr., mentor, MOCHA
- Jalil A. Johnson, Ph.D., N.P., vice president, medical services, Center for Human Development
- Richard Johnson, M.S., director, Black Behavioral Health Network
- John S. Hopkins, M.D., medical director, Baystate Behavioral Health Adult Psychiatric Treatment Unit
- Albert Hubert, lead facilitator and ambassador, MOCHA
- Amir Lotfi, M.D., chief cardiologist, Baystate Medical Center
- Marvin E. Morris, M.D., vascular surgeon, Baystate Medical Center
- Lamont Scott, project director, MOCHA
- Courtney Walker, Pharm.D., R.Ph., health outcomes director, Novo Nordisk

"This was the first [time] convening in my more than forty years of public health experiences in Hampden County where the health and well-being of Black men was the exclusive focus," stated Archon Robinson. "It will not be the last time!"

*Archon Jeffrey L. Johnson
Grapter, Beta Sigma Boulé*

BETA SIGMA ARCHONS CONTINUE SUPPORT OF A BETTER CHANCE

On October 15, 2022, Archons from Beta Sigma Boulé in Springfield, Massachusetts, continued their support of the Annual Fall Foliage and Cider Run for Amherst A Better Chance (ABC). The 5k run/walk to benefit ABC began at the Amherst Town Common and concluded on the campus of Amherst College.

Sire Archon Michael Weekes and Archon David Williams serve on the ABC board. Amherst A Better Chance is a residential high school program that

prepares academically talented young men of color from educationally underserved school districts for college and future leadership roles. The organization has been opening the door to better educational opportunities for more than fifty years.

*Archon Jeffrey L. Johnson
Grapter, Beta Sigma Boulé*

GAMMA GAMMA BOULÉ HOSTS SCHOLAR LUNCHEON



Austin, Texas's Gamma Gamma Boulé scholarship committee and foundation sponsored and hosted its scholars mid-year luncheon on January 6, 2023, at the Pappadeaux Restaurant in Austin with eight of the twelve scholars in attendance. Scholars and members of Gamma Gamma Boulé enjoyed a delicious meal and engaging conversations. All scholars were introduced to one other and given opportuni-

ties to network with each other and the Archons in attendance. Scholars were able to interact with Sire Archon Joseph C. Parker, Jr., via visual technology as he continued his recovery from a recent medical procedure. A wonderful time was had by all.

*Archon Ricardo C. Stinnette
Grapter, Gamma Gamma Boulé*

GAMMA ZETA BOULÉ FOUNDATION STARTS 2023 WITH TWO OUTSTANDING WORKSHOPS

The Gamma Zeta Boulé Foundation began the spring 2023 portion of the LAMP Mentor Program with two outstanding workshops. On February 4, the program held the first one, its most complex and often most impactful workshop. The workshop had four sections: mock interviews, mentee assessment interviews, advice on how to finance a college education, and advice on how to behave and survive in the #MeToo world. The program held the workshops at La Salle College Preparatory High School through the generosity and commitment of Jamal Adams, the principal of the school.

After breakfast, the mentees expressed their gratitude to the parents who prepared the meal and to the volunteers who would be conducting the interviews and the workshops. One of the underlying principles of the program is that we always have an attitude of gratitude and that we express that gratitude before and after the mentees receive the information, benefits and wisdom of the volunteers.

There was an ice-breaker exercise for the mentees to engage in critical thinking, creative interaction and development of a presentation on a selected topic. The topic for this workshop was Black resistance. The mentees had to develop an articulation that included the pillars of LAMP (Leadership, Achievement, Management and Professionalism) and embrace the tactical goals for each mentee to Learn, Ask, Meet and Promise for a mathematical formula, an inspirational saying and a famous person. Mentees were in four groups – representing L, A, M and P, with each group's articulation embodying the letter assigned to them. The mentees were creative and collaborative, and engaged in critical thinking to devise their presentations. A spokesperson for each group made the respective presentation to the parents and volunteers who were present.

Before commencing the substantive workshops, the program recognized two mentees, Sean Taylor and Xavier Smith, for their award-winning essays in the scholarship contest at the 2023 Los Angeles Black College Expo. Both mentees won a \$1,000 scholarship check for their award-winning essays. The program distributed LAMP blazers to the new mentees and replaced blazers for returning mentees who outgrew the ones from last year. All LAMP mentor program blazers are provided by Shaquille O'Neal's organization, Mine-O-Mine, which has been a supporter of the program for two years. In addition to funding the acquisition of the blazers, Mine-O-Mine provides gift cards for JCPenney that enables the program to stock the suit bank for mentees who may not be able to afford the suit dress shirt and tie required at each

LAMP mentor program workshop. And, the mentees received their T-shirts from the 2022 October Retreat.

The mock interview experience is an annual event of the program. For this exercise, the mentees prepared a résumé detailing their current academic performance, athletic participation and accomplishments, community service, work experience, awards, and honors. A panel of three professional African American men (some Archons and some volunteers) conducted a twenty-minute interview of each mentee and provided ten-minute feedback on the mentee's performance in the interview and on his résumé. Mentees received feedback on maintaining eye contact, the clarity of their answers, their presence and posture, and their dress and appearance. While a cohort of five mentees were being interviewed, another cohort of five were in a parallel interview talking about their experience in the program and providing feedback to the LAMP leadership.

Simultaneously with the mock interviews and the parallel interview session, one-third of the mentees were in the How to Finance a College Education workshop and the other third were in the How to Behave and Survive in the #MeToo World workshop. Corrine Scheel, an experienced participant in the Marist College admissions and financial-aid process, conducted the college-finance workshop. She provided information about the FAFSA application process, the general financial-aid process, the difference between scholarships and loans, and the variety of scholarship opportunities available to mentees and their parents.

Jamila Charles-Cometa and D'Juan Wright conducted the #MeToo workshop. Both presenters are experienced practitioners in clinical and family counseling, in coaching involving interpersonal relationships, and in addressing the challenges faced by African American adolescents. Charles-Cometa is a marriage and family therapist and the Black Student Achievement Program counselor in the LA Unified School District. Wright is a professional coach and works with organizations that focus on Black youths.

The workshop began with a "snowball fight." The snowballs were pieces of paper on which the mentees wrote in one sentence what they were most concerned about when approaching someone they were interested in. The mentees balled up the papers and threw them at each other. After thirty seconds, each mentee picked up the paper that was closest to him and read what had been written. The facilitator then asked each mentee who identified with the concerns expressed on the piece of paper to raise his hand. This activity released a lot of the tension that could be present when talking about interper-



sonal relationships and behaviors and showed the mentees that their colleagues held many of the same concerns they held. The vulnerability and openness that followed the initial exercise significantly contributed to the success of the workshop.

After the workshops the mentees participated in the recap, which was a second opportunity for them to express their gratitude to the volunteers who were the presenters in the workshops. During the recap mentees talked about what they learned in the workshops. The goal was to reinforce the learning and to have the volunteer presenters understand how much the mentees had appreciated the presentations. The program teaches that letting others know what they learned from them is another form of expressing gratitude for the time and talents that the presenters offered.

On February 25 the program conducted the second workshop of 2023. The topic was “Oh, I Can Do That: Additional Career Paths.” Before the workshops the mentees got to meet and hear from a living legend, Archon William Hutchinson, a retired rocket scientist. Born in 1937 in Birmingham, Alabama, Archon Hutchinson received his bachelor’s degree from Morehouse College in 1955 and his Ph.D. from California Technical Institute in 1960, both degrees in chemistry. Describing his life in the South and at Morehouse, he talked about meeting Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., while studying at Cal Tech, and suggesting to Dr. King that he needed to take his civil rights movement to Birmingham. Archon Hutchinson answered questions from the mentees, and in the recap, one who is a freshman in high school told the

Archon that he wanted to grow up and “live a memorable life like you.”

The substantive portion of the workshop consisted of three speakers, each successful in a different career. Vaughn Davis is the general manager of Dream Hotel in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles. He talked about his journey through the health-care and hospitality industries to his current position. Rufus Johnson, an analyst for Microsoft in the marketing and branding section, talked about how he helps the Microsoft brands Office 365 teams think through how to present and market themselves to various industries. Teniel Jones is the CEO of Base 11, a nonprofit corporation that seeks to accelerate young people into careers in STEM. She talked about her career as an engineer for major aerospace companies and her path to the nonprofit world as her means for making a difference in the Black and brown communities.

All three speakers spent five to ten minutes describing themselves, what they do and how they got to where they are. After the initial presentations each speaker circulated and spoke to the three cohorts of seven or eight mentees who made up the small group sessions of the workshop. Each speaker amplified his or her initial remarks and answered questions from the mentees. At the end there was a recap session where mentees were able to demonstrate their gratitude by telling the speakers what they had learned from the talks and from the small group interactions.

*Archon Michael L. Kennedy
Grapter, Gamma Zeta Boulé*

GAMMA MU BOULÉ CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR LIVING HISTORY AWARDS PROGRAM



LARENZ HARRIS, GAMMA MU BOULÉ ARCHON CLARENCE McALLISTER, PHILLIP JONES AND LONNIE TAYLOR

In honor of Black History Month, Phoenix's Gamma Mu Boulé, in partnership with the Phoenix Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and the Phoenix Chapter of The Links, Inc., cosponsored the eighteenth annual Living History Awards program in February 2023. The event took place at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Phoenix. The program's mission is to expose Phoenix-area youths to renowned African American pioneers in a selected professional discipline through a series of educational enrichment activities. This year's theme was "Dream Big: Spirit of the Entrepreneur," which focused on Black-owned businesses in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Honorees for the 2023 Living History Awards program were Virgil Berry, Michael Bond, Jeffrey Holmes, Archon Clarence McAllister, Abdul Sanders and Elizabeth White.

Gamma Mu Archon Clarence McAllister is a native of Panama. He is a licensed professional engineer and the founder and CEO of Fortis Networks, a twenty-two-year-old general contractor specializing in federal government construction and telecommunications. The company has more than one hundred employees and operations worldwide. Archon McAllister earned a B.S. in electrical engineering, summa cum laude, and a master's in electrical engineering from Arizona State University and an M.B.A. from Nova Southeastern University. He is also a licensed airplane pilot.

Archon McAllister serves on the board of direction of the Society of American Military Engineers and is the chair of its small business council. He is also a board member of the Associated Contractors of America and a member of the Young Presidents' Organization.

Several trade groups have named Archon McAllister's company a business of the year, and Archon McAllister has been named an Arizona business leader for the last two years. Archon McAllister is married to Archousa Reyna McAllister, who is also a cofounder of Fortis Networks. They are the proud parents of a daughter, Valerie, and a son, Clarence.

The Living History Awards program is the culmination of a ten-week project mentoring and training young adults in the professional skills of organization, teamwork and communications. The youths collect information through interviews to prepare PowerPoint presentations of their honorees that are shown at the awards program. The project culminates in a live awards ceremony to honor "living legends" in the Phoenix community. The event serves as a unique opportunity to hear firsthand about the contributions African Americans have made to Arizona's unique and rich history.

The Living History Awards program was the creative brainchild of Archons Myles Lynk and Larry Leverett. In the fall of 2005, Archon Lynk proposed an activity for Jack and Jill teens that would enhance their knowledge of Black history within Arizona. He introduced Archon Leverett to the idea of bringing the Phoenix Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and the Phoenix Chapter of The Links, Inc., together to host a program for African American youths that would acknowledge the need and help fill the gap of better understanding of Arizona's Black history.

Later that year Archousa Geneva Spigner, representing the Phoenix Chapter of The Links, Inc., and Sheila Dickerson, president of the Phoenix Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., joined Archons Lynk and Leverett to continue the conversation about a formal

celebration. From those conversations emerged a novel idea to commemorate Black History Month by honoring outstanding Arizona pioneers, people who have been an integral part of the history of Phoenix.

The first Living History Awards program was held in February 2006. Since then, the program has mentored more than 500 students in high-level communication skills, highlighted the accomplishments of nearly 100 African American legends in the Arizona community and introduced their accomplishments to more than 1,000 youths. At each Living History Awards program, the lives and accomplishments of six pioneers and innovators in a selected field are celebrated.

A heartfelt and thankful acknowledgement goes to Archon Ray LaSrape for representing Gamma Mu Boulé in cochairing the 2023 Living History Awards program. In addition, several Gamma Mu Archons rose to the challenge and served as mentors, including Archons Donnie Bowser, Ahmed K. Collins, Brett Cook, Patrick Melvin, Dwayne Sansone, Robbie Sherwood and Emerson Yearwood.

*Archon Ahmed K. Collins
Grapter, Gamma Mu Boulé*

DELTA SIGMA BOULÉ ASSISTS BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



In honor of Martin Luther King Day 2023, Delta Sigma Boulé of South Suburban Chicago proudly partnered with the South Suburban Chicago Chapter of Jack and Jill of America to help furnish a library for the Boys & Girls Club of Ford Heights, Illinois. Both organizations proudly recognized Dr. King in this effort by helping to support the local community. More than 300 new and gently used books were donated, in part due to a \$1,500 contribution from Delta Sigma Boulé.

*Archon Victor A. Terry
Grapter, Delta Sigma Boulé*



DELTA PHI BOULÉ SUPPORTS KAIROS PDX



KAIROS LEARNING ACADEMY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT TELEVISION PRODUCTION.

The social action focus of Portland, Oregon's Delta Phi Boulé is on outreach and connection with African American youths, particularly African American males. At the same time, members of Delta Phi constantly scan the landscape for opportunities to serve the needs of the Black community and other underserved populations. One such opportunity arose through the potential for involvement with KairosPDX, an organization that focuses on dismantling structural racism through policy advocacy, professional development services and hands-on learning through their flagship community school and family engagement programs.

Under KairosPDX's umbrella of programs and functions is the Kairos Learning Academy, a public K-5 charter school that utilizes culturally responsive practices to cultivate full student engagement. Delta Phi's involvement with KairosPDX included Archon Michael Holton serving as emcee for the organization's annual

"Spread the Love" gala, which was held on February 9, 2023, at Portland's Memorial Coliseum.

Subsequent to the gala, Archon Holton organized an event for KairosPDX students to visit the Moda Center, the arena that hosts the Portland Trail Blazers' home games. The visit introduced students to all of the preparations that occur prior to a televised basketball game, including player pregame activities, radio and television production activities, and event logistics planning. Students also gained insights into the effort required to become a professional athlete and how athletes prepare for life beyond basketball.

Archon Holton is a former player and current radio analyst for the Portland Trail Blazers. Archon Terry Porter, also a former player with the Trail Blazers, assisted in hosting the students.

*Archon Larry D. Roper
Grapter, Delta Phi Boulé*

EPSILON BETA BOULÉ DONATES TO HIDDEN GENIUS PROJECT



On March 4, 2023, Epsilon Beta Boulé of Contra Costa County, California, presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to The Hidden Genius Project in Oakland, California. The Hidden Genius Project is a national non-profit organization which was founded in 2012. The mission of the organization is to “train and mentor Black male youth in technology creation, entrepreneurship and leadership skills to transform their lives and communities.” The organization’s vision is that “Black male youth demand, and are working towards, a future where their genius is celebrated, realized, and shines every day and is no longer hidden, suppressed or belittled.” According to the organization, “the future is tech,” and therefore the goal is to prepare Black male youth for the

twenty-first century global tech economy. The organization has been very successful in this endeavor. Two members of Epsilon Beta Boulé sit on the board of The Hidden Genius Project: Archons Biff Clark and Kevin Hart. Both have been instrumental in the success of the organization. Archons William Holsey III and Daryle Whyte of the social action committee of Epsilon Beta Boulé led the effort to procure a donation to The Hidden Genius Project. Epsilon Beta Boulé will continue to support this important organization in the future.

*Archon Willie Lott, Jr.
Grapter, Epsilon Beta Boulé*

EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ HOSTS 32ND ANNUAL MLK DAY MARCH



Epsilon Zeta Boulé, Loudoun County, Virginia, hosted a tremendous gathering of Archons, Archou-sai and family members during this year's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which featured both a virtual celebration and an in-person march through Leesburg. This year marked the thirty-second anniversary of the march and celebration, one of the largest and oldest in the region.

Epsilon Zeta Boulé was well represented by its leadership as Sire Archon Mark Moore, Sire Archon-Elect Bernard Mustafa and Grammateus Greg Fenner joined other Archons and hundreds others representing fraternities, sororities, and civic and local government in celebrating Archon Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and accomplishments. This historic celebration is now under the leadership of the newly formed MLK Diversity-Engagement Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

The march kicked off in person on January 16, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. on the Loudoun County Courthouse lawn in Leesburg and then progressed to Frederick Douglass Elementary School for the second year in a row due to construction at the parade's typical last point, Douglass High School. The celebration and program were captured via a live-streamed video that can be viewed on the YouTube channel MLKMarchLeesburg.

The theme of this year's celebration was, "Uncensored History: Embracing the Past, Educating the Present, Impacting the Future." Noteworthy in Loudoun County history, Douglass High School was the last segregated high school in the county until it was closed in 1968 because of desegregation.

This year's live-streamed program included music and dance performances, a children's corner and a youth panel, highlighted by featured speakers, including Robin Hamilton and Janet Ford. Hamilton is an Emmy Award-winning television host, whose firm,

A Round Robin Production Company, has produced three documentary films: *This Little Light of Mine: The Legacy of Fannie Lou*, *Dignity and Defiance: A Portrait of Mary Church Terrell* and *Our Alexandria*. Ford, meanwhile, is the president of the Northern Virginia Business and Professional Women's Club, which is a chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club Incorporated.

Nationwide, this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemoration also included President Joe Biden taking his battle for the soul of the nation to the pulpit of the historic Atlanta church that Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., once led. The president, at a service on the late civil rights leader's birthday, drew on King's legacy and called on Americans to follow the minister's example to "redeem" the country and restore faith in its institutions. "The battle for the soul of this nation is perennial. It's a constant struggle. It's a constant struggle between hope and fear, kindness and cruelty, justice and injustice, against those who traffic racism, extremism and insurrection," Biden said. "And at our best, the American promise wins out."

As is written in the Preamble to the Constitution:

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

This is the American promise.

Archon Robert S. Ferrell
Grapter, Epsilon Zeta Boulé

EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ FOUNDATION LEADERS PRESENT DONATIONS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS



Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation's leadership team continues to have a tremendous impact on those in need across the Loudoun County community. Among their many efforts, they recently met with the directors and staff of both the Loudoun Homeless Services Center/Leesburg Shelter and Mobile Hope – an organization that aids homeless families and youths – to present each with donations of \$5,000 to support the vital work they perform. Archon Arthur Dean (board member) arranged both visits and was accompanied by Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation members Archon Terence Hosten (treasurer), Archon Kamonte McCray (board chair), Grammateus Gregory Fenner (board member), Immediate Past Sire Archon Earl Simms and Archon Robert West.

The Leesburg Shelter currently houses forty-four permanent residents and can support up to twenty-six additional residents per night. Moreover, the shelter provides seventy people with meals, three times per day, and 200 bag lunches every week. More than 50 percent of those receiving support work every day and approximately 40 percent are African American. Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation has donated funds to the shelter each year since

2011, which assists in rapid rehousing services for its clientele and providing a dignified and safe place for some of the community's most vulnerable citizens.

The foundation's partnership with Mobile Hope began in 2013. Mobile Hope addresses the needs of homeless youth and their families in Loudoun County, with primary services including the provision of food, urgent supplies, counseling, transportation, mentoring programs and clothing. More than 400 adolescents enter Mobile Hope's doors annually seeking a better life. Most of those served by Mobile Hope are between the ages of 18 and 24 and have aged out of foster care. Some are immigrants with no family or support in the area. More than 50 percent of the aged-out group are African Americans.

One of Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation's strategic objectives focuses on homeless, disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals, including youths, throughout Loudoun County. A huge thank you is given to all Epsilon Zeta members who participated in these engagements and to all those who support both organizations throughout the year.

*Archon Robert S. Ferrell
Grapter, Epsilon Zeta Boulé*

EPSILON LAMBDA FOUNDATION HOSTS HONDA CLASSIC FUNDRAISER



The Epsilon Lambda Boulé Foundation of Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida, hosted a fundraising event during the Honda Classic tournament on Sunday, February 26, 2023, at the private hospitality Sky Suite on the 17th green of the PGA National Golf Club in Palm Beach. This provided the opportunity for everyone to get to know the best of one another and to generate funds for the foundation at the same time.

The foundation chair, Immediate Past Sire Archon Clarence Williams, invited all Archons and guests to

“come out and join us on the seventeenth green for food, drinks and great fellowship in support of the Epsilon Lambda Boulé Foundation and the work we do supporting young students.” We thank those who contributed to the success of the fundraiser as well as those who donated but could not attend.

Archon Gregory L. Williams
Grapter, Epsilon Lambda Boulé



HOW ONE MEMBER BOULÉ SOWED SEEDS FOR A COMMUNITY'S RESURGENCE FROM HURRICANE IAN



Archon Whitney Young once posited, “You can holler, protest, march, picket and demonstrate, but somebody must be able to sit in on the strategy conferences and plot a course. There must be strategies, the researchers, the professionals to carry out the program. That’s our role.” Fast-forward approximately sixty years, and those words still hold true today for organizations charged to make a difference in our communities.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, thousands of people lost homes, family members and life in the blink of an eye. As is often the case, Black and brown communities were hit the worst: Such communities do not have enough resources to truly recover, resulting in economic hardship that spans multiple generations. Epsilon Nu Boulé of Southwest Florida considered the news and immediately found this outcome untenable. Archons contemplated short-term relief efforts alongside existing community efforts as well as a more strategic approach to alleviate the damage from schools and housing destruction.

The Epsilon Nu Boulé Foundation (ENBF) began a partnership with the Heights Foundation, which is led by its mission to build strong, self-sufficient families in the Harlem Heights, Florida, community. This organization was chosen after careful consideration to align with an implementation partner with

a history of success and community involvement in Southwest Florida.

Next the ENBF began its fundraising efforts. In the words of Archon John Lewis, the Southwest Florida Archons got up to “good trouble” by reaching out to community leaders, Florida’s member boulés, the Boulé Foundation and the Southeast Region officers. The latter, with Southeast Region Sire Archon Darrell Searcy at the helm, mobilized to assist these efforts by reaching out to the Sire Archons across the region. The result was that over five months the Epsilon Nu Boulé Foundation was able to present a check to the Heights Foundation for \$75,000, which will directly help fund restoration of lost housing and restarting education efforts – both for adult education as well as educational and cultural arts tutoring for children in the Harlem Heights community.

And the Archons of Epsilon Nu Boulé are not done yet. The fundraising efforts for those affected by Hurricane Ian still continue to this day. If you would like to contribute, the foundation has a PayPal account (paypal.com/paypalme/enbf). They exemplify our fraternity’s commitment to be a significant strategic player in the uplift of our communities across the world.

*Archon Jason R. Cannon, Sr.
Grapter, Epsilon Nu Boulé*

CHARLEASE HATCHETT EARNS EPSILON OMICRON SIRE ARCHON AWARD



ARCHOUSA CHARLEASE HATCHETT AND PAST SIRE ARCHON JAMES HURD

In alignment with a long-standing tradition of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, in 2020, to better connect the Fraternity to the communities we serve, North Houston, Texas's Epsilon Omicron Boulé's Council of Past Sire Archons created the Sire Archon Award. The 2022 award was presented at the annual Christmas Is for the Archousai Yuletide Gala by Past Sire Archon James Hurd to Archousa Charlease Hatchett for her tireless efforts to raise monies and support the community in her Connected Through Cancer Foundation.

Awarded annually the Sire Archon Award recognizes Archousai for the work they do to improve their community, educate the public, identify areas for improvement and lead efforts to fix them. No matter how small or large the efforts, the values or the com-

mitments of Epsilon Omicron Boulé's Archousai, they are essential to the Fraternity's mission, and these community leaders deserve to be recognized and celebrated.

These community leaders cannot self-submit and are recognized for their efforts associated with an incorporated not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization operated for a collective, public or social benefit, including nonpolitical organizations, human service organizations, educational institutions, business associations, churches, social clubs and consumer cooperatives.

*Archon Eric T. Adams
Grapter, Epsilon Omicron Boulé*

THE NEW ARCHONS

Beta Boulé Presents Five Prominent New Archons



NEW ARCHONS LARRY R. ROGERS, JR., GREGORY L. PRIMUS, PETER W. McCAULEY, SR., GLENN E. McKEOWN AND JEFFREY E. LEWIS

Chicago's Beta Boulé welcomed five new Archons on October 26, 2022, at the Union League Club of Chicago. Sire Archon Gomez Charleston presided over the ceremony.

Archon Jeffrey E. Lewis, a native of Chicago, is the chief compliance officer of Sinclair Broadcast Group, a publicly traded diversified media and Fortune 500 company. He leads Sinclair's corporate-compliance functions, including regulatory, code of conduct, competition and privacy, and provides strategic guidance on the implementation of compliance with federal regulatory agencies. Sinclair owns and/or operates 185 television stations in eighty-six markets, including stations affiliated with all of the major broadcast networks.

Archon Lewis's memberships include the Dallas Historical Society board of trustees and the Leadership Fellows Association board of Leadership Greater Chicago. He has a B.A. in political science from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, where he pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and was homecoming king; a J.D. from Rutgers Law School, where he served on the moot court board; and an

LL.M. in corporation law from New York University School of Law. He and his Archousa, Sarah, have four children. Their son Alex clerks for the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; another son, Brandon, is a real estate agent in Plano, Texas; their daughter Lauren is a senior at Hampton University; and another daughter, Olivia, is a senior at Towson University.

Archon Peter W. McCauley, Sr., is a medical officer at Cigna Healthcare, where he and his teams work directly with large physician groups and hospital systems to ensure that clients receive the highest-quality health care at the most reasonable cost. A nationally recognized certified physician executive with a thirty-year track record of profitable, inclusive health care leadership, he has also been a volunteer pediatrician at the Clinic in Altgeld, now known as TCA Health, on Chicago's Far South Side for more than twenty-four years. Recognized by *Becker's Hospital Review* as one of seventy-five top Black health care leaders to know in 2022, Archon McCauley is also listed by *Crain's Chicago Business* as one of 2022's Notable Black Executives and Leaders.

After earning a B.S. in chemistry with honors from Howard University, Archon McCauley received an M.D. from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine; he completed his pediatric residency at the University of Chicago. He and Archousa Carla – who has a law degree from DePaul University – have been happily married for thirty-six years and are the proud parents of Leslie Kay, who is pursuing an M.D. and an M.P.H. at the Pritzker School of Medicine; and Peter, Jr., a police officer with the Metropolitan Police Department.

Archon Glenn E. McKeown is senior vice president, general counsel and secretary at the Aerospace Corp., where his responsibilities include providing legal advice and counsel at the senior management level, managing corporate transactions of the board of trustees and its committees, and maintaining custody of corporate records. Before joining Aerospace, Archon McKeown was general counsel at Argonne National Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) multidisciplinary science and engineering research center operated by the University of Chicago. In that position he managed a legal department providing support in practice areas that included intellectual property and technology transfer; complex government and commercial contracts; labor and employment; environmental law; procurement; safety, security and health; and litigation. Archon McKeown also provided legal advice and counsel to laboratory management and staff, conferred with university officers, provided risk assessments to the laboratory's governing board, and interacted with DOE attorneys and officials on legal and compliance matters. He was previously associate general counsel at the University of Chicago.

Archon McKeown holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Columbia University, an M.P.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He is happily married to Archousa Lisa Mason.

Archon Gregory L. Primus first arrived in Chicago after receiving a call from the Chicago Bears. He had played one season with the Denver Broncos, and now the Bears were interested in having him join their wide receiver roster. He played two seasons with the Bears before fate would redirect him to his lifelong passion of becoming a surgeon.

Archon Primus had already earned a B.S. in microbiology at Colorado State University while breaking

football records that ultimately ended with his induction into the school's Hall of Fame. After the NFL, he earned an M.D. at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and completed orthopedic-surgery training at the University of Chicago Hospitals, becoming the first Black orthopedic surgeon trained at the university and earning American Osteopathic Association recognition. Archon Primus completed his fellowship in sports medicine and knee and shoulder reconstruction at the Southern California Center for Sports Medicine, where he was the first Black fellow. Once back in Chicago, he launched the Chicago Center for Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery, a state-of-the-art facility in the south suburbs, and later expanded with the CSO Sports Multiplex in Hyde Park. Archon Primus and his Archousa, Tonya, are the parents of three children: Gregory, Gabrielle and Grant.

Archon Larry R. Rogers, Jr., is a trial lawyer with more than twenty-five years of experience advocating for victims. As a trial attorney and partner at Power Rogers, LLP, he has successfully settled and tried to verdict many multimillion-dollar results for his clients in medical negligence, trucking, product liability and civil rights litigation. Archon Rogers – whom *Crain's Chicago Business* recognized as one of the top personal injury lawyers among a new generation of trial attorneys – is a member of the Inner Circle of Advocates, an invitation-only group of trial lawyers from across the country. Since 2004, Archon Rogers has been commissioner for District 3 on the Cook County board of review. Under his leadership, the board moved from a process reliant on paper to a completely digital workflow, which increased efficiency, transparency and accessibility. He is committed to serving the residents and businesses of Cook County and recognizes that both stakeholders are necessary for Cook County to thrive.

After receiving a B.S. in agricultural economics from the University of California, Davis, Archon Rogers earned his J.D. from the Illinois Institute of Technology's Chicago-Kent College of Law. He and Archousa Ralonda are the proud parents of one son, Dominique, and three daughters: Erin, Sydney and Jordan.

*Archon Randolph D. Carnegie
Grapier, Beta Boulé*

Gamma Boulé Selects Five Distinguished Archons



ARCHON NICOLAS T. ABRAMS



ARCHON IVAN J. BATES



ARCHON THEODORE COLBERT III



ARCHON GARNETT HALL



ARCHON JULIAN E. JONES, JR.

Baltimore's Gamma Boulé inducted five accomplished Archons into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity on March 17, 2023. Sire Archon Kweisi Mfume presided over the ceremony at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture. In addition, Grand Sire Archon-Elect Loren R. Douglass attended and offered the new Archons his remarks of welcome into the Boulé.

Archon Nicolas T. Abrams is a certified financial planner and the founder and CEO of Opulentia, LLC, a registered investment-advisory firm whose mission is to design financial plans to create generational wealth. With more than twenty years of experience in the financial-services industry, Archon Abrams advises clients in numerous states. Before starting Opulentia, he was a regional sales director for Nation-

wide Financial Network, supervising and training hundreds of financial advisers across the country. He also spent more than five years with Genworth Financial Advisors Corp. as an investment-adviser representative and as a district leader for the Baltimore metropolitan area.

Archon Abrams is a member of the St. Mary's College of Maryland board of trustees, to which he was appointed by Governor Larry Hogan in 2020. He earned a B.A. in economics from St. Mary's College of Maryland and received a certificate in financial planning from the University of Baltimore.

Archon Ivan J. Bates is the twenty-sixth state's attorney for Baltimore City, a position that represents a full-circle moment for him: His first post after passing the bar exam in 1995 was as an assistant state's attorney for Baltimore City. A U.S. Army veteran and respected community advocate with more than twenty-five years of experience as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney, Archon Bates has long been committed to fighting on the front lines for fairness, truth and justice. He established his own midsize firm in the heart of Baltimore – Bates & Garcia, PC – in 2006. In the ensuing seventeen years he built a successful practice, mentored rising attorneys and built a reputable team of legal experts. He also appeared in every court in Maryland and had the opportunity to represent clients in federal courts in Maryland, San Francisco and northern Virginia.

Archon Bates earned a B.A. in journalism from Howard University and a J.D. at the William & Mary Law School. He was privileged to serve as a law clerk for Judge David B. Mitchell, who inspired and mentored him.

Archon Theodore “Ted” Colbert III is executive vice president of the Boeing Co. and president and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space & Security, which provides solutions for defense, government, space, intelligence and security customers worldwide. Archon Colbert is also a member of Boeing's executive council. Previously, he was president and CEO of Boeing Global Services, with responsibility for leading development of the company's aerospace services and its delivery model for commercial, government and aviation-industry customers worldwide. Prior to that role, he was Boeing's chief information officer and senior vice president of information technology and data analytics.

A member of the boards of directors of Archer Daniels Midland Co., the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and New Leaders, Archon Colbert has received numerous honors, including the Black Engineer of

the Year Award from *US Black Engineer & Information Technology* magazine in 2022 and the Capital CIO of the Year ORBIE Award for leadership in 2021. He completed the dual-degree engineering program at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Morehouse College, earning bachelor's degrees in industrial and systems engineering and interdisciplinary science.

Archon Garnett Hall is deputy associate director of the Business and Management Resources Division and the Information Resources Management (IRM) Directorate for the National Park Service. He strategically leads the division while supporting operational readiness for financial planning, budget formulation, financial tracking, budget execution, property management and local facilities management for the IRM Directorate. Archon Hall leads branch chiefs, program managers and cross-functional teams in developing, managing and processing all directorate contractual support services and requirements.

Archon Hall has held various leadership roles in Prince Hall Freemasonry – the oldest and largest predominantly African American fraternity in the nation – including CEO and president, with overall responsibilities to direct and govern the activities of Scottish Rite Masons, those 4th- through 33rd-degree Masons in the Orient of Maryland. He earned a B.S. in business administration from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and a graduate certification in information technology project management from the George Washington University.

Archon Julian E. Jones, Jr., is the District 4 councilman of Baltimore County and chairman of the Baltimore County Council, to which he was first elected in 2014. A community leader, he is a former PTA president of Hernwood Elementary School and served fourteen years on the Baltimore County Democratic Party Central Committee. He is also a former United Way campaign chair.

As part of his effort to work his way through college, Archon Jones joined the Anne Arundel County Fire Department in 1985. Once in the fire department, he fell in love with its mission of fighting fires and saving lives. After graduating from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, with a B.S. in information-systems management, Archon Jones decided to stay with the department, where he could continue to serve the community. He excelled there, becoming the first African American officer – lieutenant, captain and battalion chief – in the department's history.

*Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé*

Five Stellar Men Join Lambda Boulé



NEW LAMBDA BOULÉ ARCHONS

Columbus, Ohio's Lambda Boulé inducted five Archons into the Boulé on December 17, 2022, at Jefferson Country Club. This was the first new class of Archons inducted into Lambda Boulé since 2019. The evening, which was hosted by Archon Otto Beatty III and Sire Archon Ramon Jones, also included the magnificent Christmas Is for the Archousai celebration. After the induction ceremony, the Archousai and guests joined the festivities, which included a cocktail reception with a photographer, followed by dinner, a presentation of gifts to the Archousai and dancing, with music provided by Premium Blend Music.

Archon Lamont Clay is the medical director for emergency medicine at OhioHealth Pickerington Medical Campus and staff emergency physician at Mid-Ohio Emergency Services, working in eleven Central Ohio emergency departments, including

at Grant Medical Center and Riverside Methodist Hospital. A fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians and the American Academy of Emergency Medicine, he has worked in emergency medicine in four states, serving various communities and in different medical arenas, from academic medicine to small Critical Access Hospitals. Archon Clay is a member of the Columbus Medical Association board of directors as well as the board of Be Present, a community mentoring organization in Chicago. He is also a faculty member at Made for Medicine, an organization with the mission of encouraging Black high school students' interest in careers in medicine and health care.

Archon Clay graduated with honors from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a B.A. in history and earned an M.D. from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He completed his resi-

dency in emergency medicine at the Boston University Medical Center Hospital. Archon Clay and his Archousa, Jill, have two wonderful children.

Archon Scott Davis is general counsel for architecture and engineering firm MS Consultants, Inc. In this role, he is responsible for all legal and regulatory matters for the company and advises the chairman of the board, the president and other senior officers on legal issues associated with key initiatives. Archon Davis also leads the firm's diversity, equity and inclusion team. He was previously a partner at Bricker & Eckler, LLP.

An active member of the Ohio State Bar Association, Archon Davis earned a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Cincinnati, and in fact began his career as a civil engineer before pursuing his J.D. at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Away from the office, Archon Davis enjoys a trail run or a round on the golf course and spending time with his Archousa, Natasha, on the sidelines of his teenage son's and 9-year-old daughter's sporting events.

Archon Mark Hatcher is the managing partner of the Columbus office of BakerHostetler, an AM Law 100 law firm with more than 1,000 attorneys and eighteen offices across the country. He has been recognized in *Best Lawyers in America* each year since 2019 for health law and business organizations and has been named among the Legal 500 in the U.S. in health care and antitrust categories. He has also been listed among the Most Influential Black Lawyers in the United States by *Savoy* magazine. Archon Hatcher is chairman of the board of trustees at Central State University, Ohio's only public HBCU, and board chair at the Columbus Next Generation Corp. and the Columbus Foundation's Isabelle Ridgway Foundation. He also sits on the Ohio Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Archon Hatcher earned a B.A. in criminology from the Ohio State University; a master's in criminal justice from Tiffin University; and a J.D. cum laude, as well as an LL.M. in business and taxation, with honors, from Capital University Law School. He lives in Columbus with his two sons.

Archon Eric M. Joyner is senior vice president of customer experience and commercial excellence for Cardinal Health, where he leads multiple strategic capabilities for the health care company's \$180 billion Pharmaceutical Segment, including commercial analytics, revenue management and client onboarding. An accomplished business executive, he was previously a senior vice president at Equifax. Archon Joyner sits on the Mid-Ohio Food Collective board of trustees and the Professional Pricing Society board of advisers. He is a cum laude graduate of Morehouse College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, and he has an M.B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School, where he was a Consortium Fellowship recipient. Archon Joyner and Archousa Maureen Joyner have two children. Lambda Boulé Archon Richard Letts is his father-in-law.

Archon Ralph W. Smithers, Jr., is assistant vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion and community relations at Encova Insurance and has extensive experience in a variety of insurance operations and human resources roles. He is treasurer of the Lincoln Theatre's board of directors and cochairs the Rocky Fork-Blacklick Accord zoning-review panel for the city of Columbus. In 2020 Archon Smithers received the Ohio Minority Suppliers Development Council's Advocate of the Year Award, and in 2019 he was recognized as an Outstanding Diversity Champion by *Columbus Business First* and received the President's Award from the Columbus Urban League Young Professionals.

Archon Smithers earned a B.S. in finance and insurance from the Ohio State University Fisher College of Business and is a chartered property casualty underwriter, an associate in personal insurance and an associate in insurance services. A native of Columbus, he is married to Archousa Pamela with three children and lives in New Albany, Ohio.

*Archon Donald E. Brown
Gapter, Lambda Boulé*

Rho Boulé Inducts Three Archons at Christmas Gala



NEW ARCHONS KEVIN E. WALKER, MARC WILLIAMS AND EDWARD BAIDEN

Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé inducted three Archons on December 16, 2022, at the Fox Chapel Golf Club. Grand Sire Archon-Elect Loren R. Douglass was also present during the induction ceremony and welcomed the new Archons. The induction ceremony was followed by dinner, dancing and fellowship at Rho's Christmas Is for the Archousai party. The induction and party occurred on the eve of Rho's highly anticipated Centennial Charter Day Celebration, which will include various events throughout 2023.

Archon Edward Baiden is the head of global traffic solutions at PPG Industries – a Fortune 500 company and global supplier of paints, coatings and specialty materials – where he oversees 1,200 employees and twenty-four global production sites. He was previously PPG's global integration director and led the integration of Ennis-Flint into PPG after it acquired the company in 2020. Prior to joining PPG in 2017, Archon Baiden held various commercial leadership positions at General Electric and DuPont, including

three international assignments to China and South Africa. He was instrumental in DuPont's expansion into Africa, including leading the acquisition and integration of Pannar Seed in South Africa.

Archon Baiden earned a B.B.A., with a minor in economics, from Georgia State University and an M.B.A. from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has also completed executive-education programs at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business and the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Archon Baiden, who sits on the boards of directors of the PPG Foundation and the Foundation of Orthopedics and Complex Spine, is married to Archousa Akosua Baiden and has two daughters: Esi Baiden and Ekua Baiden.

Archon Kevin E. Walker is the first Black man and person of color to become president and CEO of Duquesne Light Holdings, Inc., an enterprise that includes the utility Duquesne Light Co. – where he was previously COO – as well as the Efficiency

Network and DQE Communications. He has held multiple leadership roles at utilities throughout the United States during a career that spans more than thirty years. Archon Walker is a veteran of the U.S. Army and served during the Gulf War as a field artillery captain. He has been active in many community-based, nonprofit organizations that focus on advancing the prosperity, education and good health of underserved communities.

In addition to a B.S. in civil engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, Archon Walker earned an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He resides in the Pittsburgh region with his spouse, John; their twins; and their dog, Ellie.

Archon Marc Williams is senior vice president of operations at FedEx Ground, where he leads the Western Division's operational team, consisting of more than 100,000 employees and 30,000 contracted drivers. He started his career with FedEx almost twenty-nine years ago as a frontline package handler but quickly progressed through a series of leadership roles, including director and vice president.

Archon Williams has been recognized for his business acumen and ability to assemble high-performing teams with multiple company awards, including the FedEx Ground Five Star Award. He has also been a leader of diversity, equity and inclusion at FedEx, both in the makeup of his leadership teams and his influence on the organization's diversity philosophy. He is executive sponsor of the FedEx Ground Black Professional's Network, Hispanic Action Network, Asian & Pacific Islander Network, and the Pride & Allies Network.

Beyond FedEx, Archon Williams sits on the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania board of directors and the organization's regional-impact advisory committee. He earned his B.A. in finance and B.S. in accounting from the University of Kentucky and his M.B.A. from Southern Illinois University. Archon Williams and his Archousa, Tanya Williams, have two children: Jalen and Lauryn.

*Archon Ron G. Jones
Grapter, Rho Boulé*

Alpha Epsilon Boulé Gains Ten Archons

On December 4, 2022, after a three-year hiatus, Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé inducted ten outstanding Archons into the Boulé. The event was coordinated by Archons Marlon Henderson and Peter Lewis and held at the University of Texas at Dallas. The Boulé was also honored to have Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III in attendance.

Archon Bryan L. Carter is the senior pastor of Concord Church, where he leads its more than 9,000-member congregation. His current board memberships include the Mayor's Star Council board of directors and the Harmony Community Development Corp. board, where he is chairman. Archon Carter earned a B.S. in secondary education, with an emphasis on science and math, from Oklahoma State University and also has an M.S. in Christian education, with a focus on family ministry, from Dallas Theological Seminary. He is married to Archousa Stephanie and has two daughters and a son.

Archon Charles R. English is the president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas, serving thousands of youths ages 6 to 18 in both traditional and school-based clubs. He was previously chief operations officer at Southern Dallas Development Corp. The Greater Dallas Planning Council recognized Archon English with the Kessler Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the community. Archon English earned a B.S. in biology and

chemistry from the University of North Texas and an M.B.A. from the University of Dallas.

Archon Holland P. Gary is the CFO of Carleton Residential Properties and president of Salt River Capital, a real estate-finance subsidiary. A former principal and COO at Aldus Equity, he has invested and managed private-equity assets for some of the largest public pension plans in the United States. Archon Gary earned a B.S.E. in electrical engineering from Princeton University, where he was an All-Ivy track-and-field athlete, and an M.B.A. in finance and entrepreneurial management from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a Joseph Wharton Fellow. He lives in the Dallas area with his Archousa, Leila, and two children.

Archon Justin Henry is senior counsel at McKesson Corp., a leading provider of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment, and health care-technology solutions. Prior to joining McKesson, he was an attorney at Baker Botts. Archon Henry is president of the Dallas Independent School District board of trustees and a member of the president's advisory board at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, an M.A. in secondary education from Loyola Marymount University and a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law.

Archon Dan E. Jones is a podiatrist and foot surgeon with the Comfort Podiatry Group and the



NEW ARCHONS BRYAN L. CARTER, CHARLES R. ENGLISH, HOLLAND P. GARY, JUSTIN HENRY, DAN E. JONES, KEARNEY LADAY, JR., CHEQUAN LEWIS, WILLIAM "BILL" MAHOMES, CHRISTOPHER PLUMLEE AND BYRON SANDERS

Methodist Health System and has been serving southern Dallas for more than thirty years. He is also chair of the Sheila B. Ministries board of directors. Archon Jones's professional memberships include the American Podiatric Medical Association and the Texas Podiatric Medical Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology and psychology from Morehouse College and a D.P.M. from the Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine. Archon Jones completed his residency in podiatric surgery at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Archon Kerney Laday, Jr., is the managing partner of Alliance Partners, a middle-market professional-services networking organization, and CEO of HRO Advisors, a human resources and health care consultancy. He began his career at Xerox Corp. and subsequently founded two companies specializing in the sale of Xerox, Sharp and Panasonic office products. Archon Laday's current board memberships include the Rotary Club of Dallas, and he is a past board member of Good Returns, a philanthropic organization promoting sustainability. Archon Laday earned a B.B.A. from Nazareth College and lives in Plano, Texas, with his Archousa, Marcia. He has three daughters.

Archon Chequan Lewis is the COO of Pizza Hut U.S. and was previously the company's first chief equity officer. Before joining Pizza Hut, he was a business litigator at Baker Botts. Archon Lewis sits on the boards of directors of the Dallas Zoo and CitySquare, where he is vice chair and chair-elect. He earned a B.A. in political science and economics from Howard University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Archon Lewis lives in Oak Cliff, Texas, with his Archousa, Whitney, and their two children.

Archon William "Bill" Mahomes is executive vice president and general counsel at Vista Bank, where

he is also the first Black member of the board of directors. He was previously a partner at Bracewell, LLP, where he remains of counsel. Archon Mahomes is vice chairman of the Texas A&M University board of regents and also a member of the Today Foundation board of directors. He received his B.B.A. from Texas A&M University and his J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law.

Archon Christopher Plumlee is the founder and president of Elevate Strategy Group, a sales-leadership consultancy, and the founding principal of the African American Executive Networking Forum. The former CEO of Catholic Charities Fort Worth, he has also held executive positions at companies including Pitney Bowes, Hewlett-Packard and Dell. Archon Plumlee is a member of the One Man's Treasure board of directors and earned a B.B.A. in finance from Southwestern University. He lives with his Archousa, Natalie, and their son in Murphy, Texas.

Archon Byron Sanders is the president and CEO of Big Thought, an organization working to narrow the opportunity gap and equip youths with twenty-first-century skills to create a better world. His board memberships include the Dallas Foundation, Engage Dallas and Trinity Park Conservancy boards of directors, and his numerous honors include receiving the *Dallas Business Journal's* Most Admired CEO Award in 2022. Archon Sanders has a B.S.B.A. in marketing from the University of Tulsa, where he is a member of the board of trustees. He is married to Archousa Celeste and has two children.

*Archon Kevin B. Wiggins
Gapter, Alpha Epsilon Boulé*

Two Medical Doctors Join Alpha Theta Boulé



ARCHON COURTNEY W. HOUCHEN

Oklahoma City's Alpha Theta Boulé welcomed two stellar new Archons on December 18, 2022, in conjunction with the annual holiday gala.

Archon Courtney W. Houchen is the George Lynn Cross Research Professor, the Eason Chair of Oncology, and chief of digestive diseases and nutrition in the department of medicine at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. Much of his research has focused on the fight against pancreatic cancer, for which he has received grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute. A native of Brooklyn, Archon Houchen earned a B.S. in zoology from Howard University, an M.S. in cell biology from Atlanta University and an M.D. from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, where his passion for research was ignited. He and his Archousa, Collette, have two sons and reside in Edmond, Oklahoma. Archon Houchen is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.



ARCHON RONALD R. MAGEE

Archon Ronald R. Magee is a vascular surgeon on the staff of the Oklahoma Heart Hospital, South Medical Office Building and Vein Center South. He also conducts clinics in Ada, Lawton and Shawnee, Oklahoma. A native of Waco, Texas, and raised in Dallas, Archon Magee earned a B.S. from Washington and Lee University and his M.D. from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He completed his internship and surgical residency at Brown University, where he was the executive chief resident. Archon Magee completed a fellowship in vascular surgery at Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital. He and his Archousa, Pamela, live in Edmond and are the proud parents of five children, two of whom have chosen the medical profession for their careers. Archon Magee also serves in the military reserves.

*Archon Norman A. Jason, Jr.
Grapter, Alpha Theta Boulé*

Alpha Iota Boulé Welcomes Four New Members



Columbia, South Carolina's Alpha Iota Boulé added four new members to its illustrious brotherhood during its winter gala on February 18, 2023.

Archon Gary B. Bell is a board-certified internal medicine physician at Prisma Health. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the South Carolina Medical Association and Long Creek Church of Christ, where he is a deacon. Archon Bell received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy and his M.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina. He completed his internship and residency at Medical University Hospital. Archon Bell is married to Archousa Benetta Marie Gadegbeku-Bell and has three children.

Archon Tyrone K. Corbin is an assistant coach with the NBA's Charlotte Hornets. A former head coach of the Utah Jazz, he has also held coaching-staff positions with the Sacramento Kings, Orlando Magic and Phoenix Suns basketball teams. In addition, Archon Corbin played professional basketball for sixteen years with teams such as the San Antonio Spurs and the Utah Jazz after playing for DePaul University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in computer science. He is married to Archousa Dante LaFaye Corbin and has two children.

Archon Clifton Newman is a judge on the South Carolina Circuit Court and an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law. He is a member of the South Carolina Bar, the American College of Business Court Judges, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the I. DeQuincey Newman United Methodist Church. Archon Newman received his undergraduate degree from Cleveland State University and his J.D. from the Cleveland State University College of Law. He is married to Archousa Patricia Lynette Newman and has four children.

Archon Justin T. Williams is a commissioner with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. He is a member of the South Carolina Bar, the South Carolina Black Lawyers Association, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Downtown Church. He earned a B.A. in public relations from the University of South Carolina, a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Archon Williams is married to Archousa Stacy Ayers Williams and has one child.

*Archon Darrin D. Thomas
Grapter, Alpha Iota Boulé*

Alpha Kappa Boulé Greets Two New Archons



NEW ARCHONS RAUL VAZQUEZ AND TIMOTHY HOGUES

Buffalo's Alpha Kappa Boulé inducted two Archons at the Buffalo Club on December 17, 2022.

Archon Timothy Hogues is president of the New York State Civil Service Commission and commissioner of the state's Department of Civil Service, a position for which Governor Kathy Hochul nominated him in April 2022. The commission incorporates and modifies rules governing a variety of civil service issues; it also evaluates appeals on matters including examination and position qualifications, pay grade determinations and disciplinary measures. He was previously commissioner of the Erie County Department of Personnel, where he oversaw programs and services supporting the recruitment, hiring and retention of local government and school district employees in the New York county.

Archon Hogues is dedicated to developing people and communities through mentoring, coaching, teaching, workshops and seminars. During his tenure as director of Elim Christian Fellowship's Boys 2 Men mentoring program, more than 90 percent of the participating young men graduated from high school and became active members of their community. As vice president of Investors Committed to Excellence, Archon Hogues has facilitated street-cleanup events and community walks, informing hundreds of people about educational and job opportunities and other services available in western New York. Archon

Hogues received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University at Buffalo.

Archon Raul Vazquez is a primary care physician; a philanthropist; the founder, president and CEO of the Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network (GBUAHN); and the founder and president of Urban Family Practice and Westside Urgent Care. At GBUAHN, he leads a team of dedicated medical and business professionals. Under his guidance, GBUAHN has grown to serve several thousand members and employs a staff of approximately 150. It is one of the largest employers of minorities in western New York.

The recipient of more than twenty awards for his accomplishments in business, medicine and advocacy, Archon Vazquez has sat on the boards of directors for diverse organizations, including Promesa, Inc., Upstate New York Transplant Services, HEAL-THelINK, WNED-TV, Hispanics United of Buffalo, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, and Bryant & Stratton College. He was also appointed to regional-development and medical-advisory councils and committees by former New York governors David Paterson and Andrew Cuomo. Archon Vazquez earned a B.S. in biology from Fordham University and his M.D. from the University at Buffalo's School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He completed a family-medicine residency program at Deaconess Hospital and Buffalo General Hospital.

Alpha Pi Boulé Salutes Its Nine New Leaders



San Diego's Alpha Pi Boulé welcomed nine new Archons into the Fraternity on March 9, 2023. The Archons represent a cross section of achievement in the community, and each of them is a leader in his profession.

Archon Rodney K. Carey is associate vice president and director of operations for the Neighborhood House Association, the largest social service nonprofit in San Diego County. He is also a Sigma Pi Phi legacy. Archon Carey earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Morehouse College.

Archon Joseph E. Cummings II is an ob-gyn with the U.S. Navy. He earned a B.S. in biology from Morehouse College and an M.D. from Meharry Medical College. Archon Cummings completed an internship at Eisenhower Army Medical Center and his obstetrics and gynecology residency at the Naval Medical Center San Diego.

Archon William Gillespie is a retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel and is currently a training analyst supervisor for Science Applications International Corp.

Archon Anthony Haile, Jr., is a certified engineering project manager at the Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific. He is also a board member of We Will Rise SD, a nonprofit whose mission is the empowerment of Black men. Archon Haile earned a B.S. in computer science, with a minor in math, from Morehouse College and a master of advanced studies degree in architecture-based enterprise-systems engineering at the University of California, San Diego.

Archon William Logan is a retired real estate attorney and the owner of Verada Properties, LLC, a family business that manages a large catalog of properties.

Archon Richard Vernon Moore, a third-generation Sigma Pi Phi legacy, is chief of educational equity and support services for Sweetwater Union High School



District. He previously held administrative positions at San Diego Unified School District. Archon Moore earned a B.A. in English and American studies from UCLA and both his M.A. in curriculum and instruction and his Ed.D. in educational leadership and administration from San Diego State University.

Archon Frederick K. Taylor is a partner at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves, & Savitch, LLP, with a practice that focuses on intellectual property, privacy and cybersecurity, and complex business litigation. He was previously a deputy city attorney for the city of San Diego. Archon Taylor graduated with honors from the University at Buffalo with a B.A. and earned a J.D. from the Golden Gate University School of Law.

Archon Donte T. Wyatt, Sr., is a solo-practitioner attorney specializing in criminal defense and a former deputy district attorney for San Diego County. He has sat on numerous boards and is an active member of

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, where he is a past pole-march of the San Diego Alumni Chapter. He earned a B.A. in political science and Africana studies from San Diego State University and his J.D. from California Western School of Law.

Archon Brenton D. Wynn, a Sigma Pi Phi legacy, is a board-certified physician in physical medicine and rehabilitation and the owner of the pain-management practice Wynn Over Pain. He earned a B.S. in physiological sciences from UCLA and earned his M.D. from Howard University College of Medicine. After a residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Stanford University Medical Center, Archon Wynn completed a fellowship in musculoskeletal medicine and interventional spine at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

*Archon Donte T. Wyatt, Sr.
Grapter, Alpha Pi Boulé*

Beta Beta Boulé Proudly Inducts Three New Archons



NEW ARCHONS QUINCY L. MILLER, PAUL FRANCISCO AND SERGE GEORGES, JR.

Boston's Beta Beta Boulé inducted three Archons prominent in global investing, regional banking and the state judiciary in a ceremony held February 18, 2023, at the Seaport Hotel Boston. The induction took place before Beta Beta's Sweetheart Ball.

Archon Paul Francisco is the senior vice president, chief diversity officer and head of workforce development at State Street Corp., a Fortune 500 company and the world's fourth-largest asset manager. He was previously a managing director and cofounder of Foster & Francisco, LLC, an executive-search and diversity-consulting firm, as well as a recruiting executive at Bank of America and a relationship manager at Fidelity Investments.

A cofounder of the New Commonwealth Racial Equity and Social Justice Fund earlier in his career, Archon Francisco was named one of *Boston Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 and appeared on its list of twenty Hispanic executives making a difference in the city. Boston's *El Planeta* newspaper has included him among the most influential Latinos in Massachusetts, and his numerous other honors include being cited by *Color Magazine* for his inclusive leadership. A former appointee to the state's Black Advisory Commission, Archon Francisco was inducted into the Executive Leadership Council in 2023 and sits on several boards focused on Black-student success and diversity in executive leadership. After earning a B.A.

in political science from Boston College, Archon Francisco played tight end for three years in the NFL and remains active in the New England Patriots' charitable work. He and Archousa Betty live with their two children – Sofia, 16, and Gisele, 13 – in Dorchester.

Archon Serge Georges, Jr., is a justice on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and teaches at Suffolk University Law School and the University of Massachusetts School of Law. He has practiced law in a solo practice and at several firms, including Barron & Stadfeld, P.C., where he became a partner. He also presided over the Dorchester Drug Court, an experience that he has called the most rewarding of his professional life.

"You see there are plenty of people who have just made mistakes and need some guidance to get back on their feet, stop committing crimes and become productive members of society," Archon Georges said. "I've seen the kind of miracles that come with sobriety, when people who have lost everything are able to reconnect with family, find employment and housing." When he was nominated to the judicial court, he received congratulations from some former drug court clients. "It's ironic they are calling to thank me," he says. "I feel I should be thanking them. This work has given me so much."

A former president of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, Archon Georges earned a bachelor's degree in English from Boston College and his law degree from Suffolk University Law School. He lives in Randolph, Massachusetts, with his Archousa, Michelle, and two daughters: Olivia, 12, and Samantha, 9.

Archon Quincy L. Miller is president of Eastern Bank, where he coleads its strategic planning and oversees consumer, business and institutional banking and wealth management. He was previously president of Citizens Bank. Long committed to equal opportunities for youths and the dispossessed, as well as helping families and institutions achieve their financial goals, he is a member of the Greater Boston

Food Bank emeriti board and chair emeritus of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts board of directors. His current board memberships include the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, Alliance for Business Leadership, Consumer Bankers Association and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts boards of directors. He is also a founding member and director of the New Commonwealth Racial Equity and Social Justice Fund.

Archon Miller's many accolades include recognition by the *Boston Business Journal* as a 40 Under 40 honoree, being named one of *Boston Magazine's* 100 Most Influential Bostonians, and receiving the MLK 50th Anniversary Award for his commitment to diversity and inclusion at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast. Archon Miller earned a bachelor's degree in economics and business from Lafayette College and also graduated from the Consumer Bankers Association's Graduate School of Retail Bank Management. He lives in Milton, Massachusetts, with his Archousa, Jenna, and daughters Taya and Kyla.

Archon Derrick Z. Jackson
Grapter, Beta Beta Boulé



Beta Xi Boulé Introduces Two New Archons



ARCHONS ALVIN COWANS AND RONALD NESBITT

Central Florida's Beta Xi Boulé welcomed two esteemed Archons on December 10, 2022.

Archon Ronald Nesbitt is vice president of risk management at McCoy Federal Credit Union, where he is responsible for oversight of strategic initiatives and regulatory compliance related to risks regarding credit, interest rates, liquidity, transactions, investments, operations and corporate reputation. He also oversees information technology and cybersecurity. Prior to joining McCoy, Archon Nesbitt was an attorney in private practice, focusing on public finance and tax matters pertaining to business sales, acquisitions and reorganizations, and securities disclosures. Archon Nesbitt sits on the boards of directors of Aspire Health Partners, where he is the finance committee chair and treasurer; Goodwill Industries of Central Florida; and the African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida, where he is a member of the executive committee. Archon Nesbitt has published several articles covering tax matters and is a regular speaker on access to capital, banking and health care business matters.

Archon Nesbitt earned a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, an LL.M. in taxation from the University of Florida's Levin College of Law and a J.D. from Florida A&M University College of Law. He is married to Archousa Nichelle S. Nesbitt.

Archon Leonard K. Spencer is senior manager of supplier engagement for Amazon, where he was



ARCHONS LEONARD K. SPENCER AND BRIAN BUTLER

integral in developing the Amazon Global Procurement Organization's team for supplier diversity and inclusion. He has also directed key growth initiatives, as well as strategies for vendor sustainability and diversity, at the Walt Disney Co. and GE. Archon Spencer led the team that launched the Orlando Economic Partnership's first-ever diversity, equity and inclusion corporate pledge. He is president of the Winter Park Achievement Foundation, which provides mentorship, career training and scholarships for young people in Central Florida, and a past chair of the Supplier Diversity Leadership Council for the Conference Board. He has also led workshops for the National Minority Supplier Development Council, the Women's Business Enterprise National Council and the Orlando Economic Partnership's Black Boardroom Leadership Institute.

Archon Spencer's numerous honors include being recognized as a social justice game changer by the Orlando Magic and as a diversity champion by *DiversityPlus Magazine*. He is a member of the Leadership Orlando Class 98 and was class chair. Archon Spencer earned a B.S. in finance from Tuskegee University and an M.B.A. from the University of Alabama. He lives in Orlando with Archousa Tanya and is the father of two adult children.

*Archon Jude H. Wilson
Gapter, Beta Xi Boulé*

Gamma Epsilon Boulé Announces the Induction of Six New Members



ARCHONS CHARLES HARVEY, BRIAN SOUBLET, SCOTT SYPHAX AND JOSE BODIPO-MEMBA

Cedric Barrow attended his first induction ceremony with Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé on December 17, 2022. He was inducted three months earlier, in August, at the 56th Grand Boulé in Nassau, Bahamas. He is the second Gamma Epsilon Archon to be inducted at a Grand Boulé. Four Archons were inducted at Gamma Epsilon Boulé's annual Christmas event, held at the beautiful Sutter Club. A fifth Archon, Richard T. Jennings II, was inducted at the boulé's first business meeting of the year on January 20, 2023.

Archon Cedric Barrow is a staff psychiatrist at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville, California. He received a B.A. in biology from Morgan State University, where he lettered in basketball as a student-athlete. He earned a D.O. from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency in psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College

of Medicine. Archon Barrow is married to Archousa Rahel Barrow and is the father of three.

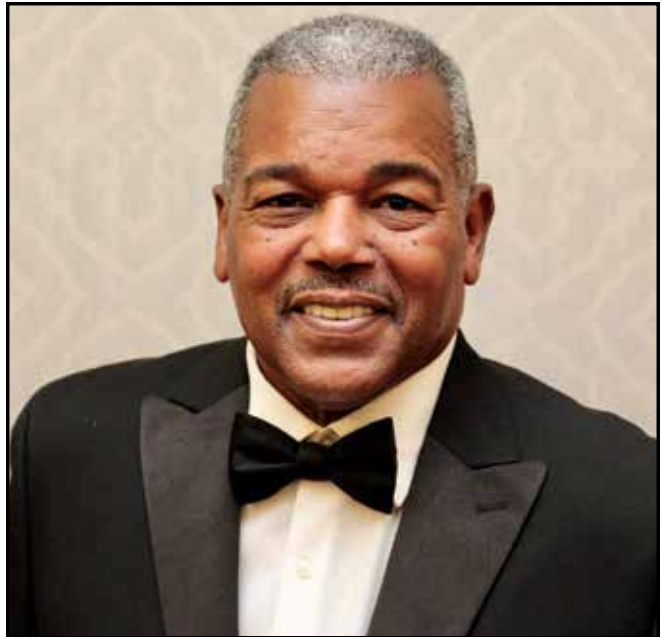
Archon Jose Bodipo-Memba is a thirteen-year veteran of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and is currently chief diversity officer; he was previously director of sustainable communities. The longtime environmental consultant is a member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Sacramento executive committee and chair of ULI's Building Healthy and Equitable Places Initiative. A former high school teacher and basketball coach, Archon Bodipo-Memba earned a B.A. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and an M.B.A. from Drexel University's LeBow College of Business. He is a proud first-generation American whose parents are of Equatorial Guinean and Tanzanian descent, and he and his siblings grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. Archon Bodipo-Memba is married to Archousa Brooke.



ARCHON CEDRIC BARROW

Archon Charles Harvey is senior manager of government relations at Ecolab, a global sustainability leader. He was previously a senior director at Kearns & West, a strategic communications firm. He has also held legislative staff positions at the California State Assembly and was deputy attorney general at the California Department of Justice. Archon Harvey earned a B.A. in business administration and Spanish from Morehouse College and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School. He and Archousa Le Ondra Clark Harvey – who is CEO of the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies – have two sons, ages 5 and 3.

Archon Richard “Rick” T. Jennings II is a member of the Sacramento City Council, representing District 7. He was first elected in 2014 and is currently serving his third term. Archon Jennings is also CEO of the Center for Fathers and Families, an organization founded as a resource for at-risk youths and families. It provides after-school tutorial programs and assists adults with classes on parenting, anger management, domestic violence and health education. Archon Jennings was also a member of the Sacramento City Unified School District board of directors for twelve years. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Maryland, he was drafted by the NFL’s then–Oakland Raiders (now the Los Angeles Raiders), with whom he won a



ARCHON RICK JENNINGS

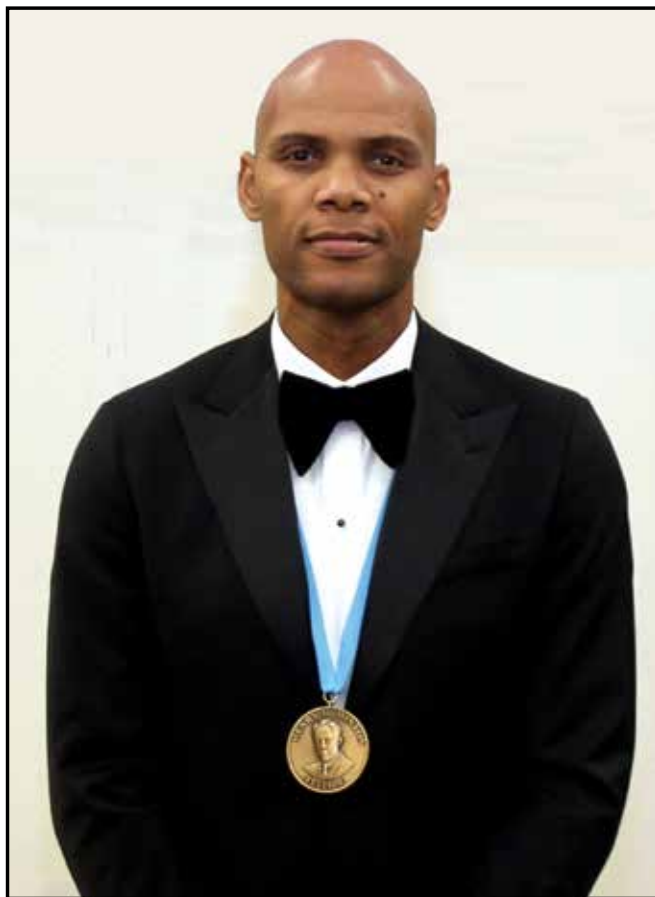
Super Bowl ring in 1978. He and Archousa Cassandra Jennings are the proud parents of two children.

Archon Brian G. Souble is a semiretired attorney. He was the first African American general counsel for the California Department of Insurance and the California Department of Motor Vehicles and represented the state of California on homogeneous-vehicles implementation to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Archon Souble received his B.A. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and his J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law. He is a widower and has two adult children.

Archon Scott C. Syphax is president and CEO of Syphax Strategic Solutions, a management consulting company. He is also the host of KVIE’s *Studio Sacramento*, for which he received an Emmy Award in 2014. Archon Syphax founded the Nehemiah Emerging Leaders Program in 2009 as chairman and CEO of the Nehemiah Corp. of America. Born in Detroit and raised in Sacramento, he earned his B.A. in urban land-use planning and real estate development from California State University, Sacramento. He was also an executive fellow at the Coro Foundation. He and his Archousa, Celestine Syphax, are the proud parents of three children.

*Archon Archie K. James
Grapter, Gamma Epsilon Boulé*

Delta Gamma Boulé Congratulates Its Two New Archons



ARCHON HERMAN J. FELTON

Tyler, Texas's Delta Gamma Boulé inducted two outstanding Archons on December 10, 2022, at the Majestic Event Center.

Archon Herman J. Felton is president and CEO of Wiley College, home of “the Great Debaters,” immortalized in the movie of the same name starring Denzel Washington. He was previously president of Wilberforce University and senior vice president, chief operating officer and vice president of institutional advancement for Livingstone College. Archon Felton started his career in higher education as director of development at Murray State University while serving as a lecturer in the government, law and international-affairs department.

Archon Felton earned his Ph.D. in higher education supervision and administration from Jackson State University, his J.D. from the Levin College of Law at the University of Florida and a B.A. in political science from Edward Waters University. He is a cofounder of the Higher Education Leadership Foundation, which is committed to strengthening the pipeline of transformational, highly skilled and principled leaders to meet the needs, challenges and opportunities facing HBCUs. Archon Felton also served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years.



ARCHON LUTHER JOHNSON

Archon Luther Johnson is an adjunct professor of business law at the Austin Community College District. He has more than thirty years of experience in the management of human resources programs; nineteen of those years were at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was director of employee relations and HR compliance, a legal liaison, and an assistant director of human resources with Facilities Services. He retired from UT Austin in 2016.

Originally from Tyler, Archon Johnson is a graduate of Texas A&M University–Commerce (formerly East Texas State University), where he received a bachelor's degree in political science. He also earned his J.D. from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Archon Johnson and his Archousa, Susan, live in Round Rock, Texas, and have two adult daughters – Stacie and Lana – and one grandson, Lacey. Archon Johnson is a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and enjoys having family dinners and playing golf.

*Archon Gregory O. Littlefield
Grapter, Delta Gamma Boulé*

Maurice Slaughter Is the Newest Member of Delta Pi Boulé



ARCHON MAURICE SLAUGHTER

Although he was formally inducted, with Archon Lew Anderson as his sponsor, into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity at the 56th Grand Boulé in Nassau, Bahamas, in August 2022, an outstanding Archon gathered for the first time with fellow Archons of Pensacola, Florida's Delta Pi Boulé at the renowned Fish House on November 23, 2022.

Archon Maurice Slaughter is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he distinguished himself at Southern University and A&M College, and where he and his three brothers were collectively known as "the Slaughter Boys." After earning a B.S. in computer science, he went on to complete his M.B.A. in business and finance at Clark Atlanta University. Archon Slaughter parlayed his educational experience into many successful enterprises, including a Burger King franchise in Kansas City, Missouri; a Toyota Car dealership in Pensacola; and a historical-restoration company, where he was CEO, earning a

Golden Hammer Award from the city of New Orleans. Subsequently, he became the first Black Harley-Davidson franchise owner in 1998 and now owns and manages franchises in Portsmouth, Virginia; Harbinger, Nags Head and Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina; and Gaithersburg, Maryland. His dealerships have won numerous national awards for customer service and management.

A lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and a member of the National Association of Guardsmen, Archon Slaughter has sat on several boards, including that of the National Association of Minority Auto Dealers as well as the Old Dominion University board of visitors. He resides in Pensacola with his Archousa and business partner, Cynthia; two children: Will and Tiara; and a grandchild, Chase.

*Archon Wilmoth H. Baker III
Grapter, Delta Pi Boulé*

Delta Sigma Boulé Adds Reuben C. Rutland to Its Roster



South Suburban Chicago's Delta Sigma Boulé welcomed an esteemed new Archon into its ranks on December 10, 2022, at the Union League Club of Chicago. Sire Archon William Payne presided over the ceremony.

Archon Reuben C. Rutland is co-owner and COO of Premier Urgent Care and Occupational Health Center, the first entirely Black-owned urgent care center in Chicago. He is also chief of trauma surgery and vice chief of surgery at Methodist Hospitals in Gary and Merrillville, Indiana. Archon Rutland is a cofounder and member of the board of directors of Project Outreach and Prevention Foundation, a nonprofit aimed at reducing bullying and inspiring an interest in health-related careers among high school students while helping them apply to college and make better life choices. He is also a member of the American College of Surgeons and the National Medical Association.

Archon Rutland earned a B.S. in biological sciences at Tennessee State University and an M.D. from Meharry Medical College. He subsequently served as a battalion medical officer in the U.S. Navy and completed his general-surgery residency at St. Mary's Hospital, as well as postdoctoral research at the Yale School of Medicine. Archon Rutland also completed a fellowship in trauma surgery and surgical critical care at Hartford Hospital, a Level I Trauma Center, and earned an M.B.A. from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. He and Archousa Flor Sanchez have three children: Tyler, Carsyn and Reuben II.

*Archon Victor A. Terry
Grapter, Delta Sigma Boulé*

Willie Orr, Jr., Becomes Delta Chi Boulé's Newest Archon



ARCHON WILLIE ORR, JR.

Orangeburg, South Carolina's Delta Chi Boulé officially welcomed and presented an outstanding new Archon during its winter gala at the Sulit Luxe Affairs on February 3, 2023.

Archon Willie "J.J." Orr, Jr., is a prominent financial adviser with Edward Jones. He has several "firsts" to his credit, including being the first African American city administrator for Estill, South Carolina, and the first African American CFO of the Hampton County School District 2 in South Carolina. Archon Orr is also chairman of the board of directors for

the Low Country Rural Health Education Consortium. Among the numerous awards he has received as a financial adviser are the Client Development Award, the Prospecting Award, the Zeke McIntyre Pioneer Award and the Ed Armstrong Achievement Award. Archon Orr earned his B.A. in political science from the University of South Carolina and an M.B.A. in corporate finance from Webster University. Archon Orr is married to Archousa Patrice Orr.

*Archon W. Franklin Evans
Grapter, Delta Chi Boulé*

Delta Psi Boulé Expands With Seven New Archons



ARCHONS RON WALCOTT, TERRY M. POWERS, JR., MATTHEW McRAE III, BARKLEY BARTON II, ROBERT TUCKER, DONAVAN A. GOWDIE AND JAMES A. APPIAH-PIPPIM.

Delta Psi Boulé of Athens, Georgia, inducted seven extraordinary Archons on December 17, 2022, at the home of Archon Matthew McRae and Archousa Barbara McRae. Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III attended the induction ceremony. Immediately afterward, the Archons and Archousai held the first Delta Psi Christmas gala since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. Attendees enjoyed a delicious catered meal and live musical entertainment. In addition, as part of the festivities, all Archousai were provided with special Christmas gifts selected by the Archons of Delta Psi.

Archon James A. Appiah-Pippim is a professor of medicine at Augusta University and at the University of Georgia–Augusta University Medical Partnership, where he is also the site clerkship director of critical care medicine. He is a pulmonologist, intensivist and internist at Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital, where he is program director of the transitional-year residency. Archon Appiah-Pippim was named Physician of the Year in the Greater Bridgeport area in 2014 and won an Educator of the Year Award in 2018. A member of the Alpha Omega Alpha medical society, he has published twenty peer-reviewed articles and has delivered more than 150 presentations at local, national and international meetings.

Archon Appiah-Pippim obtained his M.D. from the University of Ghana Medical School and received

residency training in internal medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital and Johns Hopkins University. He specialized in pulmonary and critical care medicine and occupational medicine at Yale New Haven Hospital. Archon Appiah-Pippim also earned an M.P.H. from the Yale School of Public Health. He and Archousa Catherine have three children: James III, a business lawyer; Georgina, a pediatrician; and Melissa, a master's student in global management.

Archon Barkley Barton II is director of undergraduate admissions at the University of Georgia, where he oversees recruiting, admissions and enrollment of students to cultivate a highly qualified, talented and diverse student body. He has twenty-one years of experience in higher education and is a strong supporter of community collaboration and inclusion. Archon Barton has previously held executive positions in admissions offices at universities including the University of Notre Dame; the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; and the University of North Carolina at its Chapel Hill and Asheville campuses. He began his career at Clark Atlanta University as an admissions counselor. Archon Barton earned a B.A. in mass communications from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and an M.S. in higher education administration from Bay Path University.

Archon Donovan A. Gowdie is CEO and owner of the Foot and Ankle Treatment Center. A native of

Jamaica, he has more than twenty years of experience in podiatric medicine and practices in Athens and Watkinsville, Georgia. He was previously a foot-and-ankle surgeon at Albany Area Primary Health Care. A diplomate of the American Board of Podiatric Medicine and the American Board of Wound Management, Archon Gowdie is a member of the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association and the American Podiatric Medical Association. In addition, he is a member of the Rotary Club of Oconee County board, the Oconee Chamber of Commerce and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Archon Gowdie earned a bachelor's degree in biology and political science from Rutgers University and a doctorate in podiatric medicine from the New York College of Podiatric Medicine. He and Archousa Stalina have two children: Janiya and Noah.

Archon Matthew McRae III is the senior dental administrator at McRae Family Dental and CEO of McRae Management Solutions. He was instrumental in expanding the McRae Family Dental business to multiple locations in Athens. Archon McRae sits on various boards in the community, including the College of Athens board of trustees, and is an active member of the Rotary Club of Athens. He is also a member of the leadership team for the Classic Center's Elevate campaign, whose mission is to expand the center's education, music and entertainment programming. An active member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Archon McRae is currently vice basileus of the Zeta Beta Beta Chapter. He earned a B.S. and an M.S. from Mississippi State University. Archon McRae and his Archousa, Heather McRae, have two children: Matthew IV and Madison.

Archon Terry M. Powers, Jr., is a general dentist with fifteen years of dental experience who is a strong believer that improving one's oral health will improve one's overall health. He currently practices at Dental Care of Braselton, which is affiliated with Heartland Dental, the nation's largest dental service organization, where he is a mentor to newly affiliated doctors in the northeast Georgia region. He earned a B.S. in biology, with a minor in chemistry, from Claflin University and his D.M.D. from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. Archon Powers has furthered his studies in dentistry by achieving fellowship status with the International Dental Implant Association and is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

He was named one of Claflin University's Outstanding Leaders Under 40 in 2020. Archon Powers and Archousa Shanell L. McGoy have two children: Terry III and Teryn.

Archon Robert Tucker is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice in the Athens area, where he provides mental health counseling to address a variety of issues, including trauma, depression, anxiety and family-relationship issues. Archon Tucker, who earned an M.S.W. from the University of Georgia, is active with several local philanthropic and social organizations, including the Morton Theatre, where he volunteers and is a past president of the board of directors, and Historic Athens, where he is a member of the board of trustees. He serves faithfully at Ebenezer Baptist Church West, where he applies his bachelor's degree in dramatic arts from the University of South Alabama to write and develop programming through the creative-arts ministry. Archon Tucker's proudest moment was when he married his Archousa, Michele Pearson Tucker, who is a financial adviser with Edward Jones and a cofounder of the Minority Business and Nonprofit Association.

Archon Ron Walcott is the vice provost for graduate education and dean of the University of Georgia Graduate School. He is also a professor of plant pathology in the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and president of the American Phytopathological Society. Archon Walcott is a leading expert in the study of microorganisms that infect and cause disease in the seeds of plants. He is also passionate about recruiting Black and brown students into STEM disciplines and exposing underrepresented minority students to agriculture-related sciences and technology-based careers. A former assistant dean for diversity at UGA CAES, he directed the Young Scholars Program summer high school internship and facilitated significant increases in the enrollment of underrepresented minority students. Archon Walcott, who is originally from Barbados, earned his B.S. and M.S. in plant pathology from Iowa State University and his Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Georgia. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and is married to Archousa Yvette.

*Archon Arthur Hinton, Jr.
Gapter, Delta Psi Boulé*

Epsilon Beta Boulé Announces the Addition of Four New Members



NEW ARCHONS MADISON GUNTER, HENRY GUSMAN, DARRYL SLADDEN AND KEVIN HART

Contra Costa County, California's Epsilon Beta Boulé welcomed four talented Archons into the Fraternity in a ceremony held on December 10, 2022, at the Archer Hotel before the Christmas Is for the Archousai party. Sire Archon Spencer Tyrus led the induction, which Pacific Region Sire Archon Michael G. Keeley and Past Grand Sire Archons Robert L. Harris and Rodney J. Reed also attended.

Archon Madison Gunter III is the director of supplier diversity and supplier sustainability programs for Salesforce and led the establishment of the Racial Equality and Justice Task Force. Programs and initiatives under his leadership include an accelerated-payment program for small businesses, a mentorship and sponsorship program for Black business owners, an initiative for free software licenses and support services for small and diverse businesses, an HBCU internship program, an initiative to spend \$100 million on Black businesses over three years, and a program to increase the number of Black female suppliers.

Prior to Salesforce, Archon Gunter was a manager at Cisco Systems, where, over eighteen years, he applied his expertise in diversity, equity and inclusion, with a focus on supplier diversity, sales-channel diversity, supplier sustainability and impact on underserved communities. He has a B.A. from California State University, Chico, and an M.B.A. from Santa Clara University's Leavey School of Business.

Archon Henry Gusman is chief audit executive at Stanford University, where he is responsible for internal audit at the university, Stanford Health Care, Stanford Medicine Children's Health, the Stanford School of Medicine, the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory and Stanford Management Co. He was previously vice president of internal audit and financial compliance at URS Corp. He has also held leadership audit positions at Lockheed, Grant & Smith, LLP, and the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, Archon Gusman is president of his own tax-preparation and accounting firm. He has lectured at Stanford, among other speaking and consulting engagements, and has sat on numerous nonprofit boards.

A member of organizations including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Institute of Internal Auditors and the National Association of Black Accountants, Archon Gusman is also a member of the United Cerebral Palsy of the Golden Gate board of directors, as well as audit committee chair and treasurer. He holds a B.S. in accounting from California State University, East Bay.

Archon Kevin Hart is senior vice president of strategic development and technology for northern California in the information technology department of Kaiser Permanente. His career as a strategic leader spans more than twenty-five years and includes leadership roles in multiple industries, including engi-

neering, procurement and construction, or EPC, as well as manufacturing and high technology. Archon Hart has led cross-functional, virtual teams that designed, implemented and managed technology services to provide Fortune 500 companies and start-ups with a competitive advantage. He began his career at Bechtel Corp., where he was senior manager of corporate collaborative systems and worked in multiple engineering and technology management positions.

Archon Hart earned a B.S. in mathematics, with a minor in electrical engineering, from the University of Maryland. He has also participated in Harvard Business School's Executive Education Programs and the Center for Creative Leadership's Leadership Development Program.

Archon Darryl Sladden is a senior product manager at Google and is currently working on the cutting edge of Google Voice technology with Google Assistant, a technology available on more than 1 billion devices worldwide. He has also provided input

for Google's Pixel 6 Android phone's color-adaptive themes to better reflect darker skin tones. In addition, Archon Sladden is an angel investor with the Black Angel Group. He previously worked for Cisco Systems, where he developed several important technologies, including some of the original Cisco VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) technology. He has won the Cisco Pioneer Award for Hyperlocation, a technology that accurately determines location indoors without GPS by using Wi-Fi signals. Archon Sladden has also worked at the Royal Bank of Canada and founded his own company, CallWorks.

Archon Sladden obtained a bachelor of mathematics degree, with majors in accounting and information systems, from the University of Waterloo and obtained a certified management accountant designation in Canada.

Archon Willie Lott, Jr.

Chapter, Epsilon Beta Boulé

Scott Thayer Joins Epsilon Tau Boulé



ARCHON SCOTT THAYER

Epsilon Tau Boulé of the Inland Empire of Southern California inducted an outstanding advocate for students pursuing higher education on December 19, 2022.

Archon Scott Thayer has held various executive leadership positions – including interim president, vice president, dean and assistant dean – during his more than twenty-five years in the California Com-

munity Colleges (CCC) system, with tenures at San Bernardino Valley, Cuyamaca, Pasadena City and Los Angeles Southwest colleges. He is also a part-time faculty member of San Diego State University's Community College Leadership program.

An advocate for historically underrepresented students, Archon Thayer has secured more than \$5 million in grant funding to help students pursue higher education. He has also been a strategic enrollment management coach through the CCC Chancellor's Office Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative, as well as a member of CCC's Partnership Resource Teams, which support student-access and equity initiatives. Archon Thayer is a founding member of nonprofit organizations Have Faith, Be Strong, focused on childhood-cancer awareness, and the African American Male Education Network and Development.

After earning an A.A. in liberal studies from Normandale Community College, where he led the baseball team to two state championships, Archon Thayer received a scholarship to continue playing baseball at Rollins College, where he earned his B.A. in psychology. He went on to complete an M.A. in counseling and guidance at Point Loma Nazarene University and his Ed.D. in higher education administration and leadership from the University of Southern California. Archon Thayer and Archousa Maria have two daughters: Maya and Marisol.

Archon Marcus K. Funchess

Chapter, Epsilon Tau Boulé

Epsilon Psi Boulé Celebrates the Induction of Gerard Robinson



NEW ARCHON GERARD ROBINSON

Epsilon Psi Boulé of Charlottesville, Virginia, inducted an exceptional Archon into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity on February 18, 2023, in a ceremony at the Boar's Head Resort that was presided over by Sire Archon Paul C. Harris, Sr. His Archousa, Carol, led an information session for the new Archousa, where Epsilon Pi's Archousai also welcomed her into the fold. Representing the Southeast Region at the induction ceremony was Southeast Regional Rhetoricos Gregory Hillman of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé. Epsilon Psi was set apart from Alpha Beta on August 2, 2019. The induction ceremony was followed by a reception and banquet, during which attendees were entertained with live jazz music. All participating and attending Archons and their lovely Archousai thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the best of one

another in the beautiful setting, with the festivities continuing with libations and great conversation late into the night at the Epsilon Psi hospitality suite.

Archon Gerard Robinson is a fellow of practice at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. He is the coeditor of two books – *Education for Liberation: The Politics of Promise and Reform Inside and Beyond America's Prisons* and *Education Savings Accounts: The New Frontier in School Choice* – and the author of public policy briefs and more than one hundred op-eds. Archon Robinson, who has been quoted in *Forbes*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*, has spoken before academic, government and corporate audiences in the United States as well as at Oxford University and the University of Edinburgh. He is the former secretary of education for the commonwealth of Virginia and former commissioner of education for the state of Florida.

Archon Robinson is a member of several national boards, including the governing board of iCivics, a nonprofit founded by former U.S. Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor that is dedicated to reinvigorating civics learning. He received his A.A. from El Camino College, a B.A. in philosophy from Howard University and his Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Archon Robinson and Archousa Kimberly J. Robinson have three children: Kamaria, Sienna and Naomi.

*Archon A. Benjamin Spencer
Grapter, Epsilon Psi Boulé*

PHOTO CORRECTION



EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ NEW ARCHON JEHAD D. SHAMWELL

Page 70 of the spring 2023 Boulé Journal displayed an incorrect photograph of Archon Jehad D. Shamwell. The correct photograph appears here.



KUDOS & COMMENDATIONS

BETA IOTA BOULÉ ARCHON EARL E. EXUM CHAIRS STEERING COMMITTEE FOR TUSKEGEE AIRMEN EXHIBIT.



Randy Adams

Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé Archon Randy Adams received the 2023 First 100 Trailblazer Award from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry on February 25, 2023. Archon Adams was one of the first two residents of the VCU School of Dentistry's restarted residency program for pediatric dentistry in 1978. He received his undergraduate degree from Hampton University and his doctor of dental surgery degree from Howard University.



Dwayne L. Allen

Cross Country Healthcare, Inc., appointed Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Archon Dwayne L. Allen to its board of directors, effective January 3, 2023. In addition to his board appointment, on February 17, 2023, Archon Allen received the Florida CIO ORBIE in the Global category at the Florida CIO ORBIE Awards. The award honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership.



Clarence Armbrister

Archon Clarence "Clay" Armbrister of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé was selected for the *Charlotte Business Journal* Power 100 on September 30, 2022. The Power 100 highlights the leaders who are driving the Charlotte area's growth into its next stage. Archon Armbrister became the fourteenth president of Johnson C. Smith University on January 1, 2018. He has served in senior administrative and leadership positions at Temple University, Johns Hopkins University, Girard College and the School District of Philadelphia.





Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr., and Craig A. Dixon

In January 2023 Archons Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr., and Craig A. Dixon of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, opened their third St. James Performance Club in Bethesda, Maryland, in the Greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The St. James Performance Club Bethesda is a 50,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art fitness and wellness center with cutting-edge training equipment and programs, as well as a wellness bar, infrared sauna, steam rooms, cold plunge pool, lap pool, cryotherapy, IV infusion therapy and compression boots.



Jonathan C. Augustine

Congratulations to Archon Jonathan C. Augustine of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé for being featured on C-SPAN's Book TV as a closeout to the observance of Black History Month. Archon Augustine's February 26, 2023, appearance consisted of a presentation on his book *Called to Reconciliation: How the Church Can Model Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion*, published by Baker Publishing Group in February 2022. His new book *When Prophets Preach: Leadership and the Politics of the Pulpit* was published by Fortress Press on March 28, 2023.



Edward H. Baine

Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé Archon Edward H. "Ed" Baine, president of Dominion Energy Virginia, was inducted into the 2023 Black Engineer of the Year Hall of Fame in February 2023. Hall of fame inductees are selected based on their achievements in scientific and technical careers, federal and military service, and community engagement.



Calvin B. Ball III

Archon Calvin B. Ball III of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, was elected to a second term as Howard County executive on November 8, 2022. He is the first African American to hold this position. Archon Ball was also named the 2023 chair of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's board of directors, following a vote on January 20, 2023. Archon Ball served as vice chair in 2022.



Michael Barber

On February 7, 2023, Archon Michael Barber of Milwaukee's Beta Alpha Boulé was elected one of only 106 new and 2,420 current U.S. members of the National Academy of Engineering. He was elected in recognition of his leadership in developing diagnostic imaging and point-of-care devices in the global health care sector.



Thaddeus Bell

On January 27, 2023, Charleston, South Carolina's Gamma Lambda Boulé Archon Thaddeus Bell, an advocate for health equity, received the Medical University of South Carolina's (MUSC) Distinguished Alumni Award. A 1976 graduate of MUSC's College of Medicine, Archon Bell has dedicated his career to addressing health-care disparities and improving access to quality care for underserved communities. With degrees from South Carolina State University, Clark Atlanta University and Charleston Southern University, he is a flight surgeon certified by the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

Stephen Benjamin

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., named Columbia, South Carolina's Alpha Iota Boulé Archon Stephen Benjamin senior advisor and director of the White House Office of Public Engagement on February 27, 2023. Archon Benjamin was mayor of Columbia, South Carolina, from 2010 to 2021. He was also the seventy-sixth president of the United States Conference of Mayors and president of the African American Mayors Association. He is currently president and CEO of The Benjamin Firm, LLC.



Brian Black

In February 2023 Mindr recognized Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé Archon Brian Black as a role model and leader who is making a positive impact in the workplace. Director of diversity and inclusion for customer channels at Thermo Fisher Scientific, Archon Black was one of twenty people who received this recognition. Mindr highlighted Archon Black's proven record of helping organizations and people perform optimally through positive role modeling, executive-level guidance and informed leadership as well as Archon Black's strong legacy in community service, education, public policy and cultural transformations.



Jose Bodipo-Memba

Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé Archon Jose Bodipo-Memba was named one of the top twenty-five Latino change makers in the January 2023 issue of *The Sacramento Bee*. Additionally, Archon Bodipo-Memba began his new position as chief diversity officer of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District in December 2022. As chief diversity officer, he will primarily focus on creating an inclusive company culture to ensure that all voices and communities are heard.



Antonio Bowens

Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas's Delta Mu Boulé Archon Antonio Bowens was appointed to the editorial advisory board of *dvm360*, a national publication of the American Veterinary Medical Association. His appointment was announced in the publication's December 2022 issue. Archon Bowens is a veterinary neurology consultant for Bowens' Locum Veterinary Neurology & Neurosurgery Services in Fort Worth and is a professor of practice at the University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine in Oro Valley, Arizona.



Derric N. Boyd

Boyd Britton and Pope Wealth Management ranked twenty-second on *Forbes*'s Best-in-state Wealth Management Teams list, which was published on January 12, 2023. Archon Derric N. Boyd of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé is senior vice president, wealth management advisor and retirement benefits consultant on the Boyd Britten and Pope Wealth Management team. The inaugural Best-in-state Wealth Management Teams list was developed in collaboration with SHOOK Research and features more than 2,800 teams with cumulative assets of around \$4 trillion.



Wayman Britt

Archon Wayman Britt of Beta Omicron Boulé, Grand Rapids, shares his personal leadership journey and his belief in the need to build a society that matches the dream of civil rights leader Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., in his new book *Fulfilling the Dream: My Pathway to Leadership and Finding Purpose Through Serving Others*, which was published on October 14, 2022.





Roy Charles Brooks

Fort Worth Opera presented Archon Roy Charles Brooks of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, with a Lifetime Achievement Award on February 27, 2023, for his more than thirty years of dedicated service to the citizens of Tarrant County, which includes Fort Worth and Arlington, as the Tarrant County commissioner. The award honors his achievements, self-sacrifice and years of life-changing work for the benefit of the community.



Lloyd W. Brown II

On February 24, 2023, Westchester County, New York's Beta Zeta Boulé Past Sire Archon Lloyd W. Brown II, chief community reinvestment act officer and CRA regulatory group head for Citigroup, Inc., received the Heritage and Rising Stars awards from the Black Alumni Council of Columbia University. Archon Brown joined Citigroup in 2009 and is the firm's longest serving corporate CRA officer. He is a board member for CALIBR Global Leadership Network and the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders.



Nick Brown

Seattle's Alpha Omicron Boulé Archon Nick Brown, United States attorney for the Western District of Washington, led a delegation of more than thirty U.S. attorneys from across the country to commemorate the fifty-eighth anniversary of the Bloody Sunday march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, as well as the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Archon Brown and his fellow U.S. attorneys met with community and civil rights leaders March 4–6, 2023.



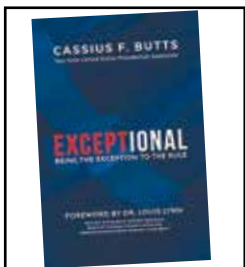
Pedro Bryant

Archon Pedro Bryant of Louisville, Kentucky's Psi Boulé was named executive vice president and senior business development executive at Republic Bank & Trust Co. in January 2023. In this position Archon Bryant is responsible for assisting in the growth of Republic Bank's commercial-lending and community-development initiatives across markets in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee and Florida. Archon Bryant joined Republic Bank in July 2020 as executive vice president and managing director of community lending.



Calvin Butts, Jr.

Sire Archon Calvin Butts, Jr., of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer–Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was honored by the Black Bourbon Society and Jack Daniel's on February 23, 2023, at the Richard Beavers Gallery in New York City for breaking barriers and building lasting legacies in New York City and beyond. Congratulations, Archon Butts!



Cassius F. Butts

Exceptional: Being the Exception to the Rule, a book by Atlanta's Kappa Boulé Archon Cassius F. Butts, was published on February 22, 2023. The book reveals fourteen life lessons to equip and challenge people as they chart their own paths to success. Archon Butts is an accomplished executive, business strategist and adviser who has served officials in the Bush, Obama, Trump and Biden administrations.

Kenny Carter, Jr.

In January 2023 Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Frisco reelected Archon Kenny Carter, Jr., of North Dallas, Texas's Zeta Beta Boulé to the medical executive committee. He was also elected vice chief of staff for the hospital and leader of the peer review committee. These positions, which are for two-year terms, demonstrate Archon Carter's prominent leadership impact at the hospital and among his peers.



Stephen L. Carter

As part of a February 23, 2023, Houston Business Journal publication commemorating Black-owned business leaders in the Greater Houston, Texas, area, Archon Stephen L. Carter of Fort Bend, Texas's Zeta Alpha Boulé was highlighted as a top CEO in an article titled "Behind the List: Meet Some of the Bayou City's Top Black-owned Business Leaders." Archon Carter is CEO and cofounder of Sterling Staffing Solutions, which he founded along with his twin brother, Archon Sterling Carter.



Alan C. Cason

Maryland's *The Daily Record* and the Maryland State Bar Association honor outstanding lawyers and judges annually through the Leaders in Law awards program. In March 2023 Archon Alan C. Cason of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé received the Lifetime Achievement award. The award honors lawyers whose careers have helped shape the legal landscape in Maryland and who have shown longstanding commitment to the community. Archon Cason is an attorney at McGuireWoods, LLP.



Kenneth B. Chance

On November 4, 2021, Case Western Reserve University established the Dean Kenneth B. Chance, DDS, Endowed Distinguished Lectureship at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine in honor of Cleveland's Tau Boulé Archon Kenneth B. Chance. It is the first endowed lectureship at the dental school since the school's inception in 1892. The inaugural lecture was presented on November 17, 2022.



Ronald C. Childs

Archon Ronald C. Childs of Northern Virginia's Beta Nu Boulé received the 2023 Distinguished Physician Leadership Award from Inova Health System's neurosciences service line on February 7, 2023. This award recognizes physicians for their leadership, service and dedication. Archon Childs practices orthopaedic spine surgery and has a particular interest and expertise in minimally invasive spinal surgery. Archon Childs was the first spine surgeon at OrthoVirginia, where he has been practicing since 1994.



Kieth Cockrell

On December 13, 2022, Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Kieth Cockrell was named chair of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance. Later, on March 4, 2023, he participated in the Dancing with the Stars of Charlotte Gala to benefit the Charlotte Ballet. Archon Cockrell was named president of Bank of America's Charlotte region in May 2021.





James O. Cole

In March 2023 the board of trustees of Talladega College voted unanimously to elect Miami, Florida's Alpha Rho Boulé Past Grand Sire Archon James O. Cole trustee emeritus. Archon Cole, a 1962 graduate of the college, wishes to thank Past Grand Sire Archon Gregory J. Vincent, Talladega College president; Archon Isaiah Hugley, chair of the board of trustees; Archousa Valerie D. Lewis, member of the board of trustees; and the other members of the board of trustees for this honor.



Richard Coleman

On January 3, 2023, Archon Richard Coleman of Phoenix's Gamma Mu Boulé was promoted to president of Axon's federal business. Archon Coleman joined Axon in 2018 and previously served as senior vice president and general manager of its federal sector. Prior to joining Axon, Archon Coleman held various leadership positions at General Dynamics Corp., including vice president of law enforcement systems and director of public safety programs.



Curtis L. Collier

Chattanooga's Gamma Pi Boulé Archon Curtis L. Collier and Archousa Cheryl Collier travelled from their home in Chattanooga to Chicago for Archon Collier to receive a prestigious award from the Tennessee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). On December 10, 2022, during the Tennessee chapter's annual meeting, ABOTA's national president and the president of the Tennessee chapter presented Archon Collier with the Judicial Excellence Award for 2022 in recognition of his strong leadership in civics education, outreach and judicial independence.



Kenneth J. Cooper

Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archon Kenneth J. Cooper was announced as editorial consultant to *The Bay State Banner* on March 1, 2023. He will guide the expansion of Boston's Black weekly into a multiplatform, multistate media outlet for New England. Archon Cooper, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, formerly of *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post* and WGBH News, got his start at another Black weekly, *The St. Louis American*. *The Bay State Banner* was founded in 1965 to cover Boston's struggles over busing, civil rights and urban renewal.



Alfonso Cornish

Louisville, Kentucky's Psi Boulé Archon Alfonso Cornish was named chairperson of Dare to Care's board of directors on February 16, 2023. Dare to Care's mission is to lead the Kentuckiana community to feed the hungry and conquer the cycle of need. Archon Cornish is the organization's first Black board chairperson. A living example of servant leadership, he serves on eighteen different boards and chairs or cochairs many of them.



Bruce Curry

The Tampa Bay Lightning of the National Hockey League honored Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Sire Archon-Elect Bruce Curry as their anthem guest prior to the game on January 26, 2023. For the past eighteen seasons, it has been a Lightning tradition to honor local members of the armed forces with an in-game salute.

Gerald Curry

Congratulations to Archon Gerald Curry of Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé for winning the 2023 Black Engineer of the Year Stars and Stripes Award, which honors both active and retired African American admirals, general officers and members of the Senior Executive Service. Archon Curry received the award during the 18th Annual Stars and Stripes Awards dinner on February 10, 2023. Archon Curry is director for the Air Force Review Boards Agency.



John W. Daniels, Jr.

Archon John W. Daniels, Jr., of Milwaukee's Beta Alpha Boulé was spotlighted by Bloomberg Law in "The Ground-breaking Life & Career of Big Law's First Black Chair," published on February 21, 2023. The interview covers Archon Daniels's journey from the segregated South to Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin, Harvard Law School and the heights of the legal profession, including becoming the first African American elected president of the prestigious American College of Real Estate Lawyers. The complete interview can be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFasR_H9ehA.



Willie A. Deese

Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Epsilon Gamma Boulé Archon Willie A. Deese received the NC Chamber's Distinguished Citizenship Award for outstanding service on March 22, 2023. Archon Deese led a successful forty-year career as a pharmaceutical executive before retiring as global president of manufacturing for Merck & Co., Inc. He is currently a member of the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs.



James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr.

Archon James H. DeGraffenreidt, Jr., of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Joseph R. Biden Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony held on January 13, 2023, in Washington, D.C. The Lifetime Achievement Award is part of the President's Volunteer Service Award program, the premier volunteer awards program encouraging citizens to live a life of service through presidential gratitude and national recognition. To receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, an individual must have completed 4,000 or more volunteer hours over a lifetime.



Keith Dempsey

On January 16, 2023, during Oregon State University's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Peace Breakfast, Archon Keith Dempsey of Portland, Oregon's Delta Phi Boulé received the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Alumni Legacy Award. According to OSU, the award recognizes alumni who "have demonstrated a deep and abiding commitment to causes of social justice, diversity, equity and inclusion and who exemplify and enrich OSU's values of community, diversity, respect and social responsibility in their broader community and/or organization."



Raymond C. Dempsey, Jr.

Savoy magazine named Archon Raymond C. Dempsey, Jr., of Northern Virginia's Beta Nu Boulé to its 2023 list of the most influential executives in diversity and inclusion on March 6, 2023. Archon Dempsey is the chief diversity officer for Barclays, a premier international bank, where he develops and implements the company's strategic initiatives for diversity and inclusion. Prior to joining Barclays, Archon Dempsey served as chief diversity officer for BP America and as president of the BP Foundation.





C. Douglas Dixon

On February 23, 2023, Westchester County, New York's County Executive George Latimer and Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins honored Westchester County's Beta Zeta Boulé Archon C. Douglas Dixon at the 2023 Trailblazers Awards Ceremony. Archon Dixon received the Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. Award for Civic Engagement from Westchester County for his outstanding record of civic engagement and outsized impact on the community.



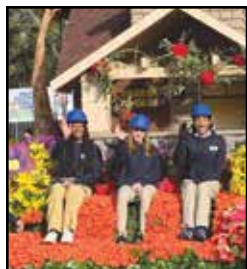
Paul L. Douglass

Atlanta's Kappa Boulé Past Sire Archon Paul L. Douglass received the Pamela S. Douglas Distinguished Award for Leadership in Diversity and Inclusion from the American College of Cardiology on March 6, 2023. The Georgia Chapter of the American College of Cardiology published an announcement about Archon Douglass's award: <https://mailchi.mp/pami/ga-accs-dr-paul-douglass-honored-with-acc-award?e=8da936e559>.



Duchesne Drew

On December 17, 2022, Archon Duchesne Drew was named Archon of the Year by Omicron Boulé, Minneapolis–St. Paul. The award was presented before 300 Archons and guests at the Omicron Boulé 100th Anniversary and Christmas Is for the Archousai celebrations held at the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot. Archon Drew is senior vice president of American Public Media Group and president of Minnesota Public Radio.



Raymond Ealy

Archon Raymond Ealy of Pasadena, California's Gamma Zeta Boulé is the founder and executive director of STEAM:CODERS, a nonprofit organization for disadvantaged and underrepresented middle and high school students of color. On January 2, 2023, two STEAM:CODERS students, junior builders Dana and Amanda, participated in the 2023 Rose Parade. The students rode on the BIASC "Building for the Future" float, which was sponsored by the Southern California Gas Co.



W. Franklin Evans

The Georgia State University Alumni Association presented five of its outstanding graduates with the organization's top honor – the Distinguished Alumni Award – during a ceremony in Atlanta on October 28, 2022. One of the recipients was Orangeburg, South Carolina's Delta Chi Boulé Grapter W. Franklin Evans, West Liberty University's thirty-seventh president. Archon Evans, who has achieved success in the field of higher education, is a highly skilled administrator, professor and K–12 practitioner with more than twenty-five years of experience in the field of education.



Earl E. Exum

In November 2022 Archon Earl E. Exum of Farmington Valley, Connecticut's Beta Iota Boulé agreed to chair the steering committee for the New England Air Museum's marquee exhibit *The Tuskegee Airmen: Their Untold Stories*. In November the steering committee organized a fundraiser titled "An Evening With Tuskegee Airmen," during which three Tuskegee Airmen reunited onstage to tell stories, with remarkable detail and clarity, about their experiences and lives. The *Hartford Courant* published an op-ed about the event.

Charles C. Flippen II

On January 3, 2023, Walnut–Diamond Bar, California’s Delta Xi Boulé Past Sire Archon Charles C. Flippen II began his tenure as the inaugural associate dean for the Center for Continuing Professional Development at the University of California, Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine. Archon Flippen will lead the center’s efforts in expanding scope and reach; introducing cutting-edge practices; and leveraging technology innovations, interprofessional initiatives, and equity, diversity, and inclusion education initiatives.



Howard A. Foard III

In February 2023 Charlotte, North Carolina’s Beta Delta Boulé Archon Howard A. Foard III received the 2023 Science Spectrum Trailblazer Award at the 37th Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) STEM Conference in National Harbor, Maryland. Administered by *US Black Engineer* magazine and the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the BEYA awards honor the exceptional achievements of those who have excelled in STEM fields.



Evan S. Frazier

On February 13, 2023, Pittsburgh’s Rho Boulé Archon Evan S. Frazier was named to *City & State Pennsylvania’s* Power of Diversity: Black 100, which honors the most influential Black leaders in Pennsylvania politics and beyond. Archon Frazier is president and CEO of The Advanced Leadership Institute. The mission of the institute is to cultivate Black executive leadership to strengthen companies, institutions and communities through various programming.



Ronald J. Freeman, Sr.

On March 2, 2023, Archon Ronald J. Freeman, Sr., of South Atlanta’s Epsilon Upsilon Boulé was honored at the Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service. On March 4, 2023, Archon Freeman was named to the 2023 Lawyers of Distinction, recognizing his professional excellence in the area of civil litigation. Epsilon Upsilon is proud to celebrate Archon Freeman’s outstanding accomplishments, as well as his body of work, passion and unwavering commitment to helping youths succeed in life.



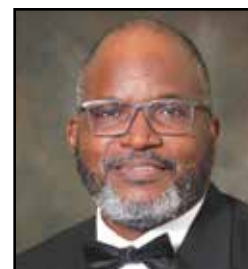
John Gibbons

Archon John Gibbons of Springfield, Massachusetts’s Beta Sigma Boulé was inducted into the American International College Hall of Fame on October 21, 2022, at the Henry A. Butova Gymnasium in Springfield. The first African American to serve as a United States marshal for the District of Massachusetts, Archon Gibbons retired after forty-two years of distinguished service. Additionally, Archon Gibbons was once a standout college athlete. His induction into the hall of fame recognized his outstanding student-athlete accomplishments.



Kenneth Gibbs

Archon Kenneth Gibbs of Durham, North Carolina’s Alpha Tau Boulé is the managing partner of Thomas & Gibbs CPAs, PLLC. On February 4, 2023, the firm received the Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce Longstanding Business Award. A certified public accountant, Archon Gibbs is a member of the North Carolina State Bar and the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants. He has served on North Carolina Central University’s board of trustees and the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority.





S. Bernard Goodwyn

On February 12, 2023, *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* selected Archon S. Bernard Goodwyn of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, as an inductee of the Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame Class of 2023. Archon Goodwyn is chief justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia.



Anthony Graham

On January 9, 2023, University of North Carolina System president Peter Hans announced the appointment of Archon Anthony Graham of Greensboro, North Carolina's Beta Epsilon Boulé as interim chancellor of Winston-Salem State University, effective July 1, 2023. The appointment follows the announced retirement of current WSSU chancellor Elwood L. Robinson, who has served as WSSU chancellor for eight years. Archon Graham has served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at WSSU since 2018.



James A. Gray, Jr.

On February 8, 2023, Archon James A. "Jimmy" Gray, Jr., of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, was selected to serve a second term as vice mayor of the city of Hampton by his peers on the Hampton City Council. Archon Gray has served on the Hampton City Council since 2016 and in November 2022 he was reelected for a four-year term.



Paul L. Griffin, Jr.

Dallas, Texas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé Archon Paul L. Griffin, Jr., was promoted to senior vice president of strategic urban initiatives at Amplify on March 1, 2023. Archon Griffin joined Amplify in February 2020 to lead the national partnership efforts between company sales leaders working with large urban accounts and superintendents across the country. Amplify is a private education company based in Brooklyn, leading the way in next-generation curricula in English language arts, science, math and assessment.



Javier F. Gutierrez

On January 15, 2023, the football coaches at George Washington Preparatory High School in Los Angeles renamed their annual Mr. Prep Award after Orange County, California's Epsilon Epsilon Boulé Sire Archon–Elect Javier F. Gutierrez. The award recognizes the high school's best all-around scholar-athlete who excels in the classroom, on the football field and in the community.



Rhoman Hardy

Archon Rhoman Hardy of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé joined Bernhard Capital Partners as an operating partner on January 30, 2023. He also serves on the board of directors of Brown & Root. Archon Hardy recently retired as Shell USA's senior vice president of chemicals and products for the U.S. Gulf Coast.

William R. Harvey

On February 28, 2023, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia’s Beta Lambda Boulé Archon William R. Harvey, a 1961 graduate of Talladega College, donated \$100,000 to Talladega College. Additionally, on February 23, 2023, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities honored Archon Harvey and Archousa Norma Harvey with the Distinguished Virginian Award in recognition of their efforts to promote a more inclusive Virginia. On February 24, 2023, Archon Harvey also received the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Jimmy Jenkins Legacy Award.



Leonard L. Haynes III

On February 21, 2023, Archon Leonard L. Haynes III of Suburban Maryland’s Beta Mu Boulé served as Jarvis Christian University’s Black History Month speaker at the Smith-Howard Chapel on JCU’s main campus. Archon Haynes is a former senior director with the United States Department of Education, a former HBCU president and a former executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



Michael P. Heiskell

On February 23, 2023, Archon Michael P. Heiskell of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, testified before the United States Sentencing Commission, an honor given to only a limited number of the nation’s legal minds. As president-elect of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Archon Heiskell gave the commission a “practitioner’s perspective” on the proposed amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines on acquitted conduct.



Marlon D. Henderson

Shreveport, Louisiana’s Delta Kappa Boulé Sire Archon–Elect Marlon D. Henderson, general dentist and owner of Henderson Dentistry, LLC, was installed as the ninety-ninth president of the National Dental Association during its presidential inauguration and scholarship gala held in Shreveport on November 18, 2022. Additionally, Archon Henderson received letters and proclamations from the Office of Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, the Louisiana State Senate and the City of Shreveport.



Chris Holden

On December 23, 2022, California State Assembly speaker Anthony Rendon reappointed Pasadena, California’s Gamma Zeta Boulé Archon Chris Holden as Pasadena assembly member and chair of the powerful California State Assembly Committee on Appropriations. Archon Holden is the first African American to chair the committee since it split from the California State Assembly Ways and Means Committee in 1995.



Michael and Marissa Horne

Dallas’s Alpha Epsilon Boulé Archon Michael Horne, president and CEO of the Parkland Foundation, and Archousa Marissa Horne, vice president of financial services, technology and data at Capital One, were named to *D CEO* magazine’s 2022 Dallas 500 and 2023 Dallas 500, respectively. The *D CEO* Dallas 500 issue is a special edition of the magazine that profiles the most influential leaders in North Texas, across a wide spectrum of industries.





Sean L. Huddleston

In January 2023 the HBCU Campaign Fund, a nonprofit organization that advocates for historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, named Archon Sean L. Huddleston of Indianapolis's Alpha Eta Boulé one of the ten most dominant HBCU leaders of 2023. Archon Huddleston is the president of Martin University, Indiana's only predominantly Black institution of higher learning.



Rameck Hunt

Mercer–Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania's Zeta Delta Boulé Archon Rameck Hunt coauthored the research article "Obesity Among African American People in the United States: A Review," which was published in *Obesity*, the official journal of The Obesity Society, on January 25, 2023. The article is available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/oby.23640>. In January, Archon Hunt was also named an executive producer on the television series *The Pact*, based on the book of the same name written by Archon Hunt, Sampson Davis, George Jenkins and Lisa Frazier Page.



Joe Hurd

On May 10, 2023, Archon Joe Hurd of San Francisco's Beta Upsilon Boulé commenced service as a nominated member of the Council of Lloyd's, the governing body for the Lloyd's Corp. Archon Hurd, a Silicon Valley-based technology executive, is the first Black member of the Council of Lloyd's in the 330-year history of the Lloyd's Corp. The Lloyd's Corp. is the oldest continuously operating insurance marketplace in the world, providing reinsurance and other services to its members for more than three centuries.



Michael C. Hyter

Washington, D.C.'s Epsilon Boulé Archon Michael C. Hyter, president and chief executive officer of The Executive Leadership Council, was named one of *Savoy* magazine's most influential executives in diversity and inclusion in the spring 2023 issue. This collection of executives highlights the leaders who are spearheading diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives for some of the world's most prominent organizations. From his powerful influence to his inspiring dedication to creating positive change, Archon Hyter is a testament to the impact that executives are making.



Brian Jackson

Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé Archon Brian Jackson was the keynote speaker for the Department of Justice Association of Black Attorneys (DOJABA) at the organization's first annual conference on February 24, 2023. Archon Jackson was a member of DOJABA from its inception in 1989 until his departure from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) in 2002. His keynote remarks focused on the importance of career prosecutors of color within the DOJ, keeping with the conference theme of "Continuing the Fight, Carrying the Flag."



Leonard James III

The Supreme Court of Texas appointed Archon Leonard James III of North Houston, Texas's Epsilon Omicron Boulé to the five-member Guardianship Certification Advisory Board of the Judicial Branch Certification Commission, effective February 1, 2023. His appointment is for six years. The Guardianship Certification Advisory Board is responsible for oversight of licensing and certification for all forms of guardianships for individuals providing services to the intellectually and developmentally disabled and otherwise incapacitated populations.

Robert James

In March 2023 Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé Archon Robert James, chief diversity and inclusion officer for Highmark Health, was inducted into the MWDBE (Minority, Women, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) Governmental Committee Hall of Fame for his past efforts in the area of supplier diversity. Founded in 1995 the MWDBE Governmental Committee serves as a resource for technical assistance and business development for MWDBEs and acts as a sounding board for ideas to strengthen MWDBE policies.



Willie E. Jeffries

South Carolina State University conferred on Archon Willie E. Jeffries of Orangeburg, South Carolina's Delta Chi Boulé the Doctor of Humane Letters during its fall commencement on December 16, 2022. Archon Jeffries also served as the commencement speaker. Described as a legend and a visionary leader, Archon Jeffries was the first African American head football coach of an NCAA Division I football program at a predominantly white college when he coached Wichita State University for five seasons.



Harry Johnson

On January 13, 2023, Houston, Texas's Nu Boulé Sire Archon Harry Johnson and members of the MLK Memorial Foundation rang the bell at the New York Stock Exchange as part of MLK Week. Archon Johnson led the Martin Luther King Memorial Foundation as president and CEO from 2002 to 2013. The foundation was charged by former President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress to erect a memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to honor the life and legacy of Archon Martin Luther King, Jr.



Jeh C. Johnson

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) unveiled a portrait of New York City's Zeta Boulé Archon Jeh C. Johnson on January 24, 2023. Chicago's Beta Boulé Sire Archon-Elect Melvin Williams, Jr., and Archhousa Laura Williams attended the unveiling. Archon Johnson served as the secretary of homeland security under President Barack H. Obama from December 23, 2013, to January 20, 2017. His portrait will hang in the hallway of the Office of the Secretary at DHS headquarters in Washington, D.C.



Troy Johnson

On February 13, 2023, Archon Troy Johnson of Zeta Beta Boulé, North Dallas, Texas, was promoted to vice president of finance operations for Fluor Corp., a Fortune 500 provider of engineering, procurement and construction services with operations in more than sixty countries. Archon Johnson was promoted based on his strong leadership, his proven track record of building teams and his more than twenty-eight years of dedicated service to the company. In his new role, Archon Johnson leads half of the global finance workforce.



Charles Jones

In January 2023 San Jose, California's Gamma Chi Boulé Archon Charles "Chappie" Jones was honored in a ceremony at San Jose City Hall recognizing his time on the San Jose City Council. Archon Jones served on the council for eight years, four of which were as vice mayor of San Jose, America's tenth largest city. Archon Jones was elected to the council with close to 60 percent of the vote in November 2014 and later ran unopposed for a second term. He is now retiring due to term limits.





Jerrauld Jones

On February 28, 2023, Archon Jerrauld “Jay” Jones of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia’s Beta Lambda Boulé was the subject of the Bloomberg Law article “They’ve Got Next: State Attorneys General Practice Fresh Face Jay Jones,” which is viewable at <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/theyve-got-next-state-attorneys-general-practice-fresh-face-jay-jones>. The article details Archon Jones’s journey from Goldman Sachs analyst to law school, the Virginia House of Delegates and, finally, to his current position at Hogan Lovells.



Sekou Kaalund

Archon Sekou Kaalund of Delta Nu Boulé, Fairfield County, Connecticut, joined U.S. Bank in December 2022 as executive vice president and head of branch and small business banking. In this role he oversees more than 2,200 branches as well as consumer and small business bankers across twenty-six states. In 2023 the bank will expand its presence on the West Coast upon the full conversion of its acquisition of MUFG Union Bank.



William A. Keyes IV

On February 1, 2023, Northern Virginia’s Beta Nu Boulé Archon William A. Keyes IV, president of the Institute for Responsible Citizenship, announced the acceptance of twelve scholars to the institute’s prestigious leadership development program. The two-summer program will be held during the summers of 2023 and 2024 and will provide a unique opportunity for some of the country’s most talented African American male college students.



Ernest Kinchen, Jr.

In February 2023 Archon Ernest Kinchen, Jr., of Baton Rouge, Louisiana’s Alpha Xi Boulé delivered the Black History Month keynote address at Willow Charter Academy in Lafayette. Archon Kinchen is considered a living legend in the Lafayette community for his service as a pioneering Black physician and civil rights leader.



Abim Kolawole

Archon Abim Kolawole of Milwaukee’s Beta Alpha Boulé was promoted in January 2023 to chief audit executive for Northwestern Mutual, acknowledging his sustained leadership and professional excellence. In addition to his responsibilities as chief audit executive, Archon Kolawole continues to provide oversight for the company’s Sustained Action for Racial Equity task force, which formed in the aftermath of the George Floyd tragedy.



Kirk Law

Archon Kirk Law of San Jose, California’s Gamma Chi Boulé was highlighted in the December 2022 issue of *World’s Leaders* magazine. According to its website, “*World’s Leaders* magazine is a media company that covers stories of business leaders around the globe. It inspires its readers to think beyond traditional boundaries, lead conversations and create the future of business.” Chief development officer for Cohesity, Archon Law has more than thirty years of experience and has managed development teams for startups and established businesses.

Leo Lewis

Minneapolis–St. Paul's Omicron Boulé Archon Leo Lewis was crowned King Boreas Rex LXXXVI at the St. Paul Winter Carnival Royal Coronation on January 27, 2023. Sports mentor and former wide receiver for the Minnesota Vikings, Archon Lewis is the longtime president of Lewis Sports Foundation, a youth mentorship nonprofit that bridges Archon Lewis's educational and professional sports careers.



Philip Lewis

Archon Philip Lewis of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer–Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was interviewed on the podcast *How I Discovered My Gift With David D. Simons* in the episode titled “How to Turn Your Passion Into Profit & Turn Your Profit Into a Family Investment Fund With Dr. Philip Lewis,” which was released on February 23, 2023. Archon Lewis, a successful entrepreneur, speaker and author, discussed his journey to finding fulfillment and financial success, provided insight into the process of monetizing one's gifts, and delved into his family investment fund.



Kevin E. Lofton

Archon Kevin E. Lofton of Atlanta's Kappa Boulé received the Hall of Fame Award from the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) on October 14, 2022. The award is NAHSE's highest honor for service to the organization and the health-care field. The organization issued a press release announcing Archon Lofton as the award recipient: <https://nahse-press-release-halloffame.tiiny.site>.



Michael W. London, Sr.

On December 10, 2022, Archon Michael W. London, Sr., of Epsilon Delta Boulé, Williamsburg, Virginia, was named the Bobby Ross Coach of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Richmond. Each year this prestigious award is given to the top NCAA Division I football coach in Virginia. Archon London was also a finalist for the 2022 Eddie Robinson Award, which is presented to the national coach of the year in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision.



William Mahomes, Jr.

Archon William Mahomes, Jr., of Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Texas A&M University on September 16, 2022. This award, bestowed jointly by the university and the Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University, has been given since 1962 to only 318 of the university's more than 550,000 graduates. The award recognizes alumni who have achieved excellence in their profession and have provided significant service to the university.



Michael Marion

Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé Archon Michael Marion was a speaker at the TEDxNewRiver event on March 29, 2023. Archon Marion has spent more than twenty years in education. He earned his associate, bachelor's and master's degrees from San Diego State University and his doctorate in education from the University of Southern California.





Willie E. May

Vice president of research and economic development and professor of chemistry at Morgan State University, Archon Willie E. May of Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé was elected to serve as president-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the *Science* family of journals, in March 2023. His term began immediately following his election.



Teddy McDaniel

Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Teddy McDaniel was named to the *Charlotte Business Journal* Power 100 on September 30, 2022. The Power 100 highlights those who are driving the Charlotte area's growth into its next stage. Archon McDaniel was most recently president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Central Carolinas in Charlotte.



Brian Keith McNeil

On January 23, 2023, Archon Brian Keith McNeil of Westchester County, New York's Beta Zeta Boulé was named one of sixty presidential leadership scholars (PLS). The six-month PLS program assembles a diverse network of leaders who collaborate and work toward meaningful change in the United States and globally while learning about leadership through the experiences of former presidents George W. Bush, William J. "Bill" Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Lyndon B. Johnson.



Wayne M. Messam

On March 14, 2023, Archon Wayne M. Messam of Miami, Florida's Alpha Rho Boulé was elected to a third term as mayor of Miramar, Florida, receiving more than 90 percent of the votes cast. Archon Messam, a first-generation American born to Jamaican immigrants, is the city's first Black mayor. An owner of a construction contracting business, Archon Messam is widely credited with Miramar's success in attracting major corporations to open offices in the city.



James Michel

In October 2022 Archon James Michel of Farmington Valley, Connecticut's Beta Iota Boulé was named a Top Diversity Leader in Healthcare for 2022 by *Modern Healthcare* magazine. He also received a 2022 C-suite Award from the *Hartford Business Journal*. Archon Michel is CEO of Access Health CT, which has been recognized locally and nationally for its focus on eliminating health disparities.

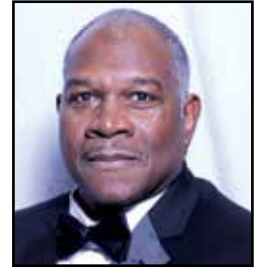


Leonard Miller

Archon Leonard Miller of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, shared a replica of his 1955 Chevrolet station wagon, NHRA V-Stock class with Archon Ed Benson and his son Miles in March 2023. Miller Brothers Racing driver Kenny Wright was photographed with the station wagon in 1970 for Driver of the Week for *East Coast Drag News* magazine at Atco Dragway in Atco, New Jersey. Archon Miller, founder of Miller Brothers Racing, is working on a documentary titled *Silent Thunder* about his Black American Racers team in the 1970's.

Gabriel A. Morgan

On March 6, 2023, Archon Gabriel A. “Gabe” Morgan of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, was a featured panelist for the NAACP Hampton branch’s town hall titled “The Invisible Women Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women.” Held as part of the celebration of Women’s History Month, the town hall focused on the hardships experienced by women, particularly women of color, when they are incarcerated and separated from their families.



Glenn L. Morgan

During the February 2023 board of trustees meeting, Archon Glenn L. Morgan of Epsilon Omicron Boulé, North Houston, Texas, was elected chair of the board of trustees of HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest. For more than forty-five years, HCA Houston Healthcare Northwest has proudly served the North Houston community.



Otis Moss, Jr.

Cleveland’s Tau Boulé Archon Otis Moss, Jr., a genuine civil rights living legend, was the keynote speaker for the Shaker Heights High School program celebrating the legacy of Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., on the evening of January 12, 2023. Archon Moss was also the Black History Month speaker at Birchwood School of Hawken in Cleveland on February 21, 2023.



J. Keith Motley

Sire Archon J. Keith Motley of Boston’s Beta Beta Boulé was named one of 50 Pioneers for Roxbury Community College as part of the school’s fiftieth anniversary. Archon Motley, University of Massachusetts chancellor emeritus and cofounder of Boston programs that serve Black university and K–12 students, was honored on February 23, 2023, for his leadership in supporting students and his “community influence.” Roxbury Community College was established in a wave of Black activism that stopped an interstate from carving up Boston’s most historic Black neighborhood.



Marc Nesi

On February 11, 2023, Archon Marc Nesi of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, was named Outstanding Physician of the Year at the 31st Annual Scholarship Gala hosted by the Greensboro Medical Society Foundation. The annual gala features award presentations to medical professionals and raises scholarship funds for students pursuing degrees in medicine, dentistry or pharmacy.



Gregory S. Nixon

In December 2022 the Tracking Foundation gave Tuskegee University a \$3.6 million gift for the Stephen A. Feinberg Scholarship program. Washington, D.C.’s Epsilon Boulé Archon Gregory S. Nixon, a Tuskegee University alumnus and trustee, facilitated the gift. This is Archon Nixon’s third year delivering a multimillion-dollar donation to the university, bringing his three-year total to more than \$10 million.





Cory Patterson

Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Cory Patterson was promoted to partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in December 2022. Archon Patterson's previous experience includes serving as in-house counsel at CertusBank and as a prosecutor in North Carolina. Archon Patterson is licensed to practice law in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.



Michael C. Payne

On January 27, 2023, Archon Michael C. Payne of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé was promoted to chief of endoscopy at the Cambridge Health Alliance. The Cambridge Health Alliance is the primary hospital system serving Cambridge and Somerville, Massachusetts. Archon Payne, an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School, is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American College of Gastroenterology, the American Gastroenterology Association and the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.



Verdun S. Perry

On January 30, 2023, Archon Verdun S. Perry of Westchester County, New York's Beta Zeta Boulé was recognized by *Savoy* magazine for his work as global head of Blackstone Strategic Partners in the closing of a record private-equity secondary fund totaling \$25 billion. Archon Perry joined Strategic Partners in 2000, the year it was founded. He chairs the investment committee for each of the Strategic Partners funds and is currently an advisory board member of multiple third-party funds.



Chenits Pettigrew, Jr.

On February 22, 2023, the University of Pittsburgh honored Archon Chenits Pettigrew, Jr., of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé as a champion of equality, inclusion and antiracism initiatives during its K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month celebration. Archon Pettigrew has become a zealous advocate of equality and inclusion in medical education, helping launch the careers of many young Black physicians. Archon Pettigrew is the assistant dean for student affairs at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.



Joseph A. Pierce

Atlanta's Kappa Boulé Archon Joseph A. Pierce was elected to the board of directors of Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc., on October 26, 2022. He will serve on the board's corporate governance and nominating, compensation and benefits, and technology committees. Archon Pierce is senior vice president and general counsel of AMB Sports + Entertainment at The Blank Family of Businesses. He previously held positions with Hornets Sports & Entertainment, Bank of America, Comcast Sports Television Group and Jacksonville Jaguars, Ltd.



Christopher B. Rice

Archon Christopher B. Rice of Fort Bend, Texas's Zeta Alpha Boulé became the executive vice president of global tax and corporate structure at Shell in October 2022. He will be based in London, United Kingdom, and will report to the chief financial officer. Archon Rice is the first African American to serve in this role at Shell, where he initially worked as an intern and later joined the staff full-time.

Tarrynce G. Robinson

The board of education of the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District announced the appointment of Archon Tarrynce G. Robinson of North Houston, Texas's Epsilon Omicron Boulé as superintendent, effective July 1, 2023. During his comments to the board, Archon Robinson announced his "pull your red wagon" vision to work with teachers, staff and the families of students to help plan academic and career activities and develop opportunities to prepare students for the future, ensuring that no one is left behind.



John Rolfe and Anthony J. Turner

On January 16, 2023, Archons John Rolfe and Anthony J. Turner of Wichita, Kansas's Alpha Nu Boulé were honored at the 7th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Heroes & Sheroes Breakfast, which was hosted by ARISE Ensemble at the Wichita State University Rhatigan Student Center Beggs Ballroom. Two of the six individuals honored during this year's event, Archons Rolfe and Turner received awards in the categories of Empowerment and Transformation, respectively.



Brian K. Ross

On January 24, 2023, at the Fulton County Government Center in downtown Atlanta, Archon Brian K. Ross of South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé was sworn in as chair of the Gate City Bar Association (GCBA) Judicial Section. The GCBA is the oldest African American bar association in the state of Georgia, having been established in 1948 to provide for the educational, social and community involvement of African American attorneys.



Clark D. Rucker

Archon Clark D. Rucker of Pasadena, California's Gamma Zeta Boulé received an honorary doctorate of science and engineering on May 22, 2023, from his alma mater, California State Polytechnic University of Pomona (CPP) College of Engineering. As one of two CPP awardees, Archon Rucker said he was humbled by this recognition. He spoke at two ceremonies as part of the honor, bringing inspirational words to the graduates. Recommended for the honor by the California State University system, he demonstrated values that are goals of higher education.



Albert D. Sam

In February 2023 Archon Albert D. Sam of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, was recognized by the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine for his leadership contributions to the school. Archon Sam earned his master of medical management degree, a program that focuses on cutting-edge business management and leadership skills within the medical field, at SPHTM and subsequently rose to chief of vascular surgery at the Tulane University School of Medicine.



Constantin Severe

Archon Constantin Severe of Delta Phi Boulé, Portland, Oregon, has accepted a role with the leadership team of Oregon governor Christine "Tina" Kotek. On January 11, 2023, Governor Kotek appointed Archon Severe to serve as her public safety adviser, a role similar to his previous appointment in the administration of Oregon governor Katherine Brown.





Stuart O. Simms

In March 2023 Archon Stuart O. Simms of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé received a Lifetime Achievement award. Maryland's *The Daily Record* and the Maryland State Bar Association honor outstanding lawyers and judges annually through the Leaders in Law awards program. The program's Lifetime Achievement award honors lawyers whose careers have helped shape the legal landscape in Maryland and who have shown longstanding commitment to the community.



Leonard A. Slade, Jr.

Archon Leonard A. Slade, Jr., of Albany, New York's Beta Psi Boulé was named poet laureate of the Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc., in February 2023. Archon Slade, a prolific writer of poetry and prose, has published numerous award-winning works. His nomination for this honor – by Kent State University Distinguished Teaching Award recipient and emeritus professor George R. Garrison – was approved unanimously.



William T. Slater

Archon William T. Slater of Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas's Delta Mu Boulé was fêted in a large exhibit in the Brown-Lupton University Union's celebration of Texas Christian University's 150th anniversary. The exhibit, installed on January 24, 2023, showed important university events that have occurred since the university's inception. Archon Slater was TCU's first Black academic dean. He joined the administration and faculty in April 2002 as dean of the TCU College of Communication, and he retired in August 2012.



Leonard Sledge

On February 27, 2023, Archon Leonard Sledge of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé was featured in an article in *Virginia Business* titled "Building Blocks: Manufacturing, Pharma Lead Area Deals," which is available at <https://www.virginiabusiness.com/article/building-blocks/>. The article details Central Virginia's economic development success in 2022. Archon Sledge is Richmond, Virginia's director of economic development.



Leslie C. Smith

Northern Virginia's Beta Nu Boulé Archon Leslie C. Smith, retired lieutenant general of the United States Army, received the 2022 Defender of Liberty Award from the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command in a ceremony held on January 31, 2023. The Defender of Liberty Award is presented to leaders who have made significant contributions to CBRNE Command. Archon Smith served thirty-five years in uniform in numerous critical command assignments, including a final assignment as inspector general of the United States Army.



Patrick Smith and Kirk Taylor

Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archons Patrick Smith and Kirk Taylor were two of sixty-seven executives nationwide inducted into the Executive Leadership Council (ELC) on March 9, 2023. The ELC is the nation's top organization dedicated to increasing the number of Black executives in C-suites, on corporate boards and in global enterprises. Archon Smith is head of consumer and business banking at Santander Bank, North America. Archon Taylor is senior vice president for North American Medical Affairs at EMD Serono, a division of Merck.

Paul Smith

On January 15, 2023, Archon Paul Smith of Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé preached at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day service at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Following the service, Hildi Hendrickson held a book signing for her biography of Archon Smith: *Building Beloved Communities: The Life and Work of Rev. Dr. Paul Smith*.



T. Dallas Smith

On January 1, 2023, the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors (ACBR) named as its next president the first Black man to lead the 112-year-old organization. T. Dallas Smith & Co. founder and CEO Archon T. Dallas Smith of Atlanta's Kappa Boulé, the new president of the ACBR, began his history-making tenure on New Year's Day. Accepting the honor, Archon Smith said, "I am honored to be chosen to lead this organization, which is both a foundation and a lighthouse for commercial real estate professionals in Atlanta."



Jamal A. Sowell

On December 15, 2022, Tallahassee, Florida's Alpha Zeta Boulé Archon Jamal A. Sowell was recognized by the *Orlando Business Journal* as a 2022 Veteran of Influence. A veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, Archon Sowell completed his time in the United States Marine Corps as a captain. He continues to serve in the United States Navy Reserve. President of business solutions at Indelible, Archon Sowell is on the board of directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida and the nationally acclaimed veterans' organization Team Red, White & Blue.



John Starkey

President and general manager of the plant based business unit at Danone North America, Northern Illinois's Delta Alpha Boulé Archon John Starkey was inducted into The Executive Leadership Council (ELC) Class of 2023 on March 9. The ELC is described as "the pre-eminent membership organization committed to increasing the number of global Black executives in C-suites, on corporate boards and in global enterprises. Its membership includes current and former Black CEOs and senior executives at Fortune 1000 and Global 500 companies."



Victor A. Terry

In February 2023 Archon Victor A. Terry of South Suburban Chicago's Delta Sigma Boulé was appointed to the board of directors of the California Chamber of Commerce. Archon Terry's appointment to the board coincided with his recent assignment as vice president of State Farm Insurance's western market area. At State Farm, Archon Terry oversees the production, retention and profit of State Farm's products and services in California and Hawaii.



Corey Thomas

On February 3, 2023, President Biden appointed Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archon Corey Thomas to the White House National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee. The committee advises the White House from many industry perspectives on the reliability, security and preparedness of vital communications and information infrastructure. Archon Thomas became one of twenty-nine advisers, having also become chair of the board of directors of Boston's Federal Reserve Bank on January 1. Archon Thomas is the CEO of Rapid7, a Boston-based cybersecurity and analytics company.





Gregory S. Thomas

On December 5, 2022, the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts announced the appointment of Archon Gregory S. Thomas of Springfield, Massachusetts's Beta Sigma Boulé to trustee. His three-year term will provide guidance and leadership during a pivotal time for the organization. Archon Thomas is currently executive director of the Berthiaume Center for Entrepreneurship and lecturer at the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



Craig A. Thompson

Archon Craig A. Thompson of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, was confirmed as chairman of the Maryland Stadium Authority by unanimous vote of the Maryland Senate on March 6, 2023. The Maryland Stadium Authority was established in 1986 to build stadiums to attract an NFL team and keep the Baltimore Orioles in the city. The stadium authority is the landlord for the two professional teams and is also tasked with managing improvements to the Pimlico and Laurel Park horse racetracks and overseeing school construction projects.



Warren M. Thompson

In its February 2023 digital publication, *Black Enterprise* profiled Northern Virginia's Beta Nu Boulé Archon Warren M. Thompson, who is president and chairman of family-run Thompson Hospitality, the largest minority-owned food service company in the United States and one of the country's largest retail food and facilities management companies. Thompson Hospitality has more than 6,000 employees, with operations in 48 states and 6 countries, and a substantial portfolio of restaurants. It also provides dining services and facilities management services to 18 HBCUs.



Eugene C. Varnado

Delta Sigma Boulé, South Suburban Chicago, congratulates Archon Eugene C. Varnado for having a \$25,000 educational scholarship created in his name. Chicago's South Suburban Small Business Association and the Prairie State College Foundation created the fund in 2022 in recognition of Archon Varnado's years of service and leadership in the community.



Clyde Waite

Archon Clyde Waite of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was featured in an article in the *Bucks County Courier Times* on January 12, 2023. In the article Archon Waite recounts his experiences as a Black man during the Civil Rights Movement, first in Washington, D.C., and then on the campus of Yale University in Connecticut during one of the most transformative and historic periods in U.S. history.



Clyde Walker

Sire Archon Clyde Walker of Seattle's Alpha Omicron Boulé received the 2023 Thaddeus Spratlen Legacy Award from the University of Washington Michael G. Foster School of Business during the school's Celebration of African American Alumni Achievement dinner on February 28, 2023. A committee, comprising current Foster School students, faculty and staff as well as a member of the Spratlen family, reviewed Archon Walker's selection.

Christopher E. Ward

In January 2023 Archon Christopher E. Ward of Atlanta's Kappa Boulé received the President's Award for Excellence from the Gate City Bar Association. Archon Ward is a deputy chief judge for the Municipal Court of Atlanta, where he presides over the aggravated criminal and traffic divisions. He was appointed to the court in 2012, and his tenure has been highlighted by overall improvements to court operations and the implementation of highly effective case-management systems in the DUI and failure-to-appear divisions.



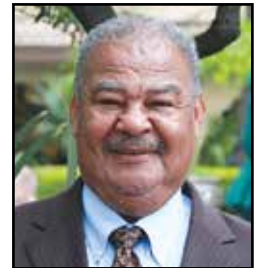
Mitchell O. Ward

On October 21, 2022, Archon Mitchell O. Ward of Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Texas State University in San Marcos. Archon Ward, who graduated from Texas State in 1989, is the chief executive officer and chairman of MW Logistics, LLC, a leading third-party logistics provider in North America. He is active in many local and statewide philanthropic efforts, including an annual food drive that provided more than 1 million pounds of food to 60,000 people in the North Texas area last year.



Theodis Ware

Archon Theodis Ware of Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas's Delta Mu Boulé retired as a member of the board of trustees of My Health My Resources of Tarrant County after more than twenty years of service. The announcement was made at the board's December 2022 meeting. My Health My Resources offers behavioral health, disability, and child and family services to the people of Tarrant County and its surrounding areas. Archon Ware, a physical therapist, served on numerous committees during his tenure on the board.



Gregory M. Wesley

Milwaukee's Beta Alpha Boulé Archon Gregory M. Wesley received the 2022 Business Champion Award from the African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin during the organization's annual Breakfast of Champions on December 14, 2022. The Breakfast of Champions recognizes community leaders who support the chamber's mission and are passionate about economic development and wealth creation in the African American community. Several Archons from Beta Alpha Boulé were present at the breakfast.



Rodney W. Whitmore

Vision magazine, a digital business publication, profiled the thirty-year career of Archon Rodney W. Whitmore of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, in its 2023 volume II issue. The profile was published on *Vision's* website in April 2023. Archon Whitmore currently serves as chief human resources officer at Great Minds, a public-benefit corporation that develops K–12 curricula used by millions of students nationwide.



Bill Whyte

On March 6, 2023, Archon Bill Whyte of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer–Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was appointed vice president of U.S. commercial strategy at the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. In this role he will lead Janssen's North American customer engagement strategies, resource development, learning and development, and operations. He will also lead the integration of the company's commercial deployment strategies, business operations, incentive compensation and leadership development.





Kurtis T. Wilder

Ann Arbor, Michigan's Gamma Rho Boulé Archon Kurtis T. Wilder, an attorney at Detroit's Butzel Long, was elected chair of the board of directors of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Archon Wilder was named to the chamber's executive committee in 2022. His one-year term as chair began on January 24, 2023.



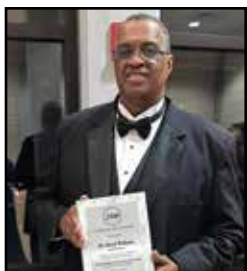
Reginald W. Wilkes

On March 25, 2023, Philadelphia's Alpha Boulé Archon Reginald W. Wilkes was honored with the United Negro College Fund's MASKED Award at UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball. The acronym stands for Mankind Assisting Students Kindle Educational Dreams. The award goes to those who have both personally and professionally participated in the furtherance of minority students' getting into and through college, and who have made that commitment unselfishly. Archon Wilkes is senior vice president, wealth management, and senior financial advisor with the Wilkes Sports Group, Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC.



Darrel Williams

On September 30, 2022, Archon Darrel Williams of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé was selected for the *Charlotte Business Journal* Power 100. The Power 100 highlights the leaders who are driving the Charlotte area's growth into its next stage. Archon Williams is a principal at Neighboring Concepts architectural firm.



David M. Williams

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Gamma Tau Zeta Chapter, announced on February 12, 2023, that Pensacola, Florida's Delta Pi Boulé Archon David M. Williams is its Community Service Volunteer of the Year for 2023. Elected in November 2022 as District 3 Escambia County school board representative, Archon Williams's leadership in the community is well known. His commitment to making the Escambia County school system and local community better was demonstrated during his extensive educational career. Going well beyond mentoring and coaching, he has opened his home to homeless students and athletes.



Jerome Williams

In March 2023 Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Jerome Williams, senior vice president of consumer engagement at Novant Health, was named a top fifty health-care professional by the National Diversity & Leadership Conference. This distinction highlights individuals who possess great commitment to the growth and advancement of an inclusive community. Archon Williams is an experienced physician executive and corporate leader.



James D. Williams, Jr.

Archon James D. Williams, Jr., of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé received the Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce 2023 Man of the Year Award during the chamber's February 4, 2023, Black Business Gala. Archon Williams is the owner and senior partner of The Law Offices of James D. Williams, Jr. P.A. He is the immediate past chairman of the board of visitors for the North Carolina Central University School of Law and is a member of the NCCU Foundation's board.

Leo V. Williams III

Charleston, South Carolina's Gamma Lambda Boulé Archon Leo V. Williams III, retired major general of the United States Marine Corps, received the 2023 Distinguished Graduate Award from the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation on March 24, 2023. Archon Williams is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Class of 1970.



Timothy Williams

Archon Timothy Williams of Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé was named to the Dallas Mavericks Advisory Council in November 2022. The council comprises leaders from various industries across the Dallas–Fort Worth area who use their unique perspectives to advise the Mavericks on strategies and programs to help them meet their goals.



Don Williford

On January 30, 2023, the NAACP Bucks County branch installed Archon Don Williford of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer–Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as a member of the executive committee and chairman of the legal redress committee. As chairman of the legal redress committee, Archon Williford, an experienced attorney, will oversee the processing of any legal or civil rights claims filed with the Bucks County branch.



Dotson Wilson

On January 20, 2023, after a seventeen-year tenure, Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé Archon Dotson Wilson stepped down from his position as Grammateus. Archon Wilson served as Grammateus with eight successive Sire Archons. He served with honor and distinction, using all the skills he learned as the longest-serving chief clerk of the California State Assembly, where he served over a twenty-seven-year period before his retirement in August 2018.



F. Blair Wimbush

On February 12, 2023, Archon F. Blair Wimbush of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé was selected by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* as an inductee of the Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame Class of 2023. Now retired, Archon Wimbush previously served with distinction for many years as counsel for Norfolk Southern Corp.



Kevin D. Wright

CentSai, Inc., is proud to announce and welcome Suburban, Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé Archon Kevin D. Wright as senior advisor. Archon Wright brings decades of Fortune 100 leadership and consulting experience, which spans strategic leadership; product development; human capital development; diversity, equity and inclusion; and working with banking institutions, government and industry agencies as well as multiple private and publicly held corporations.



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On January 31, 2023, Jessica Davis Ba, daughter of Archon Joseph Davis and Archousa Janice Davis of Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé, was sworn in as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire.

Whitney Arjun

Archousa Whitney Arjun, wife of Archon Rohan M. Arjun of Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania's Zeta Delta Boulé, was appointed assistant to the chancellor at Penn State Abington in January 2023. Her previous position was director of enrollment management and retention. In her new position Archousa Arjun will work with the chancellor to partner with the campus leadership team to coordinate and advance a wide range of strategic initiatives, programs and projects in support of institutional and college priorities.





Jaiden Ausberry

On December 21, 2022, Jaiden Ausberry, son of Archon Verge Ausberry and Archousa Cheri Morial Ausberry of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé, signed with the University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish football program, where he will play in the position of linebacker. Jaiden is a graduating senior at the Louisiana State University Laboratory School in Baton Rouge and is the school's first student athlete to graduate early. He is currently attending Notre Dame, where he was accepted into the Mendoza College of Business.



Jessica Davis Ba

On January 31, 2023, Jessica Davis Ba, daughter of Archon Joseph Davis and Archousa Janice Davis of Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé, was sworn in as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire.



DeAndrea Gist Benjamin

On February 9, 2023, Archousa DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, wife of Archon Stephen K. Benjamin of Columbia, South Carolina's Alpha Iota Boulé, was confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Archousa Benjamin became the second African American woman to serve on the Fourth Circuit and the first person of color from South Carolina.



Rosalind Brewer

Archousa Rosalind "Roz" Brewer, wife of Archon John Brewer of Atlanta's Kappa Boulé, was named vice chair to President Biden's Export Council on February 28, 2023. The President's Export Council assists the president with all aspects of international trade. Currently CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance, Archousa Brewer is ranked seventh on *Fortune's* 50 Most Powerful Women in Business.



Jennifer Giddings Brooks

Archousa Jennifer Giddings Brooks, wife of Archon Roy Charles Brooks of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, received an honorary doctor of letters degree from Texas Christian University at its winter commencement in December 2022 in Fort Worth. The TCU alumna was a member of the National Alumni Association Board and two boards of visitors, guest speaker, adjunct professor, student mentor, a member of the medical school advisory council and the inaugural director for the Center of Urban Education.



Natalie Burrell

On March 4, 2023, Natalie Burrell, daughter of Archon H. Louis Burrell III and Archousa Vera Burrell of Zeta Beta Boulé in North Dallas, Texas, was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. This honor society recognizes the academic excellence of first-year students. Natalie, a psychology major and management and organization minor, will intern with Sodexo this summer.

Shannon Butler

Shannon Butler, daughter of Archon Harvey Butler and Archousa Tracey Butler of Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania's Zeta Delta Boulé, showcased her short film, *The Way Out*, on season five of AspireTV's *Urban Indie Film Block* in January 2023. Her second short film, *Love Game*, won third place at the New York City IO Film Festival 2023 in Brooklyn. She continues to create independent films and to give minority filmmakers and actors priority in her projects. Shannon is an Emerson College alumna.



Sheridan Butler

Sheridan Butler, daughter of Archon Harvey Butler and Archousa Tracey Butler of Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania's Zeta Delta Boulé, was promoted to store director of the Zimmermann Boutique at the Short Hills Mall in New Jersey — the first and only in the state. Zimmermann is a luxury Australian women's fashion brand with celebrities such as Beyoncé, Tracee Ellis Ross, Naomi Osaka, Sunny Hostin, Chrissy Teigen and Amanda Gorman, amongst others, seen wearing pieces from the brand.



April Elayne Curry

April Elayne Curry, daughter of Sire Archon-Elect Bruce Curry and Archousa Casey Curry of Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé, was named the new assistant vice president of enrollment management at Bowie State University in Prince George's County, Maryland, in February 2023. In this role April provides enrollment planning and oversight for student recruitment strategies, initiatives and services to improve the academic learning experiences, retention and graduation rate of Bowie State University students.



Elliot Doomes

Elliot Doomes, son of Archon Earl Doomes and Archousa Mazie Doomes of Alpha Xi Boulé, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was appointed by the Biden administration as one of six regional administrators for the General Services Administration (GSA) in January 2023. Regional administrators lead GSA's regional offices and liaise with members of both federal and local government, including Congresspeople, who utilize GSA's services in areas such as technology and real estate.



Emmanuelle Soledad Elliott

Emmanuelle "Emme" Soledad Elliott, the 10-year-old daughter of Archon Marques A. Elliott and Archousa Rosalie Elliott of Tucson, Arizona's Gamma Alpha Boulé, starred in her first play in March 2023. Emme competed against numerous children who tried out for the lead role of Ariel in Disney's *The Little Mermaid Jr.* A fourth grader, Emme landed the lead role over fifth and sixth grade drama club regulars and singers. She trained with her father, a former performer, singer and songwriter, for the part.



Mychelle Farmer

Archousa Mychelle Farmer, wife of Archon James DeGraffenreidt of Gamma Boulé in Baltimore, received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Joseph R. Biden Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony held on January 13, 2023, in Washington, D.C. The Lifetime Achievement Award is part of the President's Volunteer Service Award program, which encourages citizens to live a life of service through presidential gratitude and national recognition. Archousa Farmer is a pediatrician and chief medical officer for Advancing Synergy.





Monique Ferrell

On December 17, 2022, at Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé's Christmas Is for the Archousai celebration at Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg, Virginia, Archon Robert Ferrell proudly accepted the Archousa of the Year award on behalf of his Archousa, Monique Ferrell. Currently serving as the deputy director at the Office of Management and Budget in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Archousa Ferrell was unable to return to the continental United States to accept the award in person. She sent her enthusiastic, yet humble, sentiments of appreciation to the Epsilon Zeta Boulé for honoring her with this award.



Mikal Floyd-Pruitt

Mikal Floyd-Pruitt, son of Archon Eugene Pruitt and Archousa Charlotte Floyd-Pruitt of Beta Alpha Boulé, Milwaukee, was awarded the 2023 Mary L. Nohl Fellowship for established artists in January 2023. The \$35,000 award funds new work or enables the artist to complete work in progress. In addition, the winners will participate in an exhibit at the Haggerty Museum of Art in Milwaukee in summer 2024. A graduate of Harvard University, Floyd-Pruitt is an interdisciplinary artist who incorporates visual art, performance art, music and community engagement into his projects.



Joselynne Walden Forde

On February 16, 2023, Skills Center CEO Celeste Roberts announced that Archousa Joselynne Walden Forde, wife of Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Archon Colin Forde, will be the new chair of the board of directors for The Skills Center, a sports-based youth-development nonprofit based in Tampa. Archousa Forde has been affiliated with the board for two years and is the proud parent of a Skills Center student.



Jennifer Harris

On December 17, 2022, Archousa Jennifer Harris, wife of Archon Frederick Harris, was presented the honor of Archousa of the Year by Omicron Boulé in Minneapolis–St. Paul. The award was presented before 300 members and guests at Omicron's 100-year anniversary and Christmas Is for the Archousai celebration held at the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot. President of the Minneapolis chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Archousa Harris is an active member of her community and dedicates her time to giving back.



Juli Anne Henderson

After serving as board chair of Any Baby Can of San Antonio and being honored as 2022 Angel Advocate, it was announced on December 18, 2022, that Archousa Juli Anne Henderson, wife of Archon James Henderson II of Gamma Phi Boulé, San Antonio, had been elected to the board of Morgan's Inclusion Initiative. The initiative oversees five facilities: Morgan's Wonderland Theme Park, Morgan's Inspiration Island, Morgan's Wonderland Camp, Morgan's Wonderland Sports and the Multi-Assistance Center, which provide unique, medical, non-medical and social services for individuals with disabilities.



Kellyn Hodges

Congratulations to Archousa Kellyn Hodges, wife of Philadelphia's Alpha Boulé Archon Eric Hodges, for her appointment to the board of trustees of Temple University, which was announced on January 31, 2023. Archousa Hodges is an exceptional selection for Temple's board, having received both her doctorate in dental medicine and master's degree in orthodontics from the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry.

Taylor Jackson

Archon Derrick Jackson and Archousa CaMia Jackson of South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé are proud parents of their daughter, Taylor Jackson, who was selected on February 18, 2023, as chief resident at the University of Illinois Chicago, a two-year position beginning in June. A Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry graduate specializing in pediatric dentistry, she will lead a group of resident doctors in their residency program, as well as supervise clinical duties, administrative functions and other activities determined by the hospital's program director and other senior doctors.



Allison Green Johnson

Archousa Allison Green Johnson, wife of Philadelphia's Alpha Boulé Archon Calvin Johnson and senior vice president, chief diversity officer and president of the Lincoln Financial Foundation at Lincoln Financial Group, received the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Masked Award at UNCF's Mayor's Masked Ball in Philadelphia on March 25, 2023. The Masked Award, which stands for Mankind Assisting Students Kindle Educational Dreams, is given to those who have personally, professionally and unselfishly participated in the furtherance of minority students' college success.



Leslie McCauley

Leslie McCauley, daughter of Archon Peter McCauley and Archousa Carla McCauley of Chicago's Beta Boulé, was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society in February 2023. This society recognizes future physicians who have demonstrated consistent dedication to leadership and service while providing compassionate care for patients. Leslie is currently a fourth-year dual degree M.D./M.P.H. student at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine.



Sylvia Watts McKinney

Archousa Sylvia Watts McKinney, wife of Philadelphia's Alpha Boulé Archon Theos McKinney III, is taking the lead as the new president and chief executive officer of Thompson Island Outward Bound. The organization's board of trustees announced Archousa McKinney's appointment to the top post on February 28, 2023, following an extensive, nationwide search. She began her new position in May 2023.



Noah Mize

Noah Mize, son of Archon Clyde Mize of Kappa Boulé in Atlanta, graduated from Woodward Academy in College Park, Georgia, on May 13, 2023. He will attend Morehouse College in Atlanta in fall 2023. In summer 2022 Noah was an intern in the Washington, D.C., office of Archon James E. Clyburn of South Carolina.



V. Kaye Monk-Morgan

On February 23, 2023, the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) in Wichita announced that Archousa V. Kaye Monk-Morgan, spouse of Archon Derek Morgan of Alpha Nu Boulé in Wichita, Kansas, was named the non-profit organization's president and CEO. Previously serving as KLC's inaugural chief impact officer since April 2022, Archousa Monk-Morgan assumed her new role on March 6, 2023. As chief impact officer she developed strategies that measured and enhanced the impact of KLC and its services. She has also served on the KLC teaching faculty.





Lisa S. Oliver-King

On Tuesday, January 3, 2023, Archousa Lisa S. Oliver-King, wife of Sire Archon Anthony King of Beta Omicron Boulé in Grand Rapids, was inaugurated as a new county commissioner for district 15 in Kent County, Michigan. As county commissioner, Archousa Lisa is excited to serve the Greater Grand Rapids/Kent County community and uplift the voices of county citizens at large.



Desiree T. Palmer

On February 4, 2023, Archousa Desiree T. Palmer, spouse of Sire Archon Michael Palmer of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé, was named 2023 Woman of the Year by the Greater Durham Black Chamber of Commerce. Archousa Palmer is a practicing dentist and owner of two dental practices in Durham: Desiree T. Palmer, DMD, PA and Associates and Bull City Dental. She serves on the boards of the Durham Library Foundation, Community Health Coalition and Local Start Dental.



Jude Papillion

Jude Papillion, son of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé Archon Darrel Papillion and Archousa Lauren Papillion, is the editor-in-chief of the *Tulane Hullabaloo*, the newspaper of Tulane University. Jude was credentialed by the National Football League (NFL) to cover Super Bowl LVII on February 12, 2023, in Glendale, Arizona. At the game, Jude interviewed a number of NFL players, coaches and executives.



Renelle K. Roberts

On January 1, 2023, Archousa Renelle K. Roberts, spouse of Archon Casey M. Roberts of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton-Norfolk, Virginia, published a series on intentional motherhood on the Christian streaming service RightNow Media. This series covers elements of self-care, spiritual growth strategies and practical tips for mothers of young and school-age children. RightNow Media is a global streaming library with more than 25,000 Christian Bible study videos for church leaders to share with their congregants.



Kimberly J. Robinson

Archousa Kimberly J. Robinson, wife of Archon Gerard Robinson of Epsilon Psi Boulé in Charlottesville, Virginia, was profiled in the *Harvard Law Bulletin* for her work in the area of education law in February 2023. Archousa Robinson recently edited a book entitled *A Federal Right to Education: Fundamental Questions for Our Democracy*. A professor of law and education at the University of Virginia and a professor of law, education and public policy at UVA's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, she has spent years advocating for a federal right to high-quality education.



Zuleika Sanchez-Gayle

Archousa Zuleika Sanchez-Gayle, wife of Archon Andrew Gayle of Albany, New York's Beta Psi Boulé, received the Crystal Apple, the highest professional honor offered by the Albany City School District, on November 21, 2022. Archousa Gayle, who is the principal of Sheridan Preparatory Academy and lends her talents to multiple committees in the areas of the arts, wellness, educational enrichment and government relations, has received numerous awards for her dedicated and exemplary service as an educator and administrator.

Tanisha Sanders

The senior vice president of corporate and legislative affairs for ITG Brands' Washington, D.C., office, Archousa Tanisha Sanders, wife of Sire Archon Tyrone D. Sanders, Jr., of Lansing, Michigan's Alpha Chi Boulé, was included among The 50 Top Women Leaders of D.C. for 2023 in the March 27, 2023, issue of *Women We Admire*. Committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and policies, Archousa Sanders is a member of the U.S. Leadership Team at ITG, supervising advocacy, outreach and engagement on national policy issues and leading the product portfolio.



Jacquelyn Stone

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and Richmond Raceway selected Archousa Jacquelyn Stone, wife of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé Archon B. Keith Fulton, as one of twelve winners of the Women Who Drive Richmond 2023 award in February. The award recognizes entrepreneurs, philanthropists, innovators and business leaders who are making a positive impact on the Richmond community. Archousa Stone has been a partner at McGuireWoods law firm since 1985.



Melia Alexandra Terry

On March 4, 2023, Melia Alexandra Terry, daughter of Archon Victor A. Terry and Archousa Terryce N. Terry of South Suburban Chicago's Delta Sigma Boulé, was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, an honor society for first-year students who have had academic success. Melia is a first-year biology major on a pre-med track at Spelman College in Atlanta. She is also a member of the Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program and received dean's list honors after her first semester.



Anna-Alycia M. Tucker

Anna-Alycia M. Tucker, daughter of Archon Erskine R. Tucker, Jr., and Archousa Marie Michel-Tucker of Chicago's Beta Boulé, relocated to New York in February 2023 with Beam Suntory, Inc., where she serves as the associate brand manager for the Hornitos Tequila Brand. She joined Beam Suntory after earning her M.B.A. from The Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and is a graduate of Stanford University.



Michael R. Tucker

Michael R. Tucker, son of Archon Erskine R. Tucker, Jr., and Archousa Marie Michel-Tucker of Chicago's Beta Boulé, joined the marketing and communications team at Loop Capital as manager of public relations and marketing in January 2023. He is a graduate of The Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Michael also attended the 56th Grand Boulé Young Adult Career Symposium in The Bahamas in 2022.



Evan Waite

Evan Waite, son of Archon Clyde Waite of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and his ensemble of writers won this year's Writers Guild Award in the Short Form New Media category for *Three Busy Debras* in March 2023. Kudos are also in order for Archon Waite's 7-year-old and 4-year-old granddaughters, who were admitted to the highly selective Hunter College Elementary School program that is touted by experts in the field as more difficult to enter than admission to Harvard, the alma mater of Waite's other son, Hollis.





Kemba Walden

Kemba Walden, eldest child of Archousa Marcheta McManus Eneas and the late Past Southeast Regional Sire Archon Judson F. Eneas of Delta Lambda Boulé in Nassau, Bahamas, and granddaughter of Archousa Joyce P. McManus and Archon Willie Q. McManus, Sr., of Gamma Theta Boulé in Eastern Shore, Maryland, was appointed acting national cyber director for the Biden-Harris Administration following the retirement of Chris Inglis in February 2023.



Diana Wandix-White

Archousa Diana Wandix-White, wife of Archon Elijah White of Epsilon Omicron Boulé, North Houston, Texas, has been an educator for almost three decades, but she has been an advocate for educational equity even longer. Archousa White recently co-authored a book entitled *Relational Realms: Helping Educators Navigate and Cultivate Healthy School-house Relationships*, which was released on March 15, 2023. Additionally, Archousa White's scholarly article, "The same, but better: Why some Black girls prefer virtual learning" won first place in the *Journal of Online Learning Research* Promising Scholar competition.



Rose Washington-Jones

Archousa Rose Washington-Jones, wife of Archon Marvin E. Jones, Jr., of Epsilon Iota Boulé in Tulsa, was selected by the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc., to their 2023 Women of Power "Power 50" on February 23, 2023. The USBC Power 50 list is an annual honor bestowed upon fifty illustrious women from across the United States who have made significant contributions in their fields and to their communities. Archousa Jones is the CEO of the Tulsa Economic Development Corporation Creative Capital.



Annina N. Wilkes

Archousa Annina N. Wilkes, wife of Philadelphia's Alpha Boulé Archon Reginald W. Wilkes, was named an Algernon Brashear Jackson Faculty Award honoree at the Thomas Jefferson University Sidney Kimmel Medical College on November 30, 2022, in recognition of her notable contributions to medicine and society. The award is limited to distinguished faculty and alumni of Sidney Kimmel Medical College, and honorees are named in conjunction with the awarding of full-tuition scholarships to accepted students from populations that are underrepresented in medicine.



Carla Williams

Archousa Carla Williams, wife of Archon Brian N. Williams of Epsilon Psi Boulé in Charlottesville, Virginia, is among four recipients of the Women in Sports and Events (WISE) organization's Women of the Year award. She was recognized with this honor at the 27th WISE awards luncheon on March 15, 2023, in New York City. Currently athletic director at the University of Virginia, Archousa Williams is the first Black female to serve as athletic director at any school in the Power Five conferences: Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten, Big 12, Southeastern Conference and Pacific 12.



Caiya Camille Wiltshire

On March 10, 2023, Caiya Camille Wiltshire, daughter of Archon Travis E. Wiltshire of Gamma Phi Boulé in San Antonio, was accepted to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh to pursue her graduate degree in human computer interaction. She will graduate from North Carolina A&T State University on May 13, 2023, with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering. Caiya is the 2022–23 senior class president and a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Phi Chapter.

MEMBER BOULÉS

Alpha Boulé Begins Biennium With Social, Educational and Political Events



ARCHONS ERIC HOLDER AND SHERMAN W. SMITH III

The Archons of Philadelphia's Alpha Boulé kicked off the new biennium in January 2023 with several noteworthy events to get to know the best of one another, to get to know the best of other accomplished Archons and to learn about political issues in a critical upcoming election in Philadelphia. These events included an evening with Zeta Boulé Archon Wynton Marsalis, a fireside chat with Epsilon Boulé Archon Eric Holder and a forum with candidates for Philadelphia's 2023 mayoral primary.

On January 23 members of Alpha Boulé, joined by Archons of Delta Epsilon, Beta Eta and Zeta Delta boulés, enthusiastically gathered to welcome Archon Wynton Marsalis to Philadelphia's historic Academy of Music. Archon Marsalis, a world-renowned trumpeter, composer and teacher, who also serves as artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, was in Philadelphia for a concert titled "Middle East Meditations." The evening also featured Naseer Shamma, a virtuoso on

the oud, a Middle Eastern instrument, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO). Together, these artists entertained the Archons and audience with Middle Eastern music, featuring arrangements by Marsalis, Shamma and other JLCO members.

Following the concert, Archon Marsalis joined the other Archons for a reception in one of the academy's ornate receiving rooms. This successful and enjoyable evening was the first in the Alpha Boulé Loves the Arts series in partnership with the Philadelphia Kimmel Center Cultural Campus.

Continuing the fraternal activities Alpha Boulé convened a fireside chat with Epsilon Boulé Archon Eric Holder on March 28. The event was organized by Alpha Archons Gregory Burrell and Sherman Smith III and was held at the Philadelphia office of the Greenberg Traurig law firm, where Archon Smith is a shareholder. Alpha Archons were joined at the event by Archons of Beta Eta and Zeta Delta.



MATIAS TARNOPOLSKY, PRESIDENT AND CEO, KIMMEL CENTER CULTURAL CAMPUS, AND ARCHONS PATRICK OATES AND WYNTON MARSALIS

Archon Holder, who was the 82nd U.S. attorney as a member of the Obama administration, conversed with Archon Smith as part of the fireside chat. The two discussed current threats to voting, justice and politics in America, topics more broadly addressed in Archon Holder's most recent book, *Our Unfinished March: The Violent Past and Imperiled Future of the Vote – A History, a Crisis, a Plan*. During the event Archon Holder also answered questions from the audience.

More than eighty Archons participated in the program, in person and virtually. Joining the event were Past Grand Sire Archons Cornell Moore and James Payne, Northeast Region Sire Archon Alfred L. Spencer, Jr., and Sire Archon Kweisi Mfume of Gamma Boulé.

Alpha Boulé Archons also hosted a Mayoral Forum on April 2 for candidates seeking to lead Philadelphia as its next mayor. The city's current mayor is term-limited, which has resulted in a field of twelve candidates (as of the date of this writing) seeking to succeed him.

The forum was sponsored by Alpha Boulé's public policy and program planning committees and was moderated by Alpha Archon Alyn Waller. In attendance were candidates Jeff Brown, a Philadelphia businessman and grocery-store owner; Allan Domb, a former city council member and real estate developer; James DeLeon, a retired judge; Derek Green, a former city council member; Cherelle Parker, also a former city council member; and Rebecca Rhynhart, former city controller. During the forum, Archon Waller posed questions to each candidate on issues relating to gun control and crime prevention, education, minority business growth and development, economic sustainability, and other pertinent issues in the city and region. Alpha Archons were also able to pose questions to the attending candidates on these issues.

In conclusion, Alpha Boulé Archons, under the leadership of Sire Archon Patrick M. Oates, made a strong start to the biennium. Their current and continuing efforts to get to know the best of one other and our fellow Archons from other boulés, and to be active participants in our communities, are consistent with Sigma Pi Phi's grandest traditions.

*Archon Anthony E. Gay
Grapter, Alpha Boulé*



THE GROUP POSES WITH EPSILON ARCHON ERIC HOLDER (CENTER).

Gamma Boulé Hosts Pre-Ball Reception for New Governor



ARCHON WES MOORE AND GRAND SIRE ARCHON-ELECT LOREN R. DOUGLASS

The first Black governor in the state of Maryland's 246-year history, and only the third African American elected governor in the history of the United States, Archon Wes Moore of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, was sworn in as the state's sixty-third governor on January 18, 2023. He'd been inducted into Gamma Boulé in 2013.

That evening, before attending "The People's Ball: Celebrating the Inauguration of Wes Moore & Aruna Miller," Gamma Boulé hosted a reception at the Center Club, with approximately 130 Archons and Archousai in atten-

dance, representing various member boulés, including Gamma, Gamma Xi, Zeta Gamma, Epsilon, Epsilon Phi, Zeta Delta, Zeta and Beta Nu. Grand Sire Archon-Elect Loren R. Douglass and Archousa Michelle A. Douglass also attended the informal gathering.

Archon Moore's diverse, distinguished educational background includes graduating from Valley Forge Military Academy and Johns Hopkins University and earning a master's degree in international relations at Wolfson College, Oxford, as a Rhodes Scholar. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, having

served as captain with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Some of his early affiliated political experiences include intern-ing in the office of Archon Kurt Schmoke, former mayor of Baltimore, and serving as a White House Fellow. His business and executive experience include leading his self-launched Baltimore-based business, BridgeEdU, and, most recently, serving as the chief executive officer of the Robin Hood Foundation.

*Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé*

Delta Boulé Holds a *Célébration du Mardi Gras*



MARDI GRAS COMMITTEE COCHAIRS ARCHONS AND ARCHOUSAI ESMOND AND PAM ARRINDELL, ALBERT AND SANDRA MORRIS, AND HERMAN AND BRENDA MORRIS

Delta Boulé, Memphis, “put on the dog,” as they say, on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at the Southwind Country Club for its soulful, “busting at the seams with excitement” Mardi Gras celebration, replete with crawfish étouffée and other delicious party fare. Archons and Archousai came in top hats, tuxedos, sequins, boas, custom-made masks and glittering headpieces, and everyone donned dancing shoes, celebrating as if there were no tomorrow. Among flashing green, gold and purple lights, beads of all colors, and feathers, a roving saxophone-playing deejay kept the dance floor busy. If you hadn’t known better, as a king and queen were presented “at court” during the festivities, you would have thought you were at a jubilant club scene on Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

A highlight of the party was a bedazzling casino, with games ranging from bid whist and blackjack to roulette and craps. One Archousa racked up more than \$250,000 (in play money chips) and walked away with the evening’s top prize of a 65-inch flat-screen television set. But everyone, in fact, left with something from goody bags at each place setting.

The evening ended with a champagne toast to the Archousai, followed by a high-stepping line parade led by Archons and Archousai Albert and Sandra Mays Morris, Brenda and Herman Morris, Pam and Esmond Arrindell, and Joey and Neal Beckford.

*Archon Ronald A. Walter
Grapter, Delta Boulé*

Michelle Douglass Hosts Zeta Boulé's Valentine's Event



New York City's Zeta Boulé held a Valentine's Day event on February 5, 2023, at Olfactory in the West Village that was hosted by Archousa Michelle Douglass, wife of Zeta Boulé Sire Archon and Grand Sire Archon-Elect Loren R. Douglass. Perfumers guided Archousai through the process of developing their very own signature scent while being treated to wine, cheese and sweet treats during the experience.

After the perfume event, Archousai joined their Archons at the Crosby Street Hotel in Soho for an elegant lunch. Zeta Boulé Archousai and Archons were joined by guests from Alpha, Alpha Beta and Alpha Sigma boulés. Regina Fleming Photography documented the experience and provided personal portraits to all couples. All Archousai and Archons that attended had an absolutely wonderful time!

*Archon Lewis Paul Long
Grapter, Zeta Boulé*



ZETA
BOULÉ

Archons from **Houston-Area Boulés** Gather for Pregame Watch Party



On January 23, 2023, Archons from Houston, Texas's Nu Boulé, North Houston's Epsilon Omicron Boulé and Fort Bend's Zeta Alpha Boulé gathered at Our Legends Cigar Bar and Lounge in Houston for a private NFL watch party. Nu Archon Al Odom catered the event and Zeta Alpha Archon Wayne Luckett hosted a wine tasting. Archon Sylvester Turner, the mayor of Houston, and Archon Clarence Estes, Sire Archon of Epsilon Omicron, were among those in attendance.

Our Legends is a private club in the shadow of downtown Houston that is owned and operated by Archon Thomas Jones of Nu Boulé. Our Legends's membership includes more than thirty Archons from Texas and throughout the country. Special thanks to all of the Archons who attended and to Archon Jones for hosting the event.

*Archon Michael T. Murphy
Grapter, Nu Boulé*

Rho Boulé Kicks Off Its Centennial Charter Day Celebration

Rho Boulé, Pittsburgh, kicked off the first event of its Centennial Charter Day Celebration at the Rivers Club on January 27, 2023 – one of three “Rho 100” events scheduled for the year. Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi and Archousa Carol Jupiter Garibaldi were present for the festivities.

By way of history, as told by Archon Leon L. Haley:

In the early 1920's, Pittsburgh, which would become the home of the seventeenth boulé, was a growing urban region marked by the emergence of a rapidly expanding steel industry. Although African Americans – though small in number – were among the city's earliest settlers, the opportunity for jobs in the industrial sector gave impetus to the significant migration of southern Blacks that occurred in the early twentieth century. By

1920, the city's African American population was more than 25,000.

As in other places, African Americans in Pittsburgh, left outside the economic mainstream owing to racial discrimination, nevertheless began to carve out a distinctive social, economic and cultural life, building upon those community and charitable activities that began to emerge as early as the late 1800's and the early 1900's. While Black churches were the focus of community activities, other early African American organizations in the city included the Loendi Club, the Aurora Reading Club and such fraternal organizations as the Elks, the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

With the emergence of a Black middle class, many of whom were professionally



SIRE ARCHON CLARENCE DOZIER AND THESAURISTES MICHAEL JASPER

trained, interest in establishing a boulé became apparent, and the process began on September 28, 1922, when the list of founders' names was sent to the Grand Grammateus. Rho Boulé was set apart on January 27, 1923, in Pittsburgh.

Consistent with Sigma Pi Phi's membership standards of high achievement in their respective career fields, leadership abilities and congeniality, the fourteen Rho Boulé charter members were so characterized. They included Archons Frank B. Steward, Samuel R. Morsell, Robert L. Vann, George W. Strickland, Harrison M. Brown, James C.G. Fowler, Charles H. Carroll, David R. Lewis, Alex R. Taylor, James M. Burwell, Dudley G. King, William E. Franklin and Allen G. Gantt. Among this group were five physicians, two dentists, two attorneys, an architect and a social worker.

These distinguished and notable Archons of Rho Boulé brought the 12th Grand Boulé to Pittsburgh in 1931.



ARCHOUSA DARLENE POWELL AND ARCHON ROBERT POWELL

The cocktail hour was accompanied by a jazz musician who perfectly set the tone for fellowship and getting to know the best of one another. From there, everyone was directed to the main ballroom, where Sire Archon Clarence Dozier and Grand Sire Archon Garibaldi gave welcome remarks, reflecting on Rho's hundred years in this august Fraternity. Grammateus Darrell Smalley read a resolution from the Grand Boulé that was presented to Rho Boulé for its centennial.

A wine tasting, where everyone sampled wines from throughout the world, kept the celebration going before it wrapped up with dinner and dancing.

In the boulé's hundred-year history, many trailblazing Archons have been deeply ingrained in the City of Pittsburgh's history. Today, Rho has grown to forty-one Archons, all determined to continue to carry on its rich tradition.

*Archon Ron G. Jones
Grapter, Rho Boulé*

Alpha Tau Boulé Hosts Grand Sire Archon at Black History Month Program



FRONT ROW: ARCHONS FRANK MEACHEM, ROGER McDOUGAL, CARLTON WILSON, GEORGE QUICK, TYRONE BAINES, EDWARD CLEMONS, JR., WENDELL DAVIS, JARVIS MARTIN, ARNETT COLEMAN, DAVID JACKSON, JR., JAMES SILLS III, THEODORE EDWARDS II, JAMES JOHNSON, JR., AND WENDELL BULLARD. BACK ROW: ARCHONS JOHNSON AKINLEYE, WILLIAM SMITH, KEVIN MONTGOMERY, TOMMY McNEILL AND JONATHAN AUGUSTINE; GRAND SIRE ARCHON ANTOINE M. GARIBALDI; AND ARCHONS CHARLES BECTON, MICHAEL PALMER, JAMES WILLIAMS, LOUIE RIVERS, JR., SEKOU BERMISSE, LEROY ROBERTS, JR., AND TRAVIS ROUSE.

Alpha Tau Boulé, Durham, North Carolina, in collaboration with St. Joseph AME Church, hosted Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi as the keynote speaker for St. Joseph's annual #HBCU Sunday, a thematic part of its Black History Month celebration, which took place on February 12, 2023. St. Joseph, a 154-year-old staple of the Durham community, and its senior pastor, Archon Jonathan Augustine, both value its long-standing relationship with HBCUs, especially its neighbor, North Carolina Central University. The program raised funds for NCCU Foundation scholarships. Sire Archon Michael Palmer and the Alpha Tau executive committee welcomed Grand Sire Archon Garibaldi to Durham with a dinner on Saturday evening, February 11.

In introducing Archon Garibaldi, Archon Augustine noted that he shared the Grand Sire Archon's love for Black excellence in education, partially because of their common foundation through St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, an all-boys, all-Black Catholic institution.

Grand Sire Archon Garibaldi – as a career educator who graduated from Howard University and has provided transformative leadership at Xavier and two

other universities – understands the importance of HBCUs and the need to support these institutions. In his address, “We’ve Come This Far by Faith and With Education, but There Is Still More Work to Do,” he informed the audience that HBCUs constitute only about 3 percent of all institutions of higher learning but enroll nearly 16 percent of all African American students and produce 50 percent of Black teachers and physicians and 80 percent of Black judges. He challenged attendees to continue supporting educational opportunities: “There is no question in my mind that HBCUs are needed in the twenty-first century. But there is so much more that we can do to help the hundreds of thousands of African American youths who are not attending college today.”

The program included remarks from the Honorable Valerie Foushee, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Archon Johnson Akinleye, chancellor of North Carolina Central University, who presented a full scholarship to Eric Brown, a young member of St. Joseph.

*Archon Carlton Wilson
Grapter, Alpha Tau Boulé*



Beta Beta Boulé Entertains the Ladies at Sweetheart Ball



Beta Beta Boulé, Boston, treated their Archousai to the Sweetheart Ball at the Seaport Hotel on February 18, 2023. More than 150 Archons, Archousai and guests attended the event, which was vibrating with live music and dancing. Prior to the ball, Beta Beta inducted three new Archons in a private

ritual. Special recognition was given to Beta Beta's most recent Past Sire Archon, E. Macey Russell, and Archousa Roberta Russell.

Archon Derrick Z. Jackson
Grapter, Beta Beta Boulé

Beta Lambda Boulé Greets Archon Wynton Marsalis

Archons and Archousai of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, attended a special preperformance reception, enjoying hors d'oeuvres and cocktails with Archon Wynton Marsalis (Zeta Boulé) on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at the Robin Hixon Theatre. Archon Marsalis was in Norfolk with his Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for a performance at Chrysler Hall on February 28, 2023, the marquee event for the Virginia Arts Festival. Beta Lambda members were invited to the reception by Archon Maurice Jones, chair of the Virginia Arts Festival board of directors, and Archon Simon Scott, who also serves on the board. The invitation was extended to Epsilon Delta Boulé in neighboring Williamsburg, providing another opportunity for the two boulés to get to know the best of one another.

Archon Marsalis also collaborated with the Virginia Arts Festival and Jazz at Lincoln Center to host a residency for jazz ensembles and orchestras at historically black colleges and universities, and nine HBCUs participated, including Norfolk State University, Hampton University, Grambling State University, Benedict College and Elizabeth City State University. The residency consisted of workshops and breakout sessions, offering young musicians an opportunity to play with, learn from and be mentored by professionals. At the end of the residency, Archon Marsalis and members of his orchestra judged the groups in a competition in which the winners would open the evening for Archon Marsalis and his orchestra when



ARCHON MARSALIS ANSWERS STUDENTS' QUESTIONS AT THE HBCU JAZZ RESIDENCY ON FEBRUARY 26, 2023.

they played at Chrysler Hall. The winners, Norfolk State University and Benedict College, had the good fortune of performing at this event.

Archon Steven D. Bond
Grapter, Beta Lambda Boulé

Beta Xi Boulé Archousai Share Two Truths and a Dream



The Archousai of Beta Xi Boulé, Central Florida, gathered on March 18, 2023, at the lovely lakefront home of Archon Michael J. Meares and Archousa Joy Meares in Orlando for their first post-pandemic Archousai event. They were honored to have a special guest, Archousa Michelle Douglas, the wife of Grand Sire Archon–Elect Loren R. Douglass.

All were ecstatic to embrace and share. The Archousai, casually dressed in blue and white, eagerly played a wonderful game of Two Truths and a

Dream – with the theme of “getting to know the best of one another.” The amazing luncheon, which included crab mango salad and blue velvet cake, was catered by Chef Nina and Company. The luncheon committee (Archousai Gloria Blocker, Cathy Brown-Butler, Shirley Cowans and Joy Meares) presented each Archousa with a beautiful handmade blue-and-white fan from Ghana. Everyone enjoyed themselves and departed with high excitement and anticipation for their next opportunity to get together.

Beta Xi Boulé Hosts a Night With ‘Lady Day’

Transport yourself to the intimate Emerson’s Bar and Grill in 1959 Philadelphia; cabaret tables surround a stage starring the lovely “Lady Day,” Billie Holiday. A bawdy personality wrapped in an elegant dress, Lady Day gives one of her final performances with her piano man Jimmy Powers.

This was where the Archons and Archousai of Beta Xi Boulé, Central Florida, found themselves on February 18, 2023, riveted by this homage to the singer as they celebrated their Valentine’s event at a performance of Lanie Robertson’s *Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill* at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater (Orlando Shakes).

Holiday viewed her voice as an instrument, changing the face of jazz forever with skillful improvisation that compensated for her lack of musical education. Lanie Robertson created a biography come alive – immersive, affecting and haunting, weaving the singer’s artistry and life story into a portrait, allowing the audience a glimpse into the spiral of substance-driven haze Holiday fell into later in life. This powerful production featured Tymisha Harris as Billie Holiday and Garrick Vaughan as Jimmy Powers. In partner-

ship with the University of Central Florida, Orlando Shakes produces classic and contemporary plays that enrich the community through art, excellence and life-changing performances. Harris’s portrayal of Lady Day as she reminisces about her life’s great triumphs and losses brought the legendary jazz singer back to the stage for one final time.

Twenty-four Beta Xi couples and twelve guests attended the performance, the evening having been arranged by Archon Ernest Page, chairman of the entertainment committee. A social hour before the show served as the perfect venue for attendees to spend quality time together. “The music was great, and I love the historical component. And the meatballs,” said Archon Paul Perkins.

In the words of Archon Alvin Cowans, “What an exciting Valentine’s event. To spend such precious time with your Valentine sweetheart and enjoy a sensational play with your fellow Archons and Archousai – it just doesn’t get much better than that.”

*Archon Jude H. Wilson
Grapter, Beta Xi Boulé*

Gamma Alpha Boulé Offers Region Sire Archon-Elect a Tour of Tucson



ARCHON ALEX HISHAW, GAMMA ALPHA SIRE ARCHON PHIL WILLIAMS, ARCHON CLYDE TURPIN, ARCHON MARQUES A. ELLIOTT, PACIFIC REGION SIRE ARCHON-ELECT KANAHL KENDRICK, ARCHON BRADFORD COOK AND ARCHON LEHMAN BENSON

Gamma Alpha Boulé, Tucson, Arizona, had the pleasure of hosting an esteemed guest, Pacific Region Sire Archon-Elect Kanahl Kendrick, on February 24, 2023, to discuss Pacific Region Sire Archon Michael Keeley's initiatives.



Upon Archon Kendrick's arrival, Archon Clyde Turpin took him on a tour of Tucson, including a walk-through of the University of Arizona, and after the business meeting that Friday, a few Archons got together for a dinner hosted by Archon Marques Elliott at an old Pueblo-themed cantina, El Charro Café.

On Saturday morning Archon Alex Hishaw hosted a breakfast, after which Archon Bob Elliott took Archon Kendrick to the University of Arizona-Arizona State basketball game at the McKale Memorial Center, which ended in a half-court buzzer beater by Arizona State. The trip concluded with a private tour of the new African American Museum of Southern Arizona on the university campus.

We are grateful to Archon Kendrick for showing us his fraternal spirit and for taking the time to come to our city to experience a taste of Tucson!

*Archon Kristian H. Salter
Gapter, Gamma Alpha Boulé*

Gamma Beta Boulé Elects New Officers

Gamma Beta Boulé, Jacksonville, Florida, announces the election of its officers, Sire Archon Morris Applewhite, Sire Archon-Elect Kevin Holzen-dorf, Grammateus Bennie Clark, Thesauristes Mark Dawkins, Grapter Roger Groves, Rhetoricos Nathaniel Herring and Agogos Yared Alula.

Sire Archon Morris Applewhite brings decades of experience in information technology, software sales and management. He is managing director at Year Up, a nonprofit workforce development program that provides underserved young adults with technical and professional skill training to move from minimum wage jobs to meaningful careers. Previously industry group leader for banking, financial services and insurance at Sitel Corp., a global business processes services company, he was the chief commercial officer for International SOS, a global medical services and security services provider, and he spent more than fifteen years at Convergys, a global business services company. He also is a nonexecutive board member of Credit Suisse Holdings (USA), Inc.

Sire Archon-Elect Kevin Holzen-dorf is an IT executive with extensive public and private sector experience in technology infrastructure, software development, and government and financial services industries. He is an executive account manager with Emtec, Inc., and he has also handled top Tier 1 and 2 accounts for Cisco.

Grammateus Bennie Clark is the principal owner of Todays Dentistry by Polite and Clark, a private practice that has been well established for nearly three decades. His professional experience includes but is not limited to the practice of pharmacy, as he earned his R.Ph. after receiving his undergraduate degree from FAMU and his D.M.D. from the University of Florida.

Thesauristes Mark Dawkins is a CPA, a certified management accountant and a chartered global management accountant. He has served as dean of the Coggin College of Business, University of North Florida, where he is a professor of accounting. He has also worked in banking as a financial analyst, asset/liability analyst, and mergers and acquisitions analyst.

Grapter Roger Groves is a senior adviser at a seventy-person business law firm, Rogers Towers, P.A., based in Jacksonville. He has been a tax judge, an equity partner in the hundred-person multistate law firm Howard & Howard, PC, and a counsel at Lewis & Munday, in Detroit and Washington, D.C. He has been a tenured faculty member at various law schools and a visiting professor at FAMU College of Law, teaching business, tax and sports business courses. He currently owns a practice, Business Law Strategies and Solutions, LLC, advising clients nationally on business and tax issues.



SIRE ARCHON MORRIS APPLEWHITE, SIRE ARCHON-ELECT KEVIN HOLZEN-DORF, GRAMMATEUS BENNIE CLARK, GRAPTER ROGER GROVES, AGOGOS YARED ALULA AND RHETORICOS NATHANIEL HERRING

Rhetoricos Nathaniel Herring, CLU ChFC, a senior executive in the financial services industry, is the director of wire service operations for MUFG Bank. He executes business and technology plans, operating and capital budgets, disaster recovery initiatives, vendor management strategies, compliance guidelines, and process improvement. He has been a senior vice president of operations at Community First Credit Union, a market president, senior vice president at Fifth Third Bank, and senior VP and director of retail banking at Wachovia Bank (now Wells Fargo).

Agogos Yared Alula is senior vice president and assistant general counsel at PGA TOUR, having been an associate counsel for the National Basketball Players Association and an associate at Latham & Watkins, the second-largest law firm in the world. After receiving his B.A. in mathematics and economics at Emory University, he graduated from Harvard Law School.

*Archon Roger M. Groves
Grapter, Gamma Beta Boulé*



GAMMA BETA
BOULÉ

Wall Street CEO Shares Insights with **Gamma Beta Boulé**



BYRON BOSTON SPEAKS TO THE ARCHONS OF GAMMA BETA BOULÉ.

To enhance their February 23, 2023, meeting and to continue getting to know the best of one another, the Archons of Gamma Beta Boulé, Jacksonville, Florida, brought in a Wall Street executive who has personally founded two successful public companies. Byron L. Boston, CEO, co-chief investment officer and board member of Dynex Capital, Inc., is nationally renowned in navigating fixed-income capital markets. During his thirty-year career he has held several leadership positions in the asset management/investment banking community.

After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1981 with a degree in economics, he began his career as a corporate banker with Chemical Bank, where he focused on direct corporate loans and bond issuances. He returned to business school at the University of Chicago, where he earned an M.B.A. in 1986, specializing in finance and accounting. He then joined the fixed-income training program at Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB), subsequently becoming a mortgage-backed securities bond trader. Between 1986 and 1997 he traded mortgage securities for both CSFB and Lehman Brothers, and in 1997 he was recruited by Freddie Mac to develop and lead the initial investment plan to grow their retained portfolio. After successfully overseeing the investment strategy and driving excellent performance, he departed Freddie Mac in January 2004 to launch Sunset Financial Resources, a mortgage REIT spe-

cializing in high-quality residential and commercial loans and securities. Boston led the company's initial public offering in March 2004, raising \$130 million in initial equity. Sunset was sold in 2006.

In his presentation he emphasized that the workforce is shifting, that culture wars are rising and that the financial viability of individual and corporate portfolios depends on how well they adapt to the economic vicissitudes in this ever-changing environment. Without mentioning names, he said, "Culture wars may bring a crazy man into power," also affecting capital markets. Inflation, he said, often means at least two things relevant to us – "my people are not getting paid, and income inequality will widen." He recommended that all investors be ever mindful of risk, minimalizing emotional decisions, and he cautioned everyone to avoid being wooed by sexy investment opportunities. He emphatically urged people to consider bond issuances, as there is a critical mass of African Americans highly networked in that area. Yet only 4 to 5 percent of African Americans are even invested in money market funds.

While a broad smile, he surveyed the landscape, saying that groups like Gamma Beta give him hope in the future financial viability of African Americans – especially when we pass along our knowledge.

*Archon Roger M. Groves
Grapter, Gamma Beta Boulé*

Gamma Beta Boulé Welcomes the New Biennium With a Springtime Dinner



Quality time for the members of Gamma Beta Boulé, Jacksonville, Florida, is not necessarily going out and partying among America's eighty million millennials. Fellowship dinners do just fine. So, on March 18, 2023, forty-eight Archons and Archousai dined on menu items from filet mignon to salmon fillets at one of Jacksonville's premier restaurants, Cowford Chophouse. Principally organized by Archon Terrance

Jones, chair of the social action committee, the event demonstrated the ease with which venerable but ever-youthful Archons and Archousai can come early and stay late.

*Archon Roger M. Groves
Grapter, Gamma Beta Boulé*

Gamma Omicron Boulé Celebrates Valentine's Day in Style

Gamma Omicron Boulé, Tampa Bay, Florida, hosted its annual Valentine's Day bash on February 11, 2023, at the Marriott St. Petersburg for an overflow crowd of more than eighty Archons, Archousai and guests. Archon Frederic Guerrier and Archousa Bernoune Guerrier served as hosts for this colorful event.

Attendees enjoyed a cocktail hour and treats while being serenaded by the wonderful Candace "Candi the Violinist" Anderson, who entertained everyone throughout the evening. In the dining room, beautiful centerpieces on each table revealed lighted candles, pearls and red roses in a lovely arrangement created by Archousa Guerrier.

Archon Ed Narain entertained the group with his deejay skills and also congratulated the couple who had the longest marriage and the most recently married couple. Archon Bruce Curry celebrated the day of love with his original romantic poetry, and Archon Cedric Thornton displayed his melodic voice with his interpretation of the favorites "One in a Million" and "If I Fall in Love," receiving a standing ovation.

After each Archon presented a beautiful gift of pearls and roses (donated by Past Sire Archon Kenyon



VIOLINIST CANDACE ANDERSON AND ARCHON CEDRIC THORNTON

Fort) to his precious lady, the evening wrapped up with dancing and fun.

Love was in the air!

*Archon Lawrence W. Hamilton
Grapter, Gamma Omicron Boulé*

Gamma Rho Boulé Changes Leadership



AGOGOS CHARLES RAMSEY, SIRE ARCHON-ELECT JOHN WRIGHT, GRAPTER BRUCE GAINES, SIRE ARCHON LES ALEXANDER, THESAURISTES JASPER MOON, GRAM-MATEUS KEN JAMERSON AND RHETORICOS DAVID WOOTEN

During a special breakfast meeting at Weber's Inn on February 28, 2023, Gamma Rho Boulé, Ann Arbor, Michigan, installed new officers, with Sire Archon Thomas Seabron passing the baton of leadership to incoming Sire Archon Les Alexander.

Sire Archon Seabron was recognized and honored for his leadership over the last biennium, which proved to be tumultuous owing to the pandemic. During this time he was able to keep Archons engaged and informed, even though there was little in-person interaction. Also, in June 2020, he oversaw the induction of seven Archons, which was administered in a very safe fashion, with Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi in attendance.

Incoming Sire Archon Alexander expressed his enthusiasm over taking the helm and his gratitude for the trust Archons have placed in him as a leader. He highlighted his plan to adopt two local social action organizations, raise additional funds for student scholarships, and increase participation at regional and Grand-level events. Gamma Rho will continue to build on the strong foundation that has been established these many years.

*Archon Bruce Gaines
Grapter, Gamma Rho Boulé*



PAST SIRE ARCHON TOM SEABRON RECEIVES A GIFT FROM INCOMING SIRE ARCHON LES ALEXANDER ON BEHALF OF GAMMA RHO BOULÉ.

Gamma Sigma Boulé Celebrates Cupid's Day



The Archons of Gamma Sigma Boulé, Raleigh, North Carolina, held their annual Valentine's Day Is for the Archousai celebration on February 3, 2023, at the Prestonwood Country Club in Cary. The spectacular evening featured Archon Bill McNeal as master of ceremonies with Sire Archon James Corpening providing the welcome and Past Sire Archon Benjamin White offering a toast. Archons and Archousai enjoyed a wonderful dinner, conversation and getting to know the best of one another.

An aspiring African American sommelier offered a sampling of outstanding wine produced by African

American vintners, and after enjoying an adventurous bourbon and chocolate pairing, everyone danced the night away, stoking the fires of romance. Archon Claude Demby presented the Archousai with the wonderful surprise gift of tickets to a forthcoming presentation of *Porgy and Bess* performed by an African American ensemble from the North Carolina Opera. It was a special night honoring very special Valentines.

*Archon Joel J. Ducoste
Grapter, Gamma Sigma Boulé*



Gamma Phi Boulé Marks 35th Founders Day



After two years of Founders Day celebrations remarkably conducted on Zoom by the social committee with the same traditional formality in style, dress and dinners personally delivered, the Archons and Archousai of Gamma Phi Boulé, San Antonio, were eager to embrace one another at the Sonterra Country Club on January 21, 2023, to mark the thirty-fifth Gamma Phi Founders Day. In addition to being an annual tribute to the Archousai and a celebration of the founding Archons, the event heralded the announcement of those stalwart Archons who had attained the status of Archon Emeritus.

In welcoming everyone, including special guests Western Region Sire Archon Jesse Tyson and Archousa Cheryl Tyson, Archon Carl Elder, social committee chair, introduced the members of the committee, who were saluted for their extraordinary dedication and innovation during these past years.

Sire Archon Kenneth Kemp exuded happiness at finally being able to meet face-to-face to honor our

Archousai with love and gifts, recognizing as well that although we have suffered the loss of family and friends over the years, God has also been good to us.

Stepping up to deliver an individually tailored tribute to each Archousa, Sire Archon-Elect Ron Kelley crafted unique characterizations of their special qualities, which have been and remain intrinsic to the success of Gamma Phi.

Organizing, founding and Sire Archon Emeritus Leonard Lawrence conveyed with a bit of levity his high regard for his now-ripened fraternal brothers – Archons Emeritus Joseph Pierce, Jr., Walter Joe Duncan, Charles S. Thurston, Lawrence Harkless, Sr., George Hilliard, Samuel Scott, Jr., and Reggie Williams – who have all given a great chunk of their lives to the development of the Gamma Phi family.

*Archon William T. Burke III
Grapter, Gamma Phi Boulé*



SEATED: EMERITUS ARCHONS REGGIE WILLIAMS AND GEORGE HILLIARD; WESTERN REGION SIRE ARCHON JESSE TYSON (EPSILON OMICRON); FOUNDING AND EMERITUS ARCHONS LEONARD LAWRENCE, JOSEPH PIERCE, JR., AND WALTER JOE DUNCAN; EMERITUS ARCHONS LAWRENCE HARKLESS, SR., AND SAMUEL SCOTT, JR. **SECOND ROW:** ARCHONS JOHN WINSTON III AND JESSE MOSS, JR.; IMMEDIATE PAST SIRE ARCHON JACKIE HAYES; RHETORICOS BERNARD HARRIS; AGOGOS CHARLES ANDREWS, JR.; GRAND BOULÉ EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND WESTERN REGION SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIR AND SIRE ARCHON-ELECT RON KELLEY; SIRE ARCHON KENNETH KEMP; GRAMMATEUS DERICK YOUNG; THESAURISTES STEPHEN BLANCHETTE; GRAPTER WILLIAM BURKE III; MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL CHAIR ARCHON TRAVIS WILTSHIRE; AND ARCHONS GREGORY HUDSPETH, SR., ROBERT JEMERSON, MORRIS STRIBLING, CARL DUKES AND CARL ELDER. **THIRD ROW:** ARCHONS NICHOLAS CORMIER, JR., MICHAEL LAWRENCE, WILLIAM KENT, DERRICK FLOWERS, STEPHEN TWITTY, RUDYARD HILLIARD, DAVID LAWRENCE, TIMOTHY DUNHAM, FELTON PEYTON, SR., PAUL FOSTER, JOSEPH PIERCE (KAPPA), GERALD GREENFIELD, DARYL MILLER, CARL RICHIE, JR. AND ART HALL.

Gamma Chi Boulé Weathers the Storm to Celebrate Valentine's Day



The epic storms that hit Northern California this year did not prevent the Archons of Gamma Chi Boulé, San Jose, California, from honoring their sweethearts at a Valentine's Day celebration held on February 5, 2023, at the Ritz Carlton, Half Moon Bay, set atop an ocean-view bluff along the coastline. The

weather was wet and cold, but the warmth of loving hearts made for a balmy affair.

*Archon Leon F. Beauchman
Grapter, Gamma Chi Boulé*

Delta Chi Boulé Holds Long-Awaited Winter Gala



The Archons and Archousai of Delta Chi Boulé, Orangeburg, South Carolina, gathered on February 3, 2023, at the Sulit event space in the Downtown Historic District to celebrate their Winter Gala, a stylish, upbeat affair that provided a welcome post-pandemic opportunity to physically connect, spend time together and acknowledge the best of one another.

The gala was enhanced by the soulful sounds of Moses and The Promise Land Band. Archon Kevin Ray served as host and, along with Sire Archon Oliver Pough, presented gifts to the Archousai. Special guests included Southeast Region Grapter

LeRome Richmond and Archousa JoiSanne Richmond. In addition to dining, dancing and fellowship, the Casino Night segment provided fun and excitement for those wanting to try their hand at craps, roulette or blackjack.

The Winter Gala was an excellent way for Delta Chi to kick off Black History Month, in preparation for Valentine's Day.

*Archon W. Franklin Evans
Grapter, Delta Chi Boulé*

Delta Nu Boulé Celebrates Black History Through Art



ARCHON DWAYNE SMITH, PRESIDENT, HOUSATONIC COLLEGE



ARCHONS GARY FORD AND DWAYNE SMITH

Delta Nu Boulé, Fairfield County, Connecticut, held its monthly meeting at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport on February 18, 2023. The occasion, hosted by Archon Gary Ford and Archon Dwayne Smith, CEO of Housatonic Community College, highlighted the significant contributions of local and national Black artists to African American culture.

The Housatonic Museum of Art is home to one of the premier college art collections in the United States, offering such guest lecture titles as “Slums

in the Sky: How Photography Killed Mass Social Housing” and such exhibitions as *The Practice of Democracy: A View from Connecticut*. Members of Delta Nu were given a VIP tour of the museum’s most valuable pieces, stored in a climate-controlled room. Items from this multimillion-dollar collection can be seen on display around campus throughout the year.

*Archon Charles E. Spaulding
Grapter, Delta Nu Boulé*



ARCHONS DWAYNE SMITH (PRESIDENT, HOUSATONIC COLLEGE), CHARLES SPAULDING, THOMAS MARSHAL, ERIC COFFIELD, TRACY McMILLAN, GARY FORD, CARLTON BARNSWELL, ANDERSON LIVINGSTON, RON WOODS, CRAIG POLITE AND RAIFORD COCKFIELD

Epsilon Zeta Boulé Archons Visit National Museum of African American History and Culture



SIRE ARCHON MARK MOORE, GRAMMATEUS GREG FENNER, THESAURISTES RICARDO MICHEL, ARCHON RICHARD CLARK, ARCHON WILLIAM "KIP" WARD AND SIRE ARCHON-ELECT BERNARD MUSTAFA

In observance of Black History Month 2023, several of the Archons of Epsilon Zeta Boulé of Loudoun County, Virginia, took time out to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). The group was led by Sire Archon Mark Moore and Sire Archon-Elect Bernard Mustafa. The event was made possible by Sire Archon Moore, a founding donor of the NMAAHC.

The day was filled with great discussions at many of the exhibits in this most sacred museum. As the Archons visited the military exhibits, they were educated by Archon William Ward, a retired general in the U.S. Army. Archon Ward was the inaugural commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, from October 1, 2007, to March 8, 2011. As a group of ROTC students and their commanding officer overheard Archon Ward's impassioned description of the first platoon of Black paratroopers, they couldn't help but stop and take notice.

Archon Ward noted, "Almost all African Americans are familiar with the famed Tuskegee Airmen. However, few have ever heard of the 555th Parachute Infantry Regiment, or Triple Nickels." In 1944 a group of Black infantry soldiers gained entrance to the Army's elite Airborne School. After graduating

from the grueling course they faced continued racial prejudice in the Army and society. Since most of these soldiers came from the 92nd Infantry Division "Buffalo Soldiers," this new organization became the Triple Nickels, after the Buffalo nickel.

Because the military was segregated, this new unit of combat soldiers was assigned to the U.S. Forest Service to fight forest fires ignited by incendiary balloons floated over the Pacific. They became pioneers in specialized airborne operations, from firefighting to atomic warfare. With few exceptions in WWII, the Army had previously placed Black soldiers primarily in service jobs. The Triple Nickels became the first Black parachute infantry battalion, and after the war they were finally welcomed into the airborne community. They were assigned to the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82d Airborne Division, thus making it the first integrated combat unit.

The day concluded as the Archons of Epsilon Zeta Boulé gathered for a photograph at the exhibit of the first Greek-letter African American fraternity, our beloved Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

*Archon Robert S. Ferrell
Grapter, Epsilon Zeta Boulé*

Epsilon Lambda Boulé Holds 12th Annual Founders Day Celebration



Archons gathered on January 19, 2023, at Mirasol Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens to celebrate the anniversary of the chartering of Epsilon Lambda Boulé, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie Counties, Florida, hosted by Southeast Region Sire Archon Darrell B. Searcy. Archon James Cole, Epsilon Lambda's "founding father," was in attendance and did the honor of swearing in the new officer slate: Sire Archon Timothy Bryant, Sire Archon-Elect Donald Byrd, Grammateus Redick Brown II, Thesauristes Robert

C. Osborne, Grapier Gregory L. Williams, Rhetoricos Michael Joyner and Agogos T.J. Cunningham.

Past Sire Archon Clarence Williams delivered a heartfelt message that marked the end of his tenure. Archons celebrated the night with an exquisite three-course meal, signature cocktails and cigars while continuing to get to know the best of one another.

*Archon Gregory L. Williams
Grapier, Epsilon Lambda Boulé*

Epsilon Omicron Boulé Hosts Forum With Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries

Epsilon Omicron Boulé, North Houston, Texas, as part of its Black Leaders Network Forum, hosted a conversation with U.S. Representative Hakeem Jeffries, House minority leader and leader of the House Democratic Caucus – the first Black party leader in Congress. The event took place on February 17, 2023, as a precursor to the 22nd Western Regional Boulé to be held in October. Minority Leader Jeffries discussed his vision for a political process that ensures the development of fair and equitable legislation for all Americans.

The dialogue, led by public policy committee member Archon Lonnie L. Johnson and Archousa Eartha Jean Johnson, was hosted at the Johnsons' home in Spring, Texas, and was attended by several Houston opinion leaders and decision makers, including Archons and Archousai from the three Houston-area member boulés. Archon Johnson spent many years working in Washington, D.C., advocating for the energy industry. "I met Hakeem when he first came to D.C. as a new congressman from Brooklyn," he said. "He has shown himself to be a sharp politician and a person interested in getting things done."

In 2020, recognizing that there was still a great need to focus on issues that have an impact on the Black community, the public policy committee established a platform – the Black Leaders Network Forum



ARCHOUSA EARTHA JEAN JOHNSON AND ARCHON LONNIE L. JOHNSON

– giving prominent African American leaders the opportunity to share their views and place a spotlight on current issues that affect America's marginalized, most vulnerable people. This forum has provided a businesslike environment for opinion leaders, educators, corporate executives, elected officials and industry experts to discuss and develop proactive road maps for solutions in the Black community.

*Archon Eric T. Adams
Grapier, Epsilon Omicron Boulé*

Prince William County Executive Addresses **Epsilon Sigma Boulé** Archons



ARCHONS RAYMOND HASTEN, JESSE CITIZEN AND JEROME JOHNSON; COUNTY EXECUTIVE CHRISTOPHER SHORTER; AND ARCHONS CURTIS TAYLOR, JR., MICHAEL WOOTEN AND JAMES SIMPSON

The Archons of Epsilon Sigma Boulé, Prince William County, Virginia, were pleased to have County Executive Christopher Shorter as a guest speaker on March 10, 2023. Appointed as county executive of the second largest county in Virginia on January 3, 2023, he is the first African American to serve in this position. He discussed such topics as education, contracting opportunities for small businesses and economic change, emphasizing that as Prince William continues to grow, we must see to it that our young people lead productive lives.

Raised in Detroit, he dedicated his life to public service at the age of 15, and now he has worked for more than eighteen years in local government operations, including extensive experience in strategic planning, organizational development and financial management. Shorter spent the last two years as city administrator for the Baltimore City government.

He closed by saying that his goal is for all in the county to have financial empowerment. This creates opportunities for improving the financial outcomes of people living on low incomes, increasing their credit

scores, helping them understand the importance of saving and investing, and controlling their debt levels. He thanked the Archons for their support, saying that he looks forward to working with Epsilon Sigma to make Prince William County the best place to live in Virginia.

*Archon James E. Simpson
Grapter, Epsilon Sigma Boulé*



Epsilon Chi Boulé Hosts Colorado Springs Chamber Speaker



PAST SIRE ARCHON JACOB PRUITT, JOHNNA REEDER KLEYMEYER AND SIRE ARCHON VINCENT ELLERBY

Colorado Springs's Epsilon Chi Boulé kicked off 2023 with a guest speaker on January 8, 2023. Johnna Reeder Kleymeyer, president and chief executive officer of the Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Committee, is in her second year in this position and was eager to share with the Archons some of the progress that the chamber has made, as well as some plans for future advancement. She emphasized that Colorado Springs needs

Archons and people of color to take an active role in city boards to promote economic development. She entertained a myriad of questions, thanked the Archons for the opportunity to speak and looks forward to future engagements.

*Archon Willard E. Bell, Sr.
Grapter, Epsilon Chi Boulé*



EPSILON CHI ARCHONS WITH JOHNNA REEDER KLEYMEYER

Zeta Beta Boulé Archons Host Celebration of Black Love



The Archons of Zeta Beta Boulé, North Dallas, Texas, hosted the Love Jones 2.0 experience on February 17, 2023, to reaffirm their love for their Archousai. To ensure that the experience was uninterrupted by regular patrons celebrating Valentine's Day, they rented the entire Hawthorn's restaurant.

The event was crafted in the spirit of the movie *Love Jones*, which celebrates Black love. Archons and Archousai were greeted with champagne, cocktails and the best hors d'oeuvres in Texas, with plenty of Black love on full display. The Archons had set the stage for the evening with three distinct acts.

Act I: Attraction. The distinguished Archons promised their Archousai an evening of elegance, intrigue and poetry, with Sire Archon Grady Searcy setting the tone, Sire Archon-Elect Kenny Frank reciting the Maya Angelou poem "Touched by an Angel" and the deejay playing Rhianna's "Diamonds." The Archousai were seated for dinner as the deejay played, "Brother to the Night (A Blues for Nina)" from *Love Jones*.

Act II: Connection. Love is the most significant connection between two people. Archon Keith Maddox recited "My Loves" by Langston Hughes, highlighting the importance of communication in Black love, as it allows partners to build trust, intimacy and understanding in their relationships. After the poem was

read, each Archon presented his Archousai with a special gift that he selected.

Attraction leads to connection, and connection leads to commitment – the third and final act.

Act III: Commitment. In one memorable scene in the movie *Love Jones*, Darius recites a poem expressing his vulnerability and his fear of rejection, saying, "I'm scared of the fall, I'm scared of love, I'm scared of me." This theme stresses the importance of vulnerability in Black love, as it allows partners to be authentic to themselves, creating a solid and lasting bond. Archon Anthony Kyles kicked off Act III by reciting Mike Ellison's "These Hands" in honor and recognition of the Archousai.

Encore. In true Zeta Beta fashion, the party isn't over until the host shuts off the lights! The Archons escorted their Archousai to the private lounge and hit the dance floor, where the deejay played the hits and Zeta Beta provided the energy.

Nights like this highlight our culture, getting to know the best of one another in an environment like no other. In our relationships, we can create meaningful connections with our Archousai and fellow fraternity members that will last a lifetime.

Archon H. Louis Burrell III
Grapter, Zeta Beta Boulé



THE REGIONAL BOULÉS

WESTERN REGION CELEBRATES LIFE AND LEGACY OF ARCHON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

By Archon Leonard James III, Western Region Grapter



FRONT ROW: ARCHOUSAI YVETTE OLDACRE, NAKEDRA CAMPBELL, LAQUITA CARTER, CHERYL TYSON AND VANESSA DARKO, AND WESTERN REGION GRAPTER LEONARD JAMES. BACK ROW: ARCHON DANA CARTER, WESTERN REGION SIRE ARCHON JESSE TYSON, ARCHON VERNON DARKO AND ARCHON TROY SPENCER.

On the third Monday in January of each year, America pauses for its national holiday to celebrate and reflect on the life and legacy of one of its greatest Americans – Archon Martin Luther King, Jr.

In honor of Archon King's vision that "all men were created equal and should enjoy the same rights and privileges," the thirty-fourth Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Celebration took place in The Woodlands, Texas, on January 16, 2023. This annual free public celebration was started many years ago by the Impact Church of The Woodlands (formerly St. Paul Church) and is still hosted by the church every year at The Woodlands Methodist Church. Western Region Sire Archon Jesse J. Tyson served as master of ceremonies, and Archousa Cheryl Tyson chaired the Commemorative Celebration Committee.

Just as Archon King gave America a dream of racial harmony and told the world how this could become a reality, the featured speaker, Marcus Hayes, lead pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church, offered a tribute inspired by the 2023 theme "Rise Up."

The MLK Youth Mass Choir, the Resound Special Needs Ministry Choir and the MLK Adult Mass Choir all performed throughout the event. As part of the 2023 tribute, \$10,000 in scholarships was awarded to a diverse group of college students. Adriana Flowers received the Drum Major Award, named in honor of Archon King's role as a drum major for justice and presented to someone who has given back significantly to the community in the last year.



WESTERN REGION SIRE ARCHON JESSE J. TYSON AND ARCHOUSA CHERYL TYSON



ARCHOUSA CHERYL TYSON WITH POSTER CONTEST AWARD RECIPIENTS



FEATURED SPEAKER MARCUS HAYES

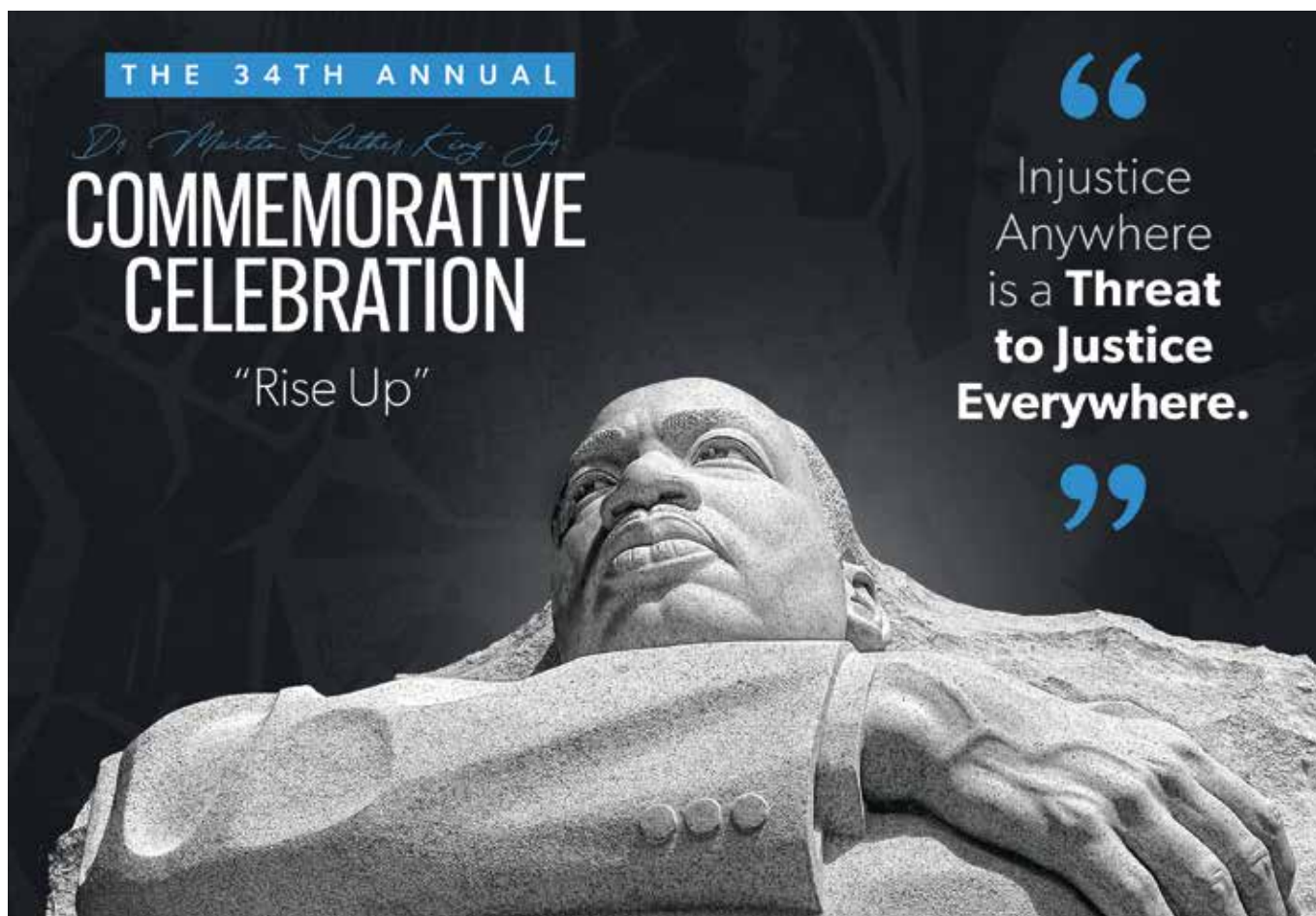


WESTERN REGION SIRE ARCHON JESSE TYSON



WESTERN SIRE ARCHON TYSON PRESENTS THE DRUM MAJOR AWARD.





COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION IMAGE



THE MLK YOUTH MASS CHOIR



THE MLK ADULT MASS CHOIR



RESOUND SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY CHOIR

Archons Continue a Rich Tradition on Martha's Vineyard

By Sire Archon Calvin L. Butts, Jr., Zeta Delta Boulé



As the warm summer days faded into crisp autumn nights, the true sign of the changing seasons takes place on the island of Martha's Vineyard, where Black families returned this year en masse, shedding the tethers of the pandemic as they began to gather again. Such was the case at Garde East in September 2022 as Archons from around the globe reconvened during their annual sojourn to the island to get to know the best of one another.

"We wanted to find a Boulé-quality venue with an impressive menu and unparalleled views from the island," remarked Archon Lloyd Freeman of Southern New Jersey's Delta Epsilon Boulé, cochairman of the event. Garde East was the setting for the annual Archons on the Vineyard luncheon. Nestled on the shore of Vineyard Haven, with a backdrop of crashing waves, bungalows in the hills and a marina, this was the perfect setting. Zeta Delta Sire Archon Calvin L. Butts, Jr., a summer resident, suggested this spot for the gathering. "I knew the Archons would love

these views of Vineyard Sound," he said. "I keep my boat docked here most of the year, and it's one of my favorite spots."

After a welcome prayer, Archons and select guests enjoyed a four-course luncheon, premium bar and great company. Northeast Region Sire Archon-Elect David Tapscott gave opening remarks and praised the Archons for carving out time for continuing this great tradition. Archons Butts and Freeman, the cochairs, encouraged guests to introduce themselves and exchange contact information. Scores of Archons attended, hailing from the Central, Southeast and Northeast regions. At the conclusion of the event, everyone huddled for a group photo, and after returning to their respective homes, each Archon was surprised to find a personalized souvenir in the mail.

Archons are encouraged to join this growing group of vacationing Boulé members while spending time in Martha's Vineyard. The goal is to keep this rich tradition alive for years to come.



ARCHONS IN VINEYARD HAVEN MARINA



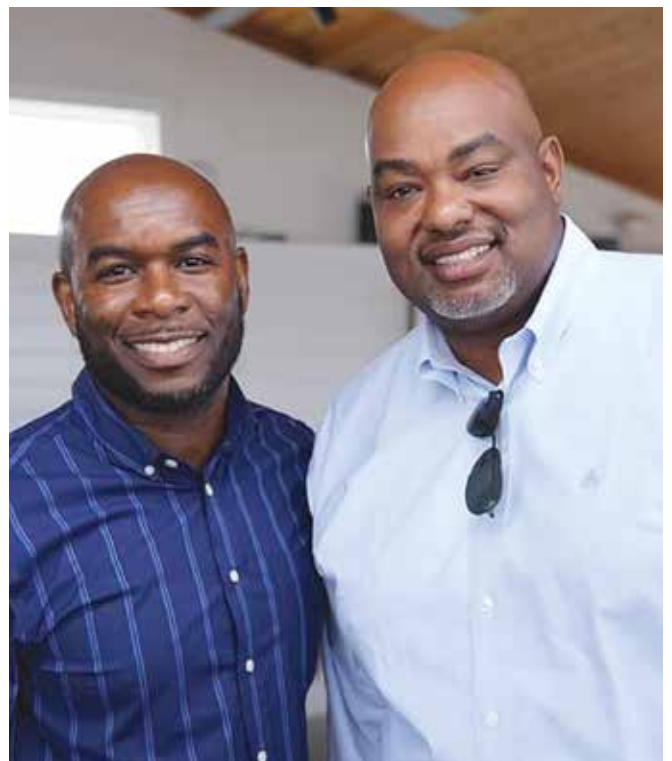
ARCHONS ENJOY LUNCH.



ARCHONS ENJOY LUNCH.



ARCHONS AND GUESTS



ARCHONS LLOYD FREEMAN AND CALVIN BUTTS

REAL REPARATIONS

By Archon Leon Beauchman, Grapier, Gamma Chi Boulé

I want some real reparations
Don't want your sympathy
What was stolen can't be returned
Don't want your counterfeit empathy
It's time to reclaim the Spirit
A restoration of our humanity
Let's build a place called home
Where we all live with dignity

I want some real reparations
So please don't play me cheap
My burden was so heavy
My pain it was so deep
I was stolen from my mother's breast
And then I was locked in chains
Like an animal placed in a cage
You never recognized my pain
Sold me to the highest bidder
In order to exploit the land
Violated my body and my mind
And now you say you understand

I want some real reparations
After generations of blood and sweat
The road has been long and winding
But now there's no regrets
You see God gave me a revelation
For resurrecting the human soul
My song is of redemption
My story more precious than gold

I've left behind all the hate
Found a love that made me whole
Moved beyond the illusions
And the lies that I was told

I want some real reparations
Because there's a lesson to be learned
You can't assault my humanity
Without doing damage to yours in return
For generations black and white have suffered
From a shame that's been repressed
It's time for us to come together
So our collective pain can be addressed
Let's go to the source of the affliction
And the remedy will be clear
We have been infected by an old disease
It's a simple thing called fear
It's time for humanity to move forward
Leave violent and childish ways behind
To become what we must is hard work
A test of character, body and mind

I want some real reparations
Don't want your sympathy
What was stolen can't be returned
Don't want counterfeit empathy
It's time to reclaim the Spirit
A restoration of our humanity
Let's build a place called home
Where we all live with dignity

REGIONAL BOULÉS 2023

NORTHEAST REGIONAL BOULÉ
SEPTEMBER 14-17
Dover, Delaware

PACIFIC REGIONAL BOULÉ
SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 1
Los Angeles, California

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL BOULÉ
OCTOBER 4-8
New Orleans, Louisiana

WESTERN REGIONAL BOULÉ
OCTOBER 18-22
The Woodlands, Texas

THE GRAND BOULÉ

THE IMPORTANCE OF BOULÉ HISTORY AND WHY IT SHOULD BE PRESERVED AND SHARED

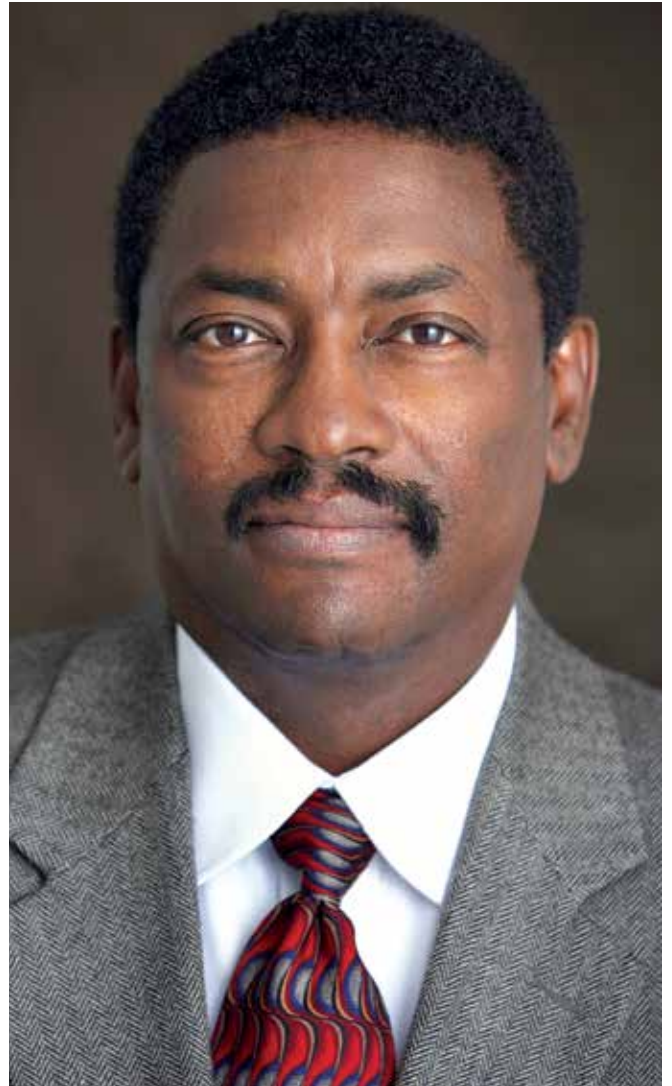
By Archon Douglas R. Bender, Sr., Beta Epsilon Boulé

“Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go.”

– James Baldwin

History is the knowledge of and study of the past. It is the story of the past and a form of collective memory. History is the story of who we are, where we come from, and can potentially reveal where we are headed. History is important to study because it is essential for all of us in understanding ourselves and the world around us. There is a history of every field and topic, from medicine, to music, to art. To know and understand history is necessary. Archon Lonnie G. Bunch III, director of the Smithsonian Institution, said at the opening of Washington, D.C.’s National Museum of African American History and Culture in 2016: “There is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history. And there is no higher cause than honoring our struggle and ancestors by remembering.”

To study history is to study change. Historians are experts in examining and interpreting human identities and transformations of societies and civilizations over time. They use a range of methods and analytical tools to answer questions about the past and to reconstruct the diversity of past human experience: how profoundly people have differed in their ideas, institutions and cultural practices; how widely their experiences have varied by time and place; and the ways they have struggled while inhabiting a shared world. Historians use a wide range of sources to weave individual lives and collective actions into narratives that bring critical perspectives on both our past and our present.



Studying history helps us understand and grapple with complex questions and dilemmas by examining how the past has shaped (and continues to shape) global, national and local relationships between societies and people. As Archon Carter G. Woodson said, “Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

YOU LEARN A CLEAR LESSON

If your Grand History and Archives Committee does its job well, we can all learn a few things that will help us individually, the Fraternity collectively and the world as a whole. History can help us become better informed citizens. It shows us who we are, and being informed of this is a key element in maintaining a democratic society. This knowledge helps people take an active role in the political forum through educated debates and by refining people's core beliefs. Through knowledge of history, citizens can even change their old belief systems – for the better.

By looking at specific stories of individuals and situations, you can test your own morals and values. You can compare it to some real and difficult situations individuals have had to face in trying times. Looking to people who have faced and overcome adversity can be inspiring. You can study the great people of history, of Black history, who successfully worked through moral dilemmas, and also ordinary people who teach us lessons in courage, persistence and protest.

Understanding past events and the impact they have on the world today can bring about empathy and understanding for groups of people whose history may be different from the mainstream. You will also understand the suffering, joy and chaos that were necessary for the present day to happen and appreciate all that you are able to benefit from past efforts today. James Baldwin wrote, "History, as nearly no one seems to know, is not merely something to be read. And it does not refer merely, or even principally, to the past. On the contrary, the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do. It could scarcely be otherwise, since it is to history that we owe our frames of reference, our identities and our aspirations."

EVERYTHING HAS A HISTORY, AND IT MATTERS

The storied Instagram account Black Archives showcases the Black experience through visuals, much like We the Diaspora, which came after it. The Black Beauty Archives celebrates the evolution of Black aesthetics and beauty rituals through digital museum collections. Black Film Archive contextualizes lesser-known works of Black cinema and lets users know where to stream them. Archiving the Black Web aims to document Black Internet culture and make the process itself more inclusive. BlackPast.org, founded by our esteemed Archon Quintard Taylor of Alpha Omicron Boulé, seeks to highlight through its work not just those

who have had an outsize impact on humanity, but also those who are unsung heroes whose names and contributions made a difference but whom we might not have otherwise known. And thanks to the efforts of archivists and activists, artwork from the Black Lives Matter memorial is now on display online at the Library of Congress website.

It's notable that many recent efforts originated at the community and grassroots level. According to data from Zippia.com, the most recent of which was published in 2021, about 5 percent of professional archivists in the United States identify as Black. And while there are several notable institutions with trained professionals who process and contextualize Black culture and history, some individuals have taken it upon themselves to fill in the gaps.

ARCHIVES CAN SHAPE OUR FUTURES

While some of the tools today are newer, the phenomenon of Black people documenting and preserving their stories is rooted in a long tradition. Enslaved Africans recorded their experiences through folk tales told in secret, while later generations saved family photos and heirlooms and preserved information in the pages of their family Bibles.

William Henry Dorsey, an African American man in the nineteenth century, filled nearly 400 scrapbooks with articles about anything related to Black lives. White institutions, however, historically had little regard for archival materials capturing the lives of ordinary Black people. And institutional and legal barriers made it harder for African Americans to access ancestry and genealogy records – if those records existed at all. In collecting photos that capture moments of everyday Black life, we not only chart the evolution of Black experience, but also signal to Black folks that their stories, too, are worthy of documentation.

Learning more about the past can help shape how Black folks think about their futures. When we make history accessible, we give ourselves permission to imagine what the future can look like.

It is for all these compelling reasons that the Grand History and Archives Committee has an unwavering collective passion. We believe that Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity represents the essential nucleus of Black struggle and high achievement since 1904. We intend to do our part to lift up and preserve that legacy by carefully shepherding the documenting and archiving of our history.

OUR CHARTER

The committee's charter as envisioned by Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi and affirmed by

our committee members is as follows: “The Grand History and Archives Committee will be responsible for promoting greater awareness, education, and appreciation for the Fraternity’s history and the preservation of the records of the Fraternity.”

During this biennium we will be actively engaged in overseeing professional resources (archivists and archival sites) used for the collection of local, regional and national historical documents; be the official chronicler of the events, memoirs, symbols, biographies and experiences that combine to make the history of the Fraternity; and act as a resource for member boudés and others regarding historical displays and other presentations.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND PLANS

The committee will be pursuing the following initiatives as its work during this biennium:

- Archive the history of the Fraternity from 2010 to 2024 to support the next published edition of The History of Sigma Pi Phi.
- Partner with Alpha Boudé to design, recommend and launch an ongoing Grand Founders Day celebration program (possibly to be held live in Atlanta). This would include a component that involves annual graveside services in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.
- Develop a proposed Boudé history presentation for member education at the local level. It will be a presentation of critical facts about and elements of our Fraternity history and is envisioned to be offered at least once a year. The committee will also develop an “elevator speech” every member in the Fraternity could use to share with others about what Sigma Pi Phi is.
- Support the development and launch of an official film on the history of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

I would be remiss if I did not highlight the incredible collection of Archons, who have been entrusted with advancing the work of curating our history and ensuring its efficacy through appropriate archival resources. While their backgrounds vary, each has significant professional experience in some aspect of this work:

Archon Samuel W. Bacote III, Kappa (SE) – Thirteenth Grand Grammateus and seventh Executive Secretary (former) of the Fraternity; directs the Fraternity’s official work related to the archiving of documents and artifacts.

Archon Khephra K. Burns, Alpha Sigma (NE) – Grand Grapter for more than twenty-four years with a stellar record of chronicling the lofty accomplishments of the Boudé’s membership and curating the march of Black America from our contributions to the Harlem Renaissance, fashion and other important aspects of Black life.

Archon Joe Carlos, Alpha Epsilon (W) – Past Sire Archon of Alpha Epsilon Boudé; Past Regional Sire Archon of the Western Region; former chair, Regional Sire Archons; member of the Grand Executive Committee.

Archon John E. Fleming III, Sigma (C) – Past director in residence of the National Museum of African American Music; director emeritus, Cincinnati Museum Center; past chair, American Association for State and Local History Council.

Archon John W. Franklin, Epsilon (NE) – Cultural historian and managing member of Franklin Global, LLC; former cultural historian and senior manager in the office of external affairs at the Smithsonian’s nineteenth museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (including more than twenty-five years with the Smithsonian); past chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture; member of the French president’s Advisory Commission for the Foundation for the Memory of Slavery and the Slave Trade.

Archon Tom L. Larkin, Beta Kappa (SE) – Past Sire Archon of Beta Kappa Boudé; Past Regional Sire Archon of the Southeast Region; currently Regional Historian, Southeast Region.

Archon Quintard Taylor, Alpha Omicron (P) – Founder of BlackPast.org; Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professor Emeritus of American History at the University of Washington; noted author and writer on Black history; past president, Western History Association.

Although not official members of this committee, Past Pacific Regional Sire Archon George Strait and the Grand Archivist, Melissa Kemp, contribute mightily to our program of work on a regular basis. Individually and collectively, we appreciate the opportunity to lead this important work, and we look forward to serving the Fraternity in this capacity. We encourage every Archon (and Archousa) across the organization to help us as we work to identify every document, artifact and other sacred item to ensure that we are championing and protecting our history the in the best way we possibly can.

IN MEMORIAM



Lewis Allen

Archon Lewis “Lew” Allen, 85, of Gamma Xi Boulé, Sarasota, Florida, passed away peacefully on September 25, 2022. Born in Monroe, Louisiana, on August 9, 1937, the eldest of three sons of Lewis E. and Aurelia Lavizzo Allen, he grew up in Queens, New York, graduated from New York City’s prestigious Bronx High School of Science in 1954, and went on to earn a B.S. in chemistry from Queens College, which was considered the “crown jewel” of the sprawling City University of New York. He earned a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1963 at Syracuse University and began his career as a teacher at Florida A&M in Tallahassee before moving to Rochester, New York, where he worked for Eastman Kodak, starting as a research chemist and eventually becoming the director of the environmental analytical chemistry laboratory, retiring in 1992.

In retirement Archon Allen touched many lives and was loved and respected by family, friends, students and coworkers alike. He mentored students at Empire State College, taught chemistry at SUNY Geneseo and later served as an adjunct professor at Monroe Community College. As a member of Sigma Pi Phi and Kappa Alpha Psi,

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Lettie Marie Burgett

Surrounded by members of her family, Archousa Lettie Marie Burgett, 73, of Delta Xi Boulé, Walnut-Diamond Bar, California, passed peacefully on August 13, 2022, at her home in Palos Verdes Estates. Born in St. Louis in April 1949, the third child and eldest daughter of Arthur and Ruth Burgett, she grew up in a household full of love and music. She set her sights early on following in the professional footsteps of her own pediatrician, the pioneering and generous Dr. Helen E. Nash. In this, as in many other realms apparently closed to little girls like herself, Archousa Burgett would defy limitations. She studied so hard as a child that, in her words, she wore grooves in the floor under her desk.

She graduated from Rosati-Kain High School and went on to the University of Rochester, where she majored in biology on a full-tuition scholarship that she supplemented with odd jobs to make money for books and supplies. In her college years she built on a family commitment to social justice, engaging in activism that would inform her future contributions to the well-being of her own and other communities. Upon receiving her B.A.,

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Ralph Dickerson, Jr.

Nationally recognized as a leader in the nonprofit world, Archon Ralph Dickerson, Jr., 75, of Beta Zeta Boulé, Westchester County, New York, transitioned to Omega Boulé on February 12, 2023. Born in Alton, Illinois, to Muriel L. Cannon Dickerson and Ralph Dickerson, Sr., on May 25, 1947, he graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1969 with a B.S. in business administration. He later received an M.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin.

Archon Dickerson held executive positions in the United Way organizations of Madison, Wisconsin, and Cleveland and became president of the United Way of Pittsburgh in 1984. He was also appointed president of the United Way of New York City, a position he held until retiring in 2004. During his career he led fundraising campaigns that raised more than \$12 billion, which he used to improve the lives of the poor and disenfranchised.

After the terrorist attacks in New York City in 2001, Archon Dickerson cocreated the September 11 Fund, which was used to help victims, families and communities affected by the attacks.

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Joseph N. Green, Jr.

Founding Archon Joseph N. Green, Jr., 96, of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, passed away on January 14, 2023. At the time of his passing he held the distinction of being the oldest living Beta Lambda Archon. A renowned pillar of his community, he created a remarkable record of accomplishment in the fields of civil rights, politics and religion throughout the region and the City of Norfolk, with his fingerprints particularly evident in the areas of housing, education and transportation.

He was born in Jenkinsville, South Carolina, on April 15, 1926, the ninth of eleven children. He and his siblings attended St. Barnabas Episcopal Church school because it offered Black children six months of education, compared with the local school's offering of three months. In 1943 he was called up to the navy, and he worked as a pharmacist's mate in Great Lakes, Illinois, where he observed discrimination in the assigning of schedules between Black and white sailors.

After his time in the navy he felt a calling to the ministry, and he earned his undergraduate degree at St. Augustine's College (now University) in Raleigh, North Carolina. He and nine classmates decided to enroll in Philadelphia Divinity School, a white seminary, to prove

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Ira D. Hall, Jr.

A game-changing corporate executive, Archon Ira D. Hall, Jr., 78, of Alpha Rho Boulé, Miami, Florida, passed away peacefully on January 11, 2023. Before joining Alpha Rho, he was a founding member of Delta Nu Boulé, Fairfield County, Connecticut.

He was born in Oklahoma City on August 23, 1944, to community leaders Rubye Maie Hibler Hall, a teacher and speech pathologist, and Ira DeVoyd Hall, Sr., an entrepreneur and assistant director of secondary education for the segregated Oklahoma state school system. This pioneering lineage was an enormous influence on the man Archon Hall would become.

The fourth of six children, he stepped up with his younger siblings to desegregate Oklahoma City's Northeast High School, and he went on to earn a B.S. in electrical engineering at Stanford University, graduating as president of the class of 1966. Ten years later he earned an M.B.A. from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, with the goal of becoming an executive at a global company.

In the interim he worked in marketing at Hewlett-Packard (HP). There, at the age of 24, he accepted the opportunity to launch a non-profit social action organization, the Stanford Mid-Peninsula Urban Coalition in Palo Alto, Califor-

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Doris W. Leevy Johnson

Archousa Doris Wright Leevy Johnson, 83, of Alpha Iota Boulé, Columbia, South Carolina, passed away on February 8, 2023. Born on November 16, 1939, to George and Lottie Wright, she graduated from C.A. Johnson High School and West Virginia State University, and she earned her master's degree at the Ohio State University.

Archousa Johnson dedicated her life to the field of education, teaching at W.A. Perry Middle School, Booker T. Washington High School and Benedict College, and after rearing her children, she returned to work at Benedict, first as a freshman counselor and director of Title III and later as the associate vice president for institutional advancement. She retired after thirty-one years of service to Benedict and, at her passing, was a member of its board of trustees.

She is survived by her husband of fifty-four years, Archon I.S. Leevy Johnson; her sons George (Michelle) Leevy Johnson and Chris (Cynthia) Leevy Johnson; grandchildren Rachel, Ryann, Leah and Ian; and her family at Leevy's Funeral Home, of which her husband is the owner.

Donations may be made to the Lottie Robinson Wright & Ruby Leevy Johnson Endowed Scholarship at: Benedict College, Office of Alumni Relations and Advancements Services, 1600 Harden Street, Columbia, SC 29204.



Livingstone M. Johnson

Emeritus Archon Livingstone Morris Johnson, 95, of Rho Boulé, Pittsburgh, peacefully transitioned to Omega Boulé on February 25, 2023, surrounded by family and dear friends.

Archon Johnson was born on December 27, 1927, in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania, to Oliver Livingstone Johnson and Irene Olive Morris Johnson. In 1945 he earned his Eagle Scout badge and then was chosen as a member of the Boy Scouts' honor society, the Order of the Arrow. He later obtained the Boy Scouts' prestigious Silver Beaver Award, the most significant distinguished service award for adults.

After earning his A.B. at Howard University in 1949, he was called to active duty. An ROTC commissioned officer, he graduated from the navigator, radar, bombardier school at Ellington Air Force Base in 1951 and flew fifty-eight combat missions over enemy territory during the Korean War. He was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Commendation Medal, the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters and other awards, and in 1962, based on his past wartime performance, he became a charter member of the Allegheny County Hall of Valor.

After leaving Korea, Archon Johnson attended the University of Michigan Law School, earning

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Lonnie Jones, Jr.

A deeply beloved long-term member of Beta Theta Boulé, Knoxville, Tennessee, Archon Lonnie Jones, Jr., 76, passed away on December 11, 2022. He served as Agogos for more than ten years and as a member of the collegiate scholarship committee, graciously giving of himself while enhancing the growth and maturity of future leaders.

Born on June 28, 1946, he was reared in Loudon County, Tennessee, and attended High Point High School in Sweetwater, which was until 1964 the only educational institution available to African American students in both Monroe and Loudon counties. During his time there, Archon Jones was characterized as one of the friendliest, kindest, most supportive members of his class. His classmates recall his charismatic smile, his exuberant drive to succeed, his unwavering spirituality and his impeccable fashion taste—all of which his fellow Beta Theta members witnessed and experienced.

He graduated from the University of Tennessee Knoxville in 1971, and his professional career began that year with Xerox Corp. In 1973 he became an Allstate Insurance agent, which led to his agency ownership in 2000. He received numerous awards and accolades, and his company was recognized as the Top Performing

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James Alfred Joseph

The only U.S. ambassador to present his credentials to President Nelson Mandela, Archon James Alfred Joseph, 87, of Gamma Xi Boulé, Sarasota, Florida, left this life on February 17, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. From his humble roots he rose to the heights of achievement, with contributions in academia, public service, civil society and the private sector.

Born on March 12, 1935, on a family farm in Plaisance, Louisiana, he spent his early years in segregated Opelousas – state headquarters of the Ku Klux Klan – and attended the segregated St. Landry Parish Training School, where he excelled in English and original oratory, avidly participated in track and basketball, and was student government association president. He won the state oratory competition and placed second in the national competition (second to the future congresswoman Barbara Jordan, the first Southern African American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives). In 1952 he entered Southern University, where he was class president, president of the Baptist Club and debate team champion. He graduated with a B.A. in political science and social studies and earned his master's degree in divinity at Yale University, where he was active in

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George Dwight Malone

Alpha Pi Boulé, San Diego, mourns the passing of Archon George Dwight Malone, 78, who passed away peacefully at his home in Chula Vista on November 23, 2022, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. Active and engaged with Alpha Pi for many years, he served as Sire Archon from 2003 to 2005 and was a mentor in the Boyz to Men program.

Born on November 10, 1944, in Montgomery, Alabama, he graduated as valedictorian of St. Jude Educational Institute, initially continuing his education at Howard University, where he majored in electrical engineering, and then earning his B.S. at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., majoring in chemical engineering and graduating magna cum laude.

He worked as an engineer at Dupont in Wilmington, Delaware, as he completed an M.B.A. at the University of Delaware, and after that, encouraged by his older brother, Dr. Thomas Malone, he applied to Thomas Jefferson University-Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, earning his M.D. in 1973 and completing residencies at Meharry Medical Center in Nashville, Northridge Hospital in Northridge, California, and UCLA. He worked in private practice as a family medicine physician

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Thomas E. Motley, Sr.

A noted internal medicine physician with more than forty-five years of service to the community, Archon Thomas E. Motley, Sr., 83, of Delta Boulé, Memphis, died on January 11, 2023. Born in Whiteville, Tennessee, on May 15, 1939, to Robert and Elma Coleen Motley, proprietors of Motley and Rivers Funeral Home, he graduated from the Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, North Carolina, and earned a B.S. from Howard University and his M.D. from Howard University College of Medicine.

After completing his naval career, he settled in Memphis, becoming the city's first African American internal medicine physician. He served as medical director for cardiac rehabilitation and the department of preventative medicine at Methodist Healthcare Systems and as chief of staff for Methodist Extended Care Hospital, and he was a founding partner of the Eastmoreland Internal Medicine group. Also a consulting physician for St. Francis Hospital and Baptist Memorial Hospital, he contributed to numerous medical research studies as a clinical science principal investigator.

When he retired in October 2021 he was honored by the Memphis City Council, and after his death former Councilwoman Jamita Swearengen wrote, "Dr. Thomas Motley, Sr., will truly be missed.

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Laura Mauney Murphy

Blessed with a charismatic personality, loved by all who knew her, Archon Laura Mauney Murphy, 83, of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, passed away on January 22, 2023. Born in Forsyth County, North Carolina, on July 28, 1939, she had lived in Guilford County since 1985. She attended public schools in Winston-Salem, graduating from Atkins High School in 1958, and she pursued further education at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. After an illustrious career of many years, she retired from IBM Corp. and American Express.

A lady of enormous talent as a skilled gardener, decorator and artist, she operated Silk Arrangements Plus. As the ultimate socialite, she enjoyed dancing and loved being the life of the party. She was a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, the Flexibles and the Social Promoters.

Survivors include her beloved husband of fifty-three years, Archon Jerome Murphy; daughters Gina Bryant, Lesa Yvonne Williams, Marlys (William Edward) Ratliffe and Alana (Brian) Moser; her grandchildren: Dr. Laura Bryant, Taura Bryant, Capt. Kaura Bryant, Sanaa Ratliffe and William Ratliffe III; her special friend Barbara L. (James) Johnson; and a host of other relatives and friends.



Nathan F. Simms, Jr.

Archon Nathan F. Simms, Jr., 90, of Epsilon Gamma Boulé, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, passed away on January 26, 2023, after a long, courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. Born in Winston-Salem on October 20, 1932, to Nathan Simms and Dorothy Simms, he graduated from Atkins High School in 1950 and continued his education at North Carolina College at Durham (now NCCU), earning B.S. and M.S. degrees in mathematics. Before graduate school, he served two years in the U.S. Army, and then he went on to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

A proud longtime member of Sigma Pi Phi, he was originally a member of Beta Epsilon and then a charter Archon of Gamma Kappa. Upon moving to Chapel Hill, he became an active contributing member of Alpha Tau in Durham and, finally, a charter Archon of Epsilon Gamma, where he served as the original Thesauristes.

A dedicated educator, he taught for many years at Winston-Salem State University, where he was chairman of the math department and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He also served as vice chancellor of academic affairs at North Carolina A&T State University and vice president of student affairs and special programs at the University of North Carolina

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Floyd N. Tyler, Jr.

Archon Floyd N. Tyler, Jr., 54, Thesauristes of Delta Boulé, Memphis, from 2017 to 2021, died January 23, 2023, in Memphis. He had recently chaired Delta's 2022 Christmas Is for the Archousai gala, held at a downtown event space in the historic Snuff District.

Described as "one of the brightest financial and investment minds in Memphis," Archon Tyler was the first Black founder of a money management firm in the region – Preserver Partners, LLC, an alternative asset management company that manages funds for retirement and pension plans, endowments, foundations, corporations, family offices and individual investors. The company serves as the portfolio manager for the Preserver Alternative Opportunities Fund.

Born in Chicago to Aubrey Della Dean (Pinion) and the late Floyd Tyler, Sr., on November 16, 1968, Archon Tyler grew up in the storied Orange Mound community of Memphis, considered America's first Black neighborhood built for and by African Americans, which was founded in the 1890's. He moved there at the age of five and was reared by his late aunt, Ruby Williams, who had a great influence on his life.

After graduating from Central High School and earning a bachelor of business administration

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Annie R. Eison Wallace

A beloved teacher who touched the lives of many students, Archousa Annie Ruth Eison Wallace, 72, wife of Archon Lewis S. Wallace, Jr., of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, departed this life unexpectedly on December 26, 2022, at home in Woodbridge. Born in Union, South Carolina, to Richard Allen Eison and Irene Stevens Eison on July 9, 1950, she accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at Saint Paul Baptist Church. Later, with her family, she joined First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, Virginia. Crowned as "Miss Sims High" during her senior year at Sims High School, she continued her education at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education.

A highlight of her forty-four-year teaching career occurred from 1988 to 1990, when she accompanied her husband (an assistant air attaché) on a diplomatic assignment to the American embassy in Moscow, Russia. While there, she was the first African American educator employed by the Anglo-American School, where she taught students from more than thirty countries. When she returned to the United States, she taught in D.C. public schools from 1990 to 1995 and in Prince William County, Virginia, schools thereafter.

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Charles Jerome Ware

Holding the hand of his loving wife, Archon Charles Jerome Ware, 74, of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, transitioned peacefully to Omega Boulé on December 24, 2022. Born on April 22, 1948, in Anniston, Alabama, the eighth child of John and Marie Ware, he was valedictorian of his Anniston High School Class of 1966. He went on to graduate from Talladega College with honors and was selected as one of six students to integrate the medical school at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Unwilling to allow the overt opposition he received at UAB to break his spirit, he escaped the segregated South to pursue a degree from the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

After earning his juris doctorate in 1975, he attended Boston University with the intention of obtaining an M.B.A., but he soon realized that practicing law would be the best way for him to touch as many lives as he could, and after lecturing for a brief period at Boston University while studying for the bar exam, he found his way back to Washington. He accepted a position at the Department of Justice under the Reagan administration, first working in the Appellate Section of the Civil Rights Division, then moving to the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. His work with the government ulti-

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Stephen A. Whatley

Selfless service was the consistent thread stitched into the fabric of the life of Archon Stephen Anthony Whatley, 74, of Epsilon Boulé, Washington, D.C., who passed away on February 17, 2023.

A lifelong champion for civil rights, marching with Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., in the March on Washington and the Poor People's Campaign, he fiercely advocated for lower utility costs, affordable health care, local infrastructure projects and fully funded neighborhood schools. A proud Washingtonian, he was committed to his community as a tireless and compassionate ANC commissioner, a kind mentor, a gifted youth soccer coach and an involved member at Nativty Catholic Church. He was also an active member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and a Connecting Link with The Links, Inc.

Born on August 28, 1948, he graduated from West Virginia State University with a B.A. in economics and went on to earn an M.B.A. from Southern Illinois University, beginning his career in federal service in 1971 as an administrative assistant with the navy (Department of Defense). He progressed to become an economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (Department of Labor), during which time he also served in the U.S. Army Reserve.

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Lewis Allen, continued

he enjoyed the camaraderie of his fraternal brothers and his participation in the plethora of community and other activities each supports. He was also a member of the American Chemical Society (ACS) for more than sixty years, and through the ACS Summer Experiences for the Disadvantaged, he exposed high school students to careers in science.

Bridge was another of his passions. His bridge partners found him to be soft-spoken, patient, kind and competitive. He kept his score cards and consistently tried to improve his game by reviewing his past games and keeping up with the bridge columns in local and national newspapers. His skills were recognized and acknowledged with his achievement of the American Contract Bridge League Gold Life Master ranking in 2004.

He made every effort to maintain connections with extended family members and attend family reunions. Always generous with his time and resources, he particularly enjoyed his monthly ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) lunches. An American Red Cross blood donor, he donated blood regularly and supported his aging friends by bringing them to bridge games and luncheons, until he needed the same help himself.

Archon Allen is survived by his devoted wife of fifty-eight years, Archousa Diane Allen; children Adrienne (Alex) Jones, Gail Erica Allen and Gregory (Dara) Allen; grandsons Samuel, Evan and Micha; brothers Donald (Lynn Barneich) Allen and Kent (Migdalia) Allen; and cousins, nieces and nephews. His body was donated to the Anatomical Gift Program of the University of Rochester Medical School for medical research.

Lettie Marie Burgett, continued

she moved on to medical school at Harvard University, entering just twenty years after the school graduated its first Black woman. One of only five women of African descent in her class of nearly 150 students, she graduated in 1975 and moved to Los Angeles to begin a residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, where she met her future husband, Archon Benjamin Cowan, M.D., when they were both interns. The couple married in 1976, and she completed her training in 1978 under the mentorship of Dr. Joseph St. Geme, Jr., a leader in pediatrics and chair of the department.

In forty-seven years of practice as a pediatrician, guided by the simple fact of her love and admiration for children, Archousa Burgett had an incalculable impact on thousands of families. She often quipped, "Don't become a grownup!" insisting on the wisdom and intrinsic goodness of children and the need to respect and listen to them. This made her a treasure to her patients and colleagues alike.

Beyond her clinical work, she strove to generate a broader, better world of opportunity for aspiring physicians from diverse backgrounds. A charter member of the Association of Black Women Physicians, she taught for decades as an assistant clinical professor at Harbor-UCLA and she served on the board of the Los Angeles Pediatric Society, including one term as its president. In this latter capacity she received an award for outstanding leadership in 2006.

Recounting her scholastic and career achievements, however, may mislead those less familiar with the tenor of Archousa Burgett's life. Humble to the point of selflessness, possessed of a remarkable lack of concern for material or professional acquisition, she was a fierce and tireless

friend; a devoted sister; and a joyful, wise, towering mother. As a wife, she filled her family's life with her love, wit, humor, care, steadfastness and strength.

She immensely enjoyed music, singing (including a stint with Boston's Handel and Haydn Society), exercise, yoga and traveling. She and her husband shared memorable trips to national parks, the California coast, Europe and Natchez, Mississippi (Archon Burgett's hometown). Archousa Burgett was like the tide: awesome, dependable, beautiful, magnetic. She was also like the wind: infinite, forceful and gentle by turns, and always at your back.

She is survived by her husband, Archon Benjamin Cowan, M.D.; her son Chris and his wife, Monica; her son Ben and his partner, Mark; grandchildren Jaya and Desmond; sisters Mary, Maggie and Cathy; brothers-in-law Kimble, Jerry and Wolfgang; and thirteen beloved nieces and nephews.

Ralph Dickerson, Jr., continued

In recognition of his leadership and his contributions to the non-profit sector, he received numerous honorary degrees and awards, including the New York Urban Coalition's Gorgeous Mosaic Award for his contributions to racial and ethnic harmony, the Pius XII Foundation's prestigious Medal of Life and the Frederick Douglass Award, the New York Urban League's highest honor.

In addition to his work in philanthropy, he served on numerous corporate and nonprofit boards, including as board chairman of the Faith Center for Community Development and the board of visitors of the New York City Police Department.

After retiring from the United Way, Archon Dickerson founded Highview Partners, a successful strategic advisory and private equity firm. His passion for raising

capital for the philanthropic community remained ever-present, and he continued to raise millions of dollars for colleges, universities, real estate development firms and small businesses.

He was a committed member of numerous organizations, including the Reveille Club, the National Association of Guardsmen and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He remained active at his home church, Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, New York, where his godson currently preaches.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Marla Rene.

He is survived by his life partner, Lisa Crutchfield; his son, Ralph III (Daphne); grandchildren Cameron, Garrett, Lauren and Bryce; and his brother, George.

Joseph N. Green, Jr., continued

that they could do just as well as the white students. While there, Archon Green met Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., who was a student at nearby Crozer Theological Seminary.

Archon Green attended the March on Washington in 1963, the same year he was recruited by Grace Episcopal Church in Norfolk, where he served as rector for thirty years, from 1963 to 1993. In 1965 he became one of the first two Black students to earn his master's degree from the School of Theology at Sewanee in Tennessee. A commissioned portrait of him now hangs in the school's lobby.

Also active in politics, in 1972 he was nominated for a seat on the school board by Vice Mayor Joseph A. Jordan, Jr. – the first African American elected to the Norfolk City Council since Reconstruction – and in July 1977 he was asked to serve on the council. He ran for election to the council in 1978, serving thereafter for twenty years, including three terms as vice mayor. He advocated for

advancement in the areas of equality, education, economic opportunity, housing and transportation.

Archon Green championed many projects that transformed the city and the region, including the Norfolk campus of Tidewater Community College (TCC), which was established in 1997. Deborah M. DiCroce, president and CEO of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and president emerita of TCC, has been quoted as saying that the campus would not exist without Archon Green, and the administration building was named in his honor in 2009. Restoration of the historic Attucks Theatre was another project close to his heart. Founded in 1919, designed, built and paid for by the Black community and given the moniker “Apollo Theatre of the South,” it had fallen into disrepair and was being considered for demolition. Archon Green stepped in and obtained the necessary support and fundraising to return it to its former glory. Also a key driver in improving transportation and bringing the light rail system to Norfolk, he was a steadfast voice for policies that advanced fair housing and economic opportunities, particularly for communities of color. As a testament to his impact as a public servant, there are a number of buildings and streets named in his honor.

Some of his most significant accomplishments were behind the scenes, quietly guiding and advising other politicians, clergy and civic leaders. A father figure and mentor to many Beta Lambda Archons, he was a trusted sounding board for some of the most influential people in the region. Despite his age, he never wavered in his commitment. Ever true to his God and his values, he still preached on occasion, and in 2021 he was designated canon theologian at Christ & St. Luke’s Church.

Archon Green is survived by his wife of sixty-seven years, Archousa Evelyn Green, and their

children, Joseph N. Green III and Angela Green Middleton. He is mourned by a host of family and friends.

Ira D. Hall, Jr., continued

nia, with HP’s founders, William Hewlett and David Packard, and he served as its executive director for the next six years. In this role, he became the founding president and CEO of MidPen Housing, a builder/manager of several hundred units of low-to-moderate-income housing.

With his M.B.A. in hand, Archon Hall moved his young family to New York City, rising through the ranks on Wall Street from corporate finance investment banker at Morgan Stanley to senior vice president at L.F. Rothschild, Unterberg, Towbin. In 1985, after settling in Stamford, Connecticut, he accepted an offer from IBM, ultimately becoming IBM’s first African American corporate officer. In 1990 he was named treasurer of IBM U.S. and, later, director of international operations. Moving to Texaco, he was quickly appointed corporate treasurer. In 2002 he returned to Wall Street as president and CEO of UCM, LLC, investment management firm, and he retired in 2004 to join the boards of Pepsi Bottling Group, American Express Funds, TECO Energy, Praxair, Inc., and Imagistics International, among others.

A leader his entire life, he remained deeply committed to public service, racial justice, diversity and equity. In the 1970’s he became the first Black and youngest member of Stanford University’s board of trustees and a cofounder of the Association of Black Foundation Executives. In the 1980’s he was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a governor of the U.S. Postal Service, and he led U.S. business delegations to the African/African-American Summit. Later, he served on

the Clinton-Gore presidential transition team and the board of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, and he chaired the U.S. Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, the advisory board of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project at Stanford University, the Executive Leadership Council and the board of Miami-Dade’s Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

At Stanford he established the Ira D. Hall Fellowship at the Graduate School of Business and endowed the Ira D. Hall Award for Service Leadership Before Age 30. In 2017 Johnson & Wales University awarded him an honorary doctorate in business administration, and in 2020 he accepted the Stanford Graduate School of Business’s highest honor, the Ernest C. Arbuckle Award for excellence, in recognition of his commitment to managerial excellence and addressing the changing needs of society.

For him, life was an adventure, whether in the boardroom, skiing, sailing or playing his saxophone. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Archousa Carole F. Hall; daughters Alicia Hall (Jason) Moran and Stephanie Elaine Hall; grandsons Malcolm Hall Moran and Jonas Hall Moran; his brother John Anthony (Rev. Marvelle McIntyre-Hall) Hall; his sister Jessilyn A. Head Hall; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and colleagues.

Livingstone Morris Johnson, continued

his LL.B. in 1957, and he returned to Pittsburgh, joining his father in the practice of law at the firm Johnson and Johnson. He later distinguished himself as an assistant county solicitor, serving from 1962 through 1973, at which time he became a judge in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, remaining on the bench until his retirement in 2007.

Extremely active in his community, he was a lifelong member of various organizations, including Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the NAACP, the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and many more. He was also a lifelong member of St. Mark AME Church in Wilksburg, which his parents chose as their family church in 1922.

Archon Johnson was predeceased by his wife of fifty-nine years, Archousa Lee Brun Johnson, who passed away in 2020. He is survived by five children: Lee Carol Johnson Cook, Oliver Morris Johnson II, Judith Lee Johnson Campagnari, Livingstone James Johnson and Patricia Lee Johnson Pettiford; nine grandchildren; his sister, Justine Morris Johnson Gutzmer; and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Lonnie Jones, Jr., continued

Allstate Insurance Agency in East Tennessee.

A board member of the Knoxville Area Urban League and the Knox County Chamber of Commerce, he was affiliated with Foster Chapel Baptist Church, where he served on the trustee and usher boards. Prior to this he was a faithful member of Riverview Missionary Baptist Church, and his spiritual foundation was formed at New Macedonia Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Tennessee.

Archon Jones is survived by his loving wife of fifty-three years, Archousa Judy Thompson Jones; sons Christopher Leon (Raine) Jones and Pastor Nicholas Weston (Ciarra) Jones; his grandson, Weston Reed; and a host of extended family members throughout Georgia, Michigan and Tennessee.

James Alfred Joseph, continued

civil rights protests. A U.S. Army veteran, he was commissioned as a first lieutenant in 1956 after completing reserve officers training in a noncombatant unit at Yale.

After his graduate studies at Yale Divinity School, where he later received the prestigious Lux et Veritas Award, Archon Joseph taught at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the national headquarters of the KKK. While at Stillman, he cofounded the local Civil Rights Movement, leading marches, sit-ins and other protests against segregation, at the same time garnering death threats from the KKK. He befriended and worked alongside such renowned civil rights leaders as Archon Martin Luther King, Jr.; former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Archon Andrew Young; congressmen Archon John Lewis and William Gray; National Urban League president Archon Vernon Jordan; Southern Poverty Law Center cofounder Julian Bond; and Vivian Malone, one of the first two Black students to enroll at the University of Alabama in 1963, who became the university's first Black graduate.

Archon Joseph served in senior executive or advisory positions for four U.S. presidents, with appointments by President James Carter as undersecretary of the Department of the Interior and President William J. Clinton as U.S. ambassador to South Africa from 1996 to 1999. He received the Order of Good Hope by the Republic of South Africa in 1999, the highest honor bestowed on a citizen of another country.

Under President Clinton, he also was the founding chair of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which established AmeriCorps. He served under President Ronald Reagan on the advisory committee for the Agency for International Develop-

ment and on the board of advisers for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and he was an incorporating director of the Points of Light Foundation under President George H.W. Bush. In 2010 the U.S. Peace Corps honored him for his lifelong contributions to voluntarism and civil society.

From 1982 to 1995 Archon Joseph was president and chief executive officer of the Council on Foundations, an international organization of more than 2,000 foundations and corporate giving programs, which has changed communities and lives throughout five continents. He was a vice president of Cummins Engine Co., the world's largest producer of heavy-duty diesel engines, and president of the Cummins Foundation from 1971 to 1977, where he was a pioneer in corporate social responsibility and helped fund a broad array of civil rights and civil society organizations.

An ordained minister, he taught at Yale Divinity School and the Claremont Colleges, where he also was university chaplain and led student protests against the war in Vietnam. He was professor emeritus of the practice of public policy at the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University, a leader in residence for the Hart Leadership Program, and founder of the United States-Southern Africa Center for Leadership and Public Values at Duke and the University of Cape Town, where he served as honorary professor and a member of the board of advisers of the Graduate School of Business. In 1985 he was a Distinguished Visitor at Nuffield College at Oxford University.

Archon Joseph was a proud native of Louisiana. After Hurricanes Rita and Katrina decimated New Orleans and communities across the southern part of the state, Governor Kathleen Blanco named him chair of the board of the Foundation for Louisiana (formerly the Louisiana Disaster

Recovery Foundation). In 2006 his home state honored him as a Louisiana Legend, and he was inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame in 2008 and is a member of the Opelousas Hall of Fame.

A frequent speaker to academic, civic and religious audiences, he authored *The Charitable Impulse; Remaking America; Leadership as a Way of Being*; and *Saved for a Purpose: A Journey from Private Virtues to Public Values*. He received nineteen honorary degrees, and Southern University named an endowed chair in his honor. The board of directors of the Council on Foundations appointed him president emeritus, and the Association of Black Foundation Executives, of which he was a founding member, established the James A. Joseph Lecture on philanthropy in his honor. He also was chairman emeritus of the NHP Foundation, dedicated to the preservation and creation of value-added affordable housing.

In 1979 *Ebony* singled him out as “One of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans,” and later, *Fortune* listed him as one of “America’s Best Nonprofit Managers.” He served on the boards of the Brookings Institution, the National Endowment for Democracy, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Children’s Defense Fund, City Year South Africa and, more recently, the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Foundation. He was a board member and chairman emeritus of MDC, the successor to the North Carolina Fund, now serving low-wealth communities throughout the South, and a member of the board of advisers of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University and the Andrew Young Center at Morehouse College. A director of the Management and Training Corp., he was also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the National Academy for Public Administration.

He is survived by his loving wife, Archousa Mary Braxton Joseph, an Emmy Award-winning television journalist; his son, Jeffrey Joseph, and daughter-in-law, Lisa Merman; his daughter, Denise Joseph; granddaughters Jordan and Julia Joseph; and his beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife of thirty-three years, Doris Taylor Joseph, and his brother, John W. Joseph, who was elected as the first Black mayor of Opelousas in 1986.

George Dwight Malone, continued

in Virginia for six years before moving back to California, where he worked for Kaiser Permanente for twenty-two years prior to his retirement.

Archon Malone had many hobbies, including designing posters and greeting cards on the computer, playing classical piano, listening to jazz music, playing tennis, and volunteering in the community. Among his favorite experiences were singing first tenor in the church choir at Mission San Diego de Alcala and traveling with the choir to Italy to sing for the pope at the Vatican.

He is survived by his wife of forty-nine years, Archousa Patricia Malone; his daughter, Kiesha (Glen) of Dallas; his son, Ken, of San Diego; his grandson, Joshua, of Dallas; and other extended family members.

Thomas E. Motley, Sr., continued

It was heartwarming to give him his flowers while he lived.” Former patients and their families flooded social media platforms with expressions of sympathy and praise for “his caring and compassionate manner.”

An active member of scientific and medical organizations, including the National Medical Asso-

ciation, the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the American Heart Association, the Association of Black Cardiologists, the Bluff City Medical Society and the Memphis Medical Society, he was also a member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and Omega Psi Phi, Inc.

He is survived by his wife, Archousa Sharon Motley; his son Todd S. Motley, M.D.; daughters in-law Ann-Marie Motley, M.D., and Vanessa Motley; his stepson, Marzk Jones; and grandchildren Chelsie Motley, Madison Motley and Seth C. Motley. He was predeceased by his son Thomas E. Motley, Jr., M.D., and his former wife, the late Archousa Comora C. Motley.

Nathan F. Simms, Jr., continued

General Administration. Additionally, he was an R.J. Reynolds Professor and a Danforth Associate.

He was a board member of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and chaired the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority. To honor his commitment to education, the former UNC System president C.D. Spangler established an endowed chair in Archon Simms’s name at North Carolina A&T. For his exemplary service to the State of North Carolina, he received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.

While at North Carolina Central University, he met the love of his life, Archousa Helen Watson Simms, and they were married on August 29, 1959. A loving husband and father, with his own special blend of warmth and wisdom, Archon Simms cherished spending time with his sons and grandchildren.

Memorial donations can be made to the Nathan F. Simms Jr. Distinguished Professorship at North Carolina A&T State University.

Floyd N. Tyler, Jr., continued

degree in economics at the University of Tennessee at Martin, he went on to earn an M.S. in public policy and management at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and then earned his Ph.D. in finance at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Returning to Memphis, he was a partner at the Gerber/Taylor Capital Advisors for a decade before striking out on his own. He also taught upper-level financial management and investment courses at the University of Memphis. Always cognizant of his background, Archon Tyler worked to close the racial wealth gap and to increase the financial literacy of young Black people. At Preserver Partners, he established a foundation that offered scholarships, hosted financial literacy workshops, made donations to similarly motivated groups, and otherwise worked to provide young people with money-management knowledge and skills they might not receive at home.

He served on the board of directors of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare from 2011 to 2014, stating in a published interview with Le Bonheur, "I wanted to see if I could build something that reflected my vision and values." He also served on the board of the Methodist Hospital Foundation and the Congregational Health Network, a collaborative partnership between Methodist's hospitals and Mid-South congregations whose aim is to "develop person-centered care pathways."

Among other organizations with which he was connected were the Lifeblood Foundation, the Sickie Cell Advisory Council, the University of Tennessee Alumni Board of Governors, Community Charter Schools, the University of Tennessee at Martin Business Advisory Council and the Memphis Shelby County Community Rede-

velopment Agency board. He was a member of the Leadership Memphis Executive Class of 2002 and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and a trustee of St. Mary's Episcopal School, an independent school for girls in Memphis, where his daughter, Rian, is a student.

He is survived by his daughter, Rian Elizabeth Tyler; his fiancée, Angel Price; his mother, Aubrey Della Pinion; his brothers Argentry Dean and Anthony Tyler; his sisters Sadiya Muhammad and Toni Singer; and a host of other close relatives and friends.

Annie Ruth Eison Wallace, continued

As an educator, Archousa Wallace believed deeply in parental and community engagement, dedicating her time and effort to creating an unforgettable experience for her students. She sponsored a Valentine's Dance that became an annual event for all third graders, teaching her students proper etiquette and how to waltz. Parents and community members offered their time and talents, and her students still remember their pleasure in participating.

A natural teacher, she was a wonderful example of the creed "A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind and touches a heart." She knew how to help students succeed, and she continued to educate the next generation through her volunteer work. Her students remember her as a beautiful, well-dressed shining light. Her children and granddaughter have become educators in elementary and secondary schools.

Archousa Wallace was a dedicated member of various organizations, including the Washington Hillbillies, the Metro Ladies, The Links, Inc., and Jack and Jill of America.

She is survived by her husband, Archon Lewis S. Wallace, Jr., colonel, USAF (Ret.); four children: Steven Wallace, Marten (Melissa)

Wallace, Karen Wallace and Torrey (Amanda) Terry; granddaughters Anastasiya Wheeler and Isis Wallace; grandsons Marten Wallace, Jr., Eli Wallace and Landon Wallace; her great-grandson, Kaidon Smith; sisters Jennie Glenn, Jean Robinson and Brenda Eison; and a host of relatives and friends. Her brother, Matthew Eison, preceded her in death.

Charles Jerome Ware, continued

mately included serving as a U.S. immigration judge in 1980 and as special counsel for the Federal Trade Commission from 1983 to 1986. He left the federal government when he was appointed general counsel for the NAACP Maryland State Conference, where he served from 1988 to 1994.

In 1987 Archon Ware founded his own law practice, Charles Jerome Ware P.A. and Associates in Columbia, Maryland, and he remained in private practice until 2019. Known for his signature bow ties, cowboy boots and success in the courtroom, he had an understated swagger, unwavering passion and a dedication to defending the underdog. He simply believed that every person has value, and unlike many in his profession, he was not afraid to accept difficult and controversial cases, working tirelessly to deliver justice for each of his clients.

Somehow, despite his many hours of work, he managed to spread the gospel of justice in other ways as well, as founder of the William Monroe Trotter Institute for political research and as an early member of the Waring-Mitchell Law Society. For several years he was cocreator and host of *The Lawyers Mailbox* on WEAA-FM radio, and he was always willing to mentor the next generation of lawyers and young professionals.

A wonderful husband and father above all, Archon Ware was passionate about his family. In 1972 he met the love of his life, Lucinda

Frances Ware, and the two were married in 1973. Years later they welcomed their sole child, Lucinda-Marie Ware. He shared with his family his love for travel, cinema, books and sports, and they attended many events together. He never missed an opportunity to impart his wisdom to his daughter – words to live by and such values as the supremacy of God, family and friends. Toward the end of his life, those absorbed lessons were on full display as Lucinda-Marie returned her father's love, helping him walk, keeping him hydrated and reminding him that life has great value and meaning, even as the path ahead shortens.

Archon Ware is survived by his wife of forty-nine years, Archousa Lucinda Frances Ware; his daughter, Lucinda-Marie Ware; siblings Vonnie M. Fleming, JoAnn Ware, Julie Ware, Mary Ware (Perry) Register, James (Alma) Ware, Negretta Ware Wilson and Schuessler L. (Kim) Ware; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Stephen Anthony Whatley, continued

In 1977 he took a position at the Bureau of Economic Affairs (Department of Commerce) and

served as a financial specialist at the Federal Home Loan Bank Board before taking a position as a financial management specialist at FSIS, where he achieved numerous milestones throughout his career.

He retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel after serving twenty-two years. His experience as a quartermaster officer and as an assistant inspector general had helped prepare him for his work at FSIS.

He is survived by his wife, Archousa Annie Whatley; his daughter, Christina Whatley; two godchildren; two sisters; two brothers; and many extended family members.

ATTENTION ALL GRAPTERS!

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All articles submitted for publication must cover events which have occurred no more than *three months* prior to the submission deadlines published below.

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