

The Boulé Journal

SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY

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ARCHOUSA MICHELE COOPER, DELTA ETA BOULÉ

**CELEBRATING OUR ARCHOUSAI AS THEY
SCALE NEW HEIGHTS**



Once More, With Feeling

From the earliest days of Sigma Pi Phi, when local boulés met in the homes of Archons, Archousai organized the lavish dinners that became Christmas Is for the Archousai.



Though winter's winds and chill still blow and blanket much of the world, its threats are muted to a distant bluster for those of us drawn to home and hearth and blessed to gather 'round a flame of optimism. In our homes in this season, evergreen tress are likely still lit with the promise of triumph of hope over despair. And with the winter solstice passed, that hope is again vindicated in the gradually lengthening days, dispelling the darkness as the world reawakens to a sense of possibility.

At the center of those homes and hopes are women. Women are the makers of homes – not in the sense of “homemakers” but the ancient architects and inventors of homes, who modeled the world's first houses on their wombs. Our Archousai provide a retreat and respite from mundane wars, great and petty, over resources and power; from the getting and spending, fending and consuming, even as the passing years consume us.

Our Archousai bring us back to ourselves, like the Graces of the ancient Greeks, like the Muses of music, memory and dance; like emanations of Delphi, oldest and most famous of the ancient Greek oracles, where Mother Earth was worshipped under the

name Delphyne, the Womb of Creation. In all of these forms, Archousai are bringers of light, *Dies Natalis Solis Invictus* – giving birth to the Unconquered Sun... and Son. Who, after all, holds the lamp but the lap of darkness, the *matrum noctem*, Mother Night?

“From the earliest days of Sigma Pi Phi, when local boulés met in the homes of Archons, it was the spouse of the host Archon that organized the lavish dinner that followed the business meetings. These dinners were highly anticipated and indubitably provided opportunities to further strengthen bonds of friendship and fraternal unity.” – Past Grand Sire Archon Rodney Reed on the origins of Christmas Is for the Archousai, *THE BOULÉ JOURNAL*, winter 2017 (volume 81, number 4).

In this season of celebration and thanks for the many gifts we've been given, for re-evaluation, renewal and hope for a better tomorrow, I lift this toast once again to the women who make our lives worth living.



ARCHON KHEPHRA BURNS
GRAND GRAPTER

Ode to Archousai

By Archon Khephra Burns



Beauty! What Beauty so tempts gods to claim you.
What grace invites the bright Graces to sing
And poets inspired by the Muses to name you
Splendor, Luster, Poise and Rejoicing.

No prophecy of Pythian fame
No Oracle of Delphi
Foretold the coming majesty
Of those we call Archousai.

No elegies of Hesiod
Or heroic poems of Homeric hue
Could capture the rapture of ancient gods
Or mortal men to know you.

But bold we make, like Icarus
Intoxicated on the wing
And raise this song of love above
The burning sun and mundane things.

And if, like Icarus, we should fall
And the crashing seas collect us
If craft betray us after all
Still Love will resurrect us.

You love with such devotion
As Calypso loved Odysseus
Those times, when shipwrecked on the rocks
We might have perished thus.

We love you as brave Orpheus
Loved his dear Eurydice
And would follow you to Hades too
Armed but with a melody.

As Eros fell for Psyche
When he turned his bow around
With self-inflicted wounds awaking
Love that knew no mortal bounds

We bare our hearts to arrows
Eros wings our way with fateful hit
For in this life reborn with yours
Is wedded Love and Spirit.

We've heard the legend of Marlowe's Helen
Who toppled the topless towers of Ilium
But only Archousai could inspire us thus:
Amour aeternitatis infinitum.

3000 years since the fall of Troy
The Judgment of Paris stands
And Aphrodite, by any spelling
Still casts her spell o'er the land.

From Athens to Philadelphia and
Across the breadth of Sigma Pi Phi
Your name is every Archon's mantra:
Archousai! Archousai! Archousai!

The conceits of Aristophanes
The symposiums of Socrates
Suggest we each are only half.
And though the notion make you laugh
We search the world for that single soul
Who completes us, makes us whole
And rules our heart till the day we die.
Let the Archons say amen and then
With one accord for the ones adored
Raise their praises high.
All hail the divine, yours and mine,
fine as wine, Archousai!



**57TH GRAND BOULÉ
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120 YEARS**

OF

**SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY:
SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS**

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ARCHOUSA MICHELLE D. HOLMES

Being in
nature
“centers
ourselves in
a world that
often tries to
run circles
around us.”



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MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND SIRE ARCHON

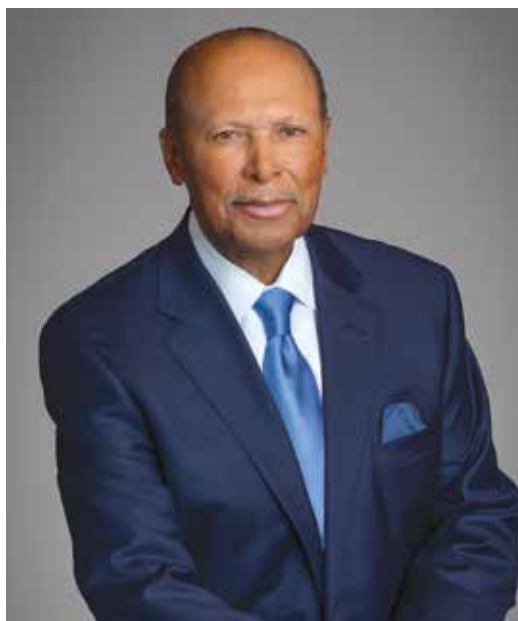
A Tribute to Our Archousai for More Than a Century of Support

By Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi

As we celebrate our wonderful Archousai at Christmas Is for the Archousai events during this holiday season, it is an ideal time to commit ourselves to honoring our Archousai throughout the year to express our appreciation and thankfulness for their many contributions. Our Archousai have contributed greatly to raising our families and managing our households. They have supported us in our careers while they have either temporarily or permanently withdrawn from their professions. In addition to those selfless acts of kindness, they have generously assisted us with the voluntary responsibilities that we have either sought or accepted in member boulés and in the Grand Boulé. In fairness to our Archousai, they neither signed-up for nor knew these unexpected duties were coming many years before we were invited into Sigma Pi Phi. Frankly, our Archousai have accepted these roles because of their love for us and the ideals of the Fraternity.

Our founders' and early Archons' inclusive group of "spouses and sweethearts," who were initially called "Ladies of the Boulé," supported them in this mission-oriented endeavor since Sigma Pi Phi's founding in 1904. And because hotels and similar venues were not available to Blacks until the mid-1960s, it was undoubtedly our founders' "ladies" who prepared their meals and homes for Archons' meetings. As an expression of thanks to their ladies, as early as 1911, Past Grand Sire Archon and Grand Historian Rodney J. Reed writes in *A Grand Journey: The History of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity 1904-2010*:

"Member Boulés had begun to regularly schedule elegant 'Ladies Nights' of dining and dancing or other



events to celebrate the female partners of the Archons."

During the first two decades of the Fraternity, Past Grand Sire Archon Reed notes, the "Ladies of the Boulé" became formally recognized as "Archousa" and "Archousae" in August 1925 at the Ninth Grand Boulé, hosted by Omicron Boulé in St. Paul, Minnesota. Chartered just three years earlier, the Archons of this fledgling Omicron Boulé petitioned to begin an "Archousae Club." Archon William R. Morris proposed that the wives of Archons be called "Archousae," the feminine form of the word Archon, and "Archousa" would be the singular

noun. The delegates approved the proposal; however, in later years "Archousae" was changed to "Archousai." To further underscore the importance of this change in title and the role of Archousai in 1925, Omega Boulé Archon Hobart S. Jarrett, formerly of Alpha Sigma Boulé, writes in volume II of *The History of Sigma Pi Phi: First of the African-American Greek-Letter Fraternities*:

"Since that time the Archousai have been an integral part of all the social events, and have given the Grand Boulé sessions a family atmosphere."

Over 119 years, the Archousai of Sigma Pi Phi's early decades were not only supportive but also trailblazing women similar to today's Archousai who are breaking glass ceilings and opening new professional paths all over the world as they simultaneously support Sigma Pi Phi. So, during this holiday season, give thanks to our Archousai for their selfless dedication to you and Sigma Pi Phi. And, as often as possible, express that love to your Archousai throughout the year.



ONE STEP, THEN THE NEXT STEP: ARCHOUSA MICHELE COOPER CLIMBS MOUNT KILIMANJARO

THE SUMMIT DAY CLIMB STARTS AT SUNRISE ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

By Archon M. Rashad Booker, Grapter, Delta Eta Boulé, and Archon Leonard James III, Grapter, Western Region

The lore of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro for many goes back to Hans Meyer, who became the first European to reach the summit in 1889. While fewer have heard the story of Shelia McDonald, the first woman to summit Kilimanjaro (and to drink champagne on the top), it's arguably more inspiring. Delta Eta Boulé Archousa Michele Cooper's journey to the rooftop of Africa, the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, began some twenty years ago, when a friend mentioned he had recently climbed Kilimanjaro with his eldest daughter. It sounded fascinating. His story animated her spirit and over the years became a recurring theme: "Do the Damn Thing."

In yoga there is a concept of divine timing. For Archousa Cooper, that time was July 2023. Climbing

Mount Kilimanjaro is a hard thing for most of us. In Tanzania, it is the tallest mountain in Africa and the largest free-standing mountain on Earth. It has five unique climate zones. And it rises to an altitude of 19,341 feet. The journey was so far outside her comfort zone that the only way she could see making it to the summit and back was by taking a leap of faith. And many, many steps.

When Archousa Cooper first started training for the climb in 2017, she developed Morton's neuroma in her right foot, an inflamed nerve that feels as if someone is stabbing the foot with a hot dagger at every step. Previous experience with the same pathology in the other foot informed her that ultimately the Western remedy was to cut out that section of nerve. So she elected to have surgery. An ensuing



AMONG THE LAST OF THE SNOWS OF MOUNT KILIMANJARO, GLACIER ON UHURU PEAK



ASSISTANT GUIDES PROSPER, SAMBO AND ALPHAYO, AND HEAD GUIDE POLITE AT THE PRE-SUMMIT DAY DINNER BRIEFING



ARCHOUSA MICHELE COOPER SCRAMBLING OVER MOUNT KILIMANJARO TERRAIN

surgical infection and a wound that wouldn't heal left her bedridden with severe pain for almost a year. On multiple occasions she was told by doctors that she might lose her foot.

It took four surgeries and an ovine biological graft that year just to get the wound to close. That was followed in late 2018 by a need for knee surgery for a torn meniscus. That was five surgeries in one year. Her body was broken. She turned to yoga to heal. At first seeking physical relief, she would in the end learn that yoga is for the mind. While she did not know it at the time, yoga was the first step toward Kilimanjaro, because yoga taught her how to listen to her body and harness her mind.

Preparation for the Climb

By late 2022, Archousa Cooper realized her foot had healed and that she was again able to do ten-mile walks multiple days in a row that didn't shut her system down. Kilimanjaro, that formally distant and dormant dream, was calling again clear as ever. Then came the questions.

Where was Mount Kilimanjaro? Who were the outfitters who could get her there? What clothes did she need? How should she dress for drastic temperature

swings and in clothes and gear that weighed less than fifty-five pounds, bags included? What was the contingency for calamity? And most important, what was the state of her mind and body? How would she keep her mind clear? How would she train her body? The most essential task was to believe, *I can*. To feel the presence of doing it in the body. To train the mind to see the things that show up for us, once we declare the intention, to help us do it. Even the so-called obstacles help to strengthen some aspect of character required to carry out the task.

The most important part of Archousa Michele's training was meeting herself where she was and then treating herself as if she were going to accomplish the goal. She treated herself more like an athlete than a fitness junkie. She ended up choosing not to hire a trainer although she contacted the trainer who was recommended. If she had needed that, she would have immediately employed him. She had worked with trainers in the past and basically understood what to do; she just needed to show up and do it. She followed a recommended training plan and found additional training protocols from a number of fitness sources. She also built recovery systems into her training plan. She used hot and cold therapies, mostly ice baths and conventional sauna, both to



CAMPING ABOVE THE CLOUDS

aid muscle recovery and increase her body's temperature-regulation systems to prepare for disparate climates. She got massages twice weekly, choosing a massage therapist who worked with healing and strengthening muscles.

As Archousa Cooper was winding down her hard training about two weeks before the climb, she had one more obstacle to face. Fear had somehow broken through. So she gave fear a day to air its worries and complaints. She went through each one and challenged each of her thoughts. At that point, it was done. Color by numbers. Show up. Face each challenge as it arises. Follow the instructions. Expand and not contract. Surrender. Take one step and then the next step.

By the time Archousa Cooper boarded the plane for Tanzania, she had already done it in her mind. She found herself in a flow state – very present in every moment. “I believe Kilimanjaro is magical,” she stated. “The Tanzanians were generous and warm even though the country's economy is still reeling from the effects of COVID-19. Kilimanjaro is one of the main drivers of the economy. There are many companies and private guides that can be hired to climb the mountain. I chose the route with the highest percentage of success and the company that had the highest success rate based on my own research.

That was Thomson Safaris and a route called the Grand Traverse. It's the longest route, ten days and fifty-five miles total. The reason for its higher success rate is that it allows the most amount of time, the most ascents and descents for acclimatization. I chose to trek in July for various reasons, and that turned out to be a gift. It's the dry season. So it was mostly vividly sunny and dry with spectacular views. My group included eight trekkers, forty-nine porters, a chef and assistant chef, a waiter and assistant waiter, two sanitation crews, a head guide and three assistant guides, and between us six personal porters. A moving village all working toward a common goal.”

On the Trail

Archousa Cooper's typical day would begin the night before with her daily after-dinner briefing. This included reviewing where she and her fellow climbers would be going the next day, how far, what time they would start, and what they should bring in their daypacks for the expected weather conditions. The various guides at different camps were in touch with one another to stay current with conditions. One of each climber's Nalgene water bottles would be filled with boiling water to place in sleeping bags for extra



UHURU PEAK, THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KILIMANJARO, JULY 22, 2023

warmth. There were two bathroom tents that were in constant use all night long. To adjust her body for altitude, they were advised to drink four to six liters of water per day – “basically, you pee a lot.”

The morning would begin at the designated time with the waiter and assistant waiter waking them up by bringing their choice of tea or coffee to their tents. That was followed twenty minutes later with a fresh basin of hot water to wash up in. Twenty minutes later was breakfast and departure. “I learned to get everything for the next day organized the night before because my hands were too cold in the mornings to do much until my basin of hot water arrived. My personal porter would arrive a few minutes before breakfast to make sure I was ready for the day,” she recalled.

As Archousa Cooper prepared to depart, the camp would be abuzz with energy and movement. The porters packed the whole camp into their assorted carry vessels. They would still be doing this as she and her fellow climbers left. One by one they would pass the climbers with their loads on the way to the next campsite. They moved fast. She and

the other climbers moved slowly. *Pole, Pole* (Swahili): “Slowly” is the constant refrain. *Jambo, Jambo*, they’d smile and say as they passed by. *Jambo* was the reply. Basically, “Wuz up?”

A different guide led each day. If the climb was long enough and water sources were available, a lunch camp – dining tent, cooking tent, handwashing station and bathrooms – was set up along the way. At the next camp site, the climbers took photos, relaxed and attended to their own personal needs. There was afternoon tea at about 4:00 P.M. with various teas, popcorn, cookies and nuts. Each day at tea or dinner they each took an oximeter test to measure the amount of oxygen their hemoglobin was receiving and their heart rate. Failing this test could be an indicator to turn back. The test results were combined with the guides’ general assessment of how each hiker seemed to be managing. “And even though, for the most part, everyone seemed to be managing well, this was a nerve-racking moment each day,” said Archousa Cooper.

The terrains varied greatly as she and her fellow climbers moved through the climate zones. They



ARCHOUSA MICHELE COOPER EXITING THE KILIMANJARO NATIONAL PARK, THE LAST STEP OF THE TREK

were each beautiful, some also very challenging. There were more passageways where scrambling – using all four limbs to navigate – was required more than she had expected. The guides assisted when necessary. “We would typically trek for at least four to five hours, but there were long days. The rules were simple: Drink lots of water, go slowly, eat a lot to have the energy to climb, and then one step at a time,” she remembered.

Reaching the Summit

Summit Day was intense. The climb was from about 15,000 feet up to 19,341 feet. Unfortunately, two of the group’s climbers had to turn around before the summit. One climber was experiencing possibly harmful effects of high altitude, along with back issues. His partner turned back with him. Archousa Cooper and her fellow climbers started at 3:00 A.M. and eventually summited at 2:20 P.M. “I expected to feel a sense of my singular accomplishment. But what I experienced was more a connection with my fellow trekkers, all of

whom had worked together to help each other make it. And I felt connection and gratefulness for our guides, who had patiently and skillfully led the way,” she said. “Unexpectedly, the hike down on Summit Day to the night camp was arduous and long. But we accomplished it the same way we made it to the top. The strain of this difficult day also affected another trekker. He and his wife caught a helicopter down the next morning to play it safe. The last four of us had two more trekking days down. It was all magnificent.”

Following the climb, Archousa Cooper commented to friends and family, “Many people of all ages and from all corners of the globe make the trek to climb this great mountain. What I experienced was its magic. It was especially meaningful to me that I summited the day before my sixty-fifth birthday. I don’t think it is an accident that the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro is Uhuru Peak. *Uhuru* means freedom in Swahili. That is exactly what I found at the end of my journey to and through myself. The freedom to believe I can do hard things. What is your Kilimanjaro? Go do the damn thing. Dare greatly.”



THE SUPREME COURT, DEI AND BLACK BUSINESS: THEY'RE COMING FOR SUPPLIER DIVERSITY NEXT

By Archon Frederick W. McKinney, Beta Tau Boulé

The following was adapted from a talk given to the Florida Minority Supplier Development Council on August 30, 2023.

First, thanks to Beatrice Louissaint for inviting me to speak today. Beatrice and I were colleagues in the NMSDC (National Minority Supplier Development Council) network when I was president of the GNMSDC. What is interesting is that I remember the day we met on an airplane headed to the NMSDC annual trade show in 2002. I am also pleased to be with you virtually.

I want to start by stating that I am an economist, not a lawyer, although I have been married to a Yale Law School graduate since 1981. Perhaps because of those forty-two years of legal exposure, I know enough law not to be intimidated by Supreme Court decisions – and enough to play a lawyer on TV. My argument today is one based on political forces, not entirely law or economics. It is in the political arena that these and other critical issues will be fought and determined. I encourage you to conduct your own study and question all the views I am about to share with you today. These are my thoughts and mine alone, and I take full responsibility for them.

Let me state that there are differences between supplier diversity and affirmative action. Supplier diversity is an effort by large corporations to be more inclusive in their supply chains. Affirmative action has been applied to increasing diversity in higher education and employment. The recent Supreme Court decision that makes the affirmative action admissions programs at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina (UNC) illegal, while not addressing supplier diversity directly, represents an attack on Black and brown communities and their businesses. The same forces that were successful in overturning Harvard's and UNC's programs are the same forces



ARCHON FREDERICK W. MCKINNEY

that would see value in overturning the benefits of corporate supplier diversity. But more than that, I will attempt to show that these attacks share a legal philosophy and, more important, a vision of American society that is ahistorical and fundamentally a reflection of white supremacy beliefs and attitudes. And that is why supplier diversity professionals and corporate leaders cannot and should not assume we can continue with business as usual. They are coming for supplier diversity.

We are living in the most chaotic period in American history since the Civil War, Reconstruction and Postreconstruction. The former president of the United States has been indicted four times on ninety-one charges and his mug shot will now become one of the most iconic photographs ever. The Supreme Court has rolled back women's rights over their bodies in a *Handmaiden*-esque way. And before the ink

with those problems, we are cursed to repeat the same trauma.

There are some who are saying, writing and thinking that the Harvard and UNC decision will not have an impact on corporate supplier diversity and DEI. I disagree. The majority decision and the dissenting opinions by Justices Sotomayor and Jackson are worth reading. Justice Jackson recused herself because of her service on the board of trustees of Harvard University. As a result, she restricted her remarks to the University of North Carolina. In her dissent she tells a powerful story of two University of North Carolina students, John, who is white, and James, who is Black. John comes from a family with seven generations of UNC graduates. James is a first-generation UNC student. She then walks through some of the history that John's family would have experienced as a member of the preferred race in North Carolina, in contrast

THE CHIPPING AWAY AT COMPENSATORY PROGRAMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION HISTORICALLY HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY THE CHIPPING AWAY AT SUPPLIER DIVERSITY PROGRAMS.

to the history of James's family. John's family experienced all of the benefits of being white Americans, including the Homestead Act, which gave land to white Americans but rarely to Black Americans; the VA Act, which funded the higher education of white veterans but not the higher education of Black veterans; and the FHA (Federal Housing Authority), which provided low-interest loans to white North Carolinians so they could

was dry on that legal affront, a six-to-three majority ruled that the University of North Carolina's and Harvard's admission policies violated the rights of white and Asian students. And just this week, on the eve of the sixtieth anniversary of the March on Washington, in Jacksonville, Florida, the state where woke goes to die, three innocent Black Americans were randomly gunned down because of the color of their skin. While all these things are true, my 93-year-old father recently reminded me that times were considerably worse for Black Americans during his years growing up in Depression Era Arkansas.

Both are true, and the era we are experiencing now and the era my father experienced in the 1930's and 1940's are linked together in an inseparable chain of events. We like to think that this is our time, and that we are different from our parents and clearly our grandparents and great-grandparents. But the problems of today were fundamentally the problems of our ancestors. And because Americans of past generations did not deal, and we have not dealt head-on,

buy their own homes, but did not provide those loans to Black Americans. The pernicious and cumulative effects on Black business formation and the growth of Jim Crow, KKK terrorism, and American apartheid cannot be underestimated. And now the Supreme Court rules that history does not matter.

The legal history of the Supreme Court and its own reasoning in this case illustrates the direct connection between affirmative action in higher education and supplier diversity. While we could go back to the *Dred Scott* decision of 1857 that ruled that once a slave, always a slave, no matter whether that slave is living in a free or a slave state. The ruling also stated that Blacks were never citizens of the United States. Chief Justice Taney wrote in his majority opinion in this case, and I quote, "They had for more than a century before been regarded as beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race either in social or political relations; and so far inferior, that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect."



FRONT ROW: ASSOCIATE JUSTICES SONIA SOTOMAYOR AND CLARENCE THOMAS; CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR.; AND ASSOCIATE JUSTICES SAMUEL A. ALITO, JR., AND ELENA KAGAN. BACK ROW: ASSOCIATE JUSTICES AMY CONEY BARRETT, NEIL M. GORSUCH, BRETT M. KAVANAUGH AND KETANJI BROWN JACKSON.

The *Plessy v. Ferguson* case of 1896 ruled that state laws permitting segregation by race were constitutional, ushering in the expansion of Jim Crow laws throughout the country. The period of Reconstruction had ended in 1877 when Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was awarded the presidency in a contested election when he and the Republicans agreed to remove Union troops from the former Confederate states. *Plessy* made state-sponsored terrorism against Black Americans the law of the land, which stood until *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, which did not get enshrined into law until 1965 when a new Civil Rights Act was passed.

White backlash against the expanding rights of Black Americans was further exemplified in the *Baake v. The Regents of the University of California* case of 1978. Baake, a white medical student, accused the state of California of violating his Fourteenth Amendment equal-protection rights because of race-based admissions quotas. This case was frequently referred to in both the majority and dissenting opinions in the Harvard-UNC case. *Baake* also shows the link between attacks on affirmative action and attacks on minority business development programs.

It did not take long for the forces against compensatory minority business programs to attack. In *Croson v. The City of Richmond* of 1989, Croson, a white contractor, sued the city of Richmond for creating a set-aside program that required thirty percent of contracts to be let with Black-owned and -operated companies. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Croson, and racial set-asides on public nonfederal contracts became illegal without proving a compelling state interest and specific harm. *Croson* followed much of the same logic used in *Baake* eleven years earlier. Specifically, language about a compelling interest needed to be demonstrated to continue race-based set-asides. It was this decision that led to the need for public-sector disparity studies to demonstrate specific historical discrimination against specific categories of businesses before a public organization could show preferences for minority businesses.

Justice Thurgood Marshall's outstanding dissent stated: "More fundamentally, today's decision marks a deliberate and giant step backward in this Court's affirmative-action jurisprudence. Cynical of one municipality's attempt to redress the effects of past racial discrimination in a particular indus-

try, the majority launches a grapeshot attack on race-conscious remedies in general. The majority's unnecessary pronouncements will inevitably discourage or prevent governmental entities, particularly States and localities, from acting to rectify the scourge of past discrimination. This is the harsh reality of the majority's decision, but it is not the Constitution's command."

Note Justice Marshall's explicit reference to affirmative action in his dissent.

Then, in *Adarand v. Peña* (1995), Adarand, a white

distinction between the public University of North Carolina or the private Harvard University in its ruling. The court has already ruled that public sector race-based supplier diversity programs are illegal. What makes anyone think this court will make a distinction between public sector supplier diversity and private sector supplier diversity when white litigants make the case that supplier diversity violates their equal protection rights?

The question of what is next is clear even though the outcome is not. Will white suppliers sue private corporations (Harvard is a private university) who pursue supplier diversity goals because of this recent ruling? It is inevitably the case based on the history of the court and white grievance that they are coming after supplier diversity and DEI next. While it is not clear the outcome of this next struggle, the forces for supplier diversity right now are zero wins and three losses in the

CORPORATE DEI AND SUPPLIER DIVERSITY LEADERS NEED TO DEVELOP MULTIGENERATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANS FOR THEIR CORPORATIONS TO ADOPT.

contractor, sued the federal government, which had racial preferences for federal contracts. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Adarand, and federal race-based set-asides became illegal. While both *Croson* and *Adarand* involved public-sector supplier diversity programs, the effect on corporate programs was real and chilling. After *Adarand*, corporations realized that supplier diversity based on "the right thing to do" was not a legally defensible position and there needed to be a business case for corporate programs designed to assist "diverse" firms. Ironically, white firms had learned that the laws designed to protect the rights of former slaves could effectively be used to destroy efforts to help those former slaves and their descendants.

Now, in 2023, the Supreme Court has further diluted race as a factor in college admissions by ruling that public and private universities are using race as a negative factor for Asian and white applicants. The use of race as a negative factor is in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The chipping away at compensatory programs in higher education historically has been followed by the chipping away at supplier diversity programs. Harvard University is a private corporation, and while a nonprofit corporation, it is legally like any large NMSDC corporation. In fact, it is a member of the Greater New England Minority Supplier Development Council where I was CEO. This court makes no

Supreme Court.

The Harvard-UNC decision ignores the role of history on current facts. I want to tell the history of several Black businesses.

William Lanson was born sometime around 1776. By 1810 Lanson had become one of the most skilled builders in New Haven, Connecticut. His company constructed 1,500 feet of the New Haven Wharf. He built the New Haven portion of the Farmington Canal. And on top of that, he built the New Haven to East Haven Bridge. Talk about infrastructure and Black business – we have done this before. All this activity occurred while he was hiring a skilled Black construction crew. White workers refused to work for Lanson because of his race, so he had to train and hire an African American workforce.

A little-known fact about New Haven is that in 1825, with Lanson's support, an African American university that would be the first in the nation was being considered with the support of Lanson, the city of New Haven and Yale University. Then in 1831, Nat Turner's rebellion led to a fatal reassessment of this effort and the plans were permanently shelved. With the buildup to the Civil War, Lanson's businesses began to suffer under the weight of increased racial animosity, police targeting and bid rigging. Lanson died penniless in 1851.

Later, in Tulsa, John and Loula Williams became some of the wealthiest Black people in the city. They owned the Dreamland Theatre on Greenwood Ave-

nue, along with a rooming house, a confectionery, a commercial rental property and a garage. Loula Williams was very much a partner in all the couple's businesses, and other women in Greenwood became entrepreneurs, too. But starting on May 21, 1921, a mob of white Tulsa citizens descended on the Greenwood section of Tulsa, the heart of the "Black Wall Street," and killed 300 Black residents, burned 1,000 homes, and destroyed a vibrant Black community. The precipitating event for this racial pogrom was the "inappropriate" communication between a Black man and a white woman. No one was ever prosecuted for this crime against humanity. But the impact this has on Black business development still reverberates today.

The message of American history to Black entrepreneurs is that prospering in business poses a significant risk to you, your family and your community.

It should be no surprise that within the increasingly inclusive term "minority business," Black businesses stand apart from the successes of others in the category. The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) compiles data on the characteristics of Black, Hispanic, Asian and Native American businesses. The most recent MBDA data from 2018 shows that for Florida, 23 percent of all nonminority businesses have paid employees, compared with 23 percent of the 124,000 Asian firms and 8 percent of the 855,000 Hispanic owned firms, but only 4 percent of the 385,000 Black firms in the state had paid employees. In my state of Connecticut, the percentage of Black firms reporting paid employees out of the 23,500 Black firms is reported as zero!

Justice Jackson's decision identifies the impact of this history in all its forms, including the health gap as measured in Black-to-white life expectancy; the Black-to-white gap in maternal mortality rates; the Black-to-white wealth gap; the Black-to-white gap in incarceration rates; the gap in Black-to-white home-ownership rates; the Black-to-white environmental-risk gaps; and other measures that all make existence as a successful Black business financially risky and physically dangerous.

And yet, Black entrepreneurs continue to hang shingles, start businesses, and seek wealth and economic security. Black entrepreneurs like Carl Highsmith, Cathy Hughes, David Steward and Reginald Lewis defied the odds and created lasting Black businesses. Some of these famous entrepreneurs had support from corporate supplier diversity, but corporate supplier diversity was not the reason for their success. These and other successful Black entrepreneurs are rarer than they should be.

I hope this analysis shows that unlike the Supreme Court, which wants to hasten the end of all compensatory programs based on race, if we try to solve this problem without a multigenerational approach,

we are destined to fail. The legacy of stealing people from their homelands, packing them into the hulls of filthy ships where at least one quarter of them would not live to reach the other side, is a historical fact. Through 250 years of slavery followed by one hundred years of Jim Crow, is it any wonder that James is the first generation in his family to attend the University of North Carolina, or any university, for that matter? The conditions of Black Americans, including Black businesses, were created over those 350 years. It will take at least that long to eliminate the above-mentioned gaps.

What should corporations do in anticipation of this attack on supplier diversity programs? Corporate leaders need to be educated on the history of state-sanctioned racial discrimination and that history's connection to economic and business conditions today. Without this historical context, it is impossible for corporations to fight the onslaught of attacks on supplier diversity and DEI.

Corporations need to build DEI and supplier diversity into their corporate strategy. Right now, it is fair to say that corporations, although well-meaning, treat supplier diversity and DEI as a necessary accommodation to diverse workers, consumers, firms and communities. This is fine, but it is legally fragile and impermanent. Becoming a strategy requires that DEI and supplier diversity incorporate generational policies. For example, corporations should adopt urban schools with large numbers of Black and Hispanic children. Corporations and their employees could impact the educational performance of these children, making them more likely to be successful as future suppliers and leaders. And this support should follow those children through adulthood and into the next generation if necessary.

Corporate DEI and supplier diversity leaders need to develop multigenerational strategic plans for their corporations to adopt. I believe, the perspective of a multigenerational intervention in supplier diversity is the only way to make sustainable impact on Black businesses. This perspective will also pay dividends for the corporation. When corporations plan for a quarter, a year or even five years, the results and investments will be short-term. When a corporation plans for one hundred years, the results will seem permanent. What corporate leaders today do not want the organizations they run to be around for the next hundred to hundred and fifty years?

I hope I am wrong about my prediction that corporate supplier diversity and DEI will be attacked in the courts. I acknowledge that my views could be wrong and that I may have not considered other factors. For that reason, I conclude my formal remarks here and will listen to what you have to say.



GRAND GRAMMATEUS SAMUEL BACOTE III



ARCHON EDWARD C. HOPKINS, JR.

PREVENTABLY IMPERILED BY BLACK GUNS AND BLUE GUNS

By Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III, Kappa Boulé, and Archon Edward C. Hopkins, Jr., Delta Eta Boulé

In July 2023 indiscriminate shots rang out on a Monday night, killing five adult Black men and injuring two Black male children. News of this tragedy jolted us. The following month there was a string of shootings during a four-hour span on a Wednesday night that killed four more Black men in the same city. We were beyond dismayed. These preventable deaths took place in our illustrious Fraternity's birthplace – that city we all know from the Greek *philos* and *adelphos* as the city of brotherly love: Philadelphia.

As concerned Archons, Black men and fathers, we hope, as so many do, that we have done enough to ensure that we and our families never fall victim to the oversaturation of guns and the proliferation of gun violence in America. As noted in a 2021 *ABC News* special report on gun violence in America, “The U.S. has the highest rate of civilian gun ownership globally.” The Harvard Injury Control Research Center has further cautioned that “where there are more guns there is more homicide.” Such recent events and the



ever-increasing urgency of the alarms being raised impelled us to question whether we, individually and fraternally, could and should do more.

The gunshots that rang out in Philadelphia this summer were a deadly reminder of work left undone. Our fraternal connection to Philadelphia, the city in which these most recent American gun tragedies occurred, gave us pause to reflect. We agreed that America's dire culture of gun violence, particularly in our African American communities, calls for our fraternal action.

Like many of our fellow Archons, we have mentored young Black males, independently and through our member *boulé* social action programs, teaching them how to do the consistent, long-run work that gets results. We have locked arms and shared aims with other African Americans who routinely preach the gospel of Black excellence and personal accountability. And we are faithful members of the choirs that sing those too-familiar hymns to help sooth grieving Black families that have lost loved ones to this scourge.

Let's set the vernacular straight:

- "Black guns" are the weapons of mass destruction employed by Black Americans in the betrayal and killing of Black Americans.
- "Blue guns" are the "service revolvers" used by law-enforcement officers who betray their oath to protect and serve when they unlawfully kill Black Americans.

One of the authors of this essay is a Black civil rights lawyer who fights to hold police officers and police departments accountable when they take Black lives without justification, and seemingly as a matter of course. The other is a career nonprofit leader who has devoted decades to lifting our communities. Like those of most Archons, the arguments we make when we privately discuss the root causes of and solutions to America's preventable Black-on-Black or blue-on-Black gun violence are nuanced and subtle.

In the aggregate, Black guns kill more Black Americans than blue guns. It has been reported that in 2022, one in every sixty-seven Black men ages 18 to 24 in Philadelphia was killed or injured in gun-related homicides or shootings. And most of the perpetrators were Black. However, blue guns kill proportionately more Black Americans than people of any other group. According to some reports, police shootings of unarmed Black people in the United States were three times as frequent as those of white people between 2015 and the beginning of 2020.

It is no secret that blue guns get more damning media coverage and political punditry than Black guns when they kill Black Americans. Depending on the year and the audience one wants to persuade for political purposes, it can be politically inconvenient to give these preventable perils equal weight while primetime news media cameras are recording us. But when Americans who want to help solve America's deadly Black gun and blue gun problems roll up their



NICOLE GLASS PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

PROTESTERS GATHER FOR A VIGIL OUTSIDE OF THE NRA IN FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA, ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING.

sleeves, they tend to focus more on righteously saving Black lives than helping righteous political candidates win elections (even though we know the latter endeavor can influence the former).

We will not try to persuade you that Black gun violence is worse than blue gun violence or vice versa. That argument is unproductive, fallacious and divisive and invites emotional, unreasoned comparisons of two preventable social problems that have very different root causes and solutions. A more effective, results-oriented approach is to work to solve each problem by focusing on the one we are best suited to help solve given our beliefs, dispositions and resources.

PREVENTING BLACK GUN VIOLENCE

As Archon Bacote often reminds us, we are the most affluent, educated and accomplished collection of more than 5,000 mostly African American men in the diaspora. Certainly we are not immune, but in America, Black middle-class and upper-class households like ours suffer less from gun violence than Black lower-class and working-class households. A recent article in *American Progress* stated, “Notably, gun violence has a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities and is highly concentrated in a relatively small number of neighborhoods that have historically been under-resourced and racially segregated.”

If we believe the Boulé has a moral obligation to mitigate and attempt to alleviate gun violence in the

Black community, helping Black households enter America’s middle class, as a start, is an effective or better strategy for keeping Black guns from killing Black people. Solving the problem this way requires the same long-term, consistent, committed work that we have put into our scholarships and social action programs. It requires intentional intergenerational work that promotes, supports and rewards (1) prudent family planning and parenting; (2) educational excellence; (3) frugality, saving and investing; (4) anticonsumerism, antimaterialism, and anti-keeping-up-with-the-Joneses-ism; (5) career or entrepreneurial success; (6) avoiding wealth-decreasing events, such as civil lawsuits, criminal prosecutions and divorces; and (7) strategic wealth, power and prestige accumulation.

This is the kind of work that can steadily close the wealth, power and prestige gaps that have stubbornly persisted between Black American households and white American households since America’s Reconstruction Era. We know it works because many Boulé families have done it for generations. Black Americans have climbed to the heights of American society despite the disadvantages, obstacles and unrelenting attacks endured over the centuries.

Each of our families knows what it is to excel and flourish in America. We are, for all intents and purposes, bona fide experts at being prosperously Black. As experts on creating our own wealth, we



GUN VIOLENCE ACTIVIST MARCHES ACROSS THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE TO CITY HALL FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH MAYOR ERIC ADAMS ON GUN VIOLENCE IN JUNE 2022.

have an obligation to teach others who need to know what we know.

PREVENTING BLUE GUN VIOLENCE

Those whom our communities empower to use blue guns to kill or maim Black people are public employees working for public institutions that taxpaying Americans fund. Sans those funds, there could be no blue guns. Calls to defund the police attempt to persuade American voters and taxpayers that ridding their communities of blue guns or significantly decreasing the number of blue guns in their communities will prevent or decrease blue gun violence. Those arguments are difficult to refute.

But they can also be myopic and unpragmatic. Most American communities – and ours are not exceptions – benefit from having well-trained, well-supervised and law-abiding police officers empowered to lawfully use guns to defend people against criminals using or threatening to use deadly force. Other solutions to blue gun violence will likely yield more desirable results than defunding the police. Those other solutions tend to require strategic political action, innovative legislation, excellent public administration and some good civil rights lawyering.

There is no shortage of innovative strategies that can help curb preventable blue gun violence. But one strategy being tested in Colorado is more promising than most. “Qualified immunity” is a legal doctrine

that limits the liability risk of officers who harm or kill someone in the line of duty. Unless it can be proven that they violated constitutional rights in the line of duty, these public employees will be immune from criminal or civil liability.

Three years ago, in response to Elijah McClain’s 2019 death due to an officer-involved shooting, Colorado enacted the Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity Act. The act requires all Colorado law enforcement officers to use body-worn cameras when they enforce laws. It creates inferences, presumptions and sanctions for failing to activate or tampering with body-worn cameras. And it requires law enforcement agencies to release recordings of incidents to the public within twenty-one days after receiving complaints of misconduct. The act also requires Colorado’s Police Officer Standards and Training Agency to maintain a database of information related to each law enforcement officer’s untruthfulness, failures to follow protocol, decertifications or terminations for cause.

An innovation, the act requires peace officers to intervene when other officers are using unlawful physical force. In 2021, using his gun, a Colorado police officer brutally beat a Black client of Archon Hopkins’s firm while the officer’s partner stood by and watched. After reviewing body cam footage of the incident, a county district attorney decided to investigate, invite a grand jury to indict and prosecute the onlooking police officer for failing to intervene. A few



GROSSINGER/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

FLOWERS, POSTERS, TOYS AND OTHER MEMORABILIA LEFT BY SHOCKED SUPPORTERS OF THE VICTIMS OF THE WALMART SHOOTING ON AUGUST 3, 2019, IN EL PASO, TEXAS.

months ago, that police officer was the first in Colorado to be convicted for failing to intervene. Archon Hopkins attended the hearing where a Black judge sentenced her.

Most important, the act alters qualified immunity in Colorado. It gives Coloradans the right to sue the officers who violated their civil rights under the act in their individual capacities. If the officer loses the lawsuit, the officer is personally liable for 5 percent of the judgment or \$25,000, whichever is less. Legislatively, Colorado's Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity Act is one of the most promising strategies we have observed for helping to prevent blue gun violence. Those of us who influence or can influence lawmakers should work to enact similar laws nationwide, especially in member *boulé* communities.

CALLS TO ACTION

Black guns and blue guns endanger Black lives for different reasons. Both perils deserve our full attention. But each demands something different from us. The outcome of any violence is always a health issue. We were founded by men who were preeminent in and served the health of their communities with distinction. Surely, public health and healing are in our DNA. None of us can meet this challenge alone. All of us must work together toward the common cause of reducing Black gun and blue gun violence in our communities.

We propose three calls to action:

1. Innovatively integrate Black-gun-violence prevention into your member *boulé* social action programs.
2. Strengthen your individual efforts to teach Black households within your sphere of influence the tried-and-true ways to build the intergenerational wealth, power and prestige that our families have used for generations.
3. Leverage your influence to advocate for state laws like Colorado's Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity Act.

Philadelphia is Greek for "brotherly love." It combines *philos*, which means "beloved," and *adelphos*, which means "brother" or "brotherly." The American city in which our august fraternity was born in 1904 could not have a more fraternal name. We and our families have been blessed. Generations of excellence, industriousness and brotherly love empowered the men of our noble fraternity and our families to thrive for nearly 120 years in America. Now we are well positioned to answer the call that this summer's gun tragedies in our fraternity's birthplace, our home, reminded us is ours. We have all pledged to "by concerted action bring about those things that seem best for all that cannot be accomplished by individual effort." Let us now lock arms and answer this call.



PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY: A CALL FOR LEADERSHIP COURAGE

*By Archon Christian M. Gonzalez, Epsilon Tau Boulé,
Chair, Grand Boulé Young Adults Career Symposium Committee*

As a dedicated Archon of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity with eight years of unwavering commitment, I've had the privilege of witnessing our organization's values and mission come to life. Yet, in the past year, I've observed troubling behaviors that threaten the very essence of our beloved fraternity. Left unaddressed, these behaviors could veer us away from our sacred mission and harm the cherished membership experience we hold dear. In this article, I aim to shed light on these issues and, most crucially, issue a clarion call for leadership courage within our esteemed organization.

Challenges Observed

1. **Unsanctioned Promotion of Candidacies:**
In recent times, we have seen the public promotion of Archon candidacies through unsanctioned platforms, websites and even public events. This behavior undermines the sanctity of our electoral process and distracts us from our core mission.
2. **Unsolicited Communications:** Sending unsolicited communications to promote Archon candidacies can be invasive and counterproductive and erode the trust among our members, which is the cornerstone of our fraternity.
3. **Unauthorized Use of Confidential Information:**
The unauthorized use of confidential contact information for campaign purposes represents a breach of trust and a violation of privacy, endangering the sacred bonds of our brotherhood.
4. **Endorsements by Grand and Regional Officers:**
Public endorsements by our esteemed Grand and Regional Officers have the potential to

compromise the impartiality and fairness of our elections, putting our democratic processes at risk.

5. **Unsanctioned Campaign Materials:** The use of unsanctioned materials in Archon campaigns threatens to create division and misunderstandings within our fraternity.

6. **External Association and Affiliation Involvement:** The leveraging of external organization associations and fraternal affiliations for the purpose of securing support and votes within our organization not only goes against the principles of our organization but also jeopardizes our unity, independence and identity. Even more concerning is the use of these affiliations to promote external organizations' agendas within our fraternity.

The Dangers We Face

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity has a unique and illustrious history that has guided us for over a century. The behaviors outlined above, if allowed to persist, pose grave dangers to our fraternity. They threaten to erode the very foundation on which our organization stands, potentially leading us away from our core values and mission. The unity, respect and sanctity of our electoral process are at risk, and the overall membership experience faces potential irreparable harm.

The Need for Leadership Courage

In the face of these formidable challenges, we must summon the leadership courage that resides within our organization. As Archons and leaders, it is our solemn duty to confront these issues head-on and restore the integrity of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. We must steadfastly commit to the values of honor,

respect, and our mission to uplift underserved communities.

A Call to Action

1. **Establish Clear Policies:** We must implement clear policies and regulations for campaign conduct, guaranteeing that our elections are conducted fairly and ethically, thus preserving the sacred democratic processes of our fraternity.
2. **Enforce Sanctions:** It is imperative that we stand ready to enforce sanctions for any violations of our electoral regulations, ensuring the integrity of our elections remains intact.
3. **Encourage Open Dialogue:** We must foster an environment of open dialogue, where members feel comfortable discussing their concerns and proposing solutions, promoting a culture of transparency.
4. **Foster a Culture of Respect:** We actively work to cultivate a culture of respect, collaboration and unity within our fraternity. By doing so, we can preserve the essence of our brotherhood.

Conclusion

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity possesses a rich and storied history that is our shared responsibility to protect and uphold. The behaviors I and others have observed over the past year must serve as a collective wake-up call. It is our duty to ensure that we continue to shine as a beacon of light, a force for positive change and a model of leadership for generations to come. Leadership courage is not an option but a necessity. By addressing these issues collectively, we can fortify the very core of our beloved fraternity and ensure its enduring strength.

You cannot be afraid to speak up and speak out for what you believe. You have to have courage, raw courage.
~ Archon John Lewis

THE ROLE OF THE PRESS IN THE U.S. SCHEME OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

By Archon Rufus W. McKinney, Epsilon Boulé

Increasingly over the last several years, the number of daily newspapers being published in America has been declining. Here in the Washington, D.C., area where I live, we no longer have both a morning and afternoon general circulation daily newspaper. We no longer have two or three local papers thrown in our driveway every week for free, covering neighborhood events and news of local interest. Moreover, local ownership of the newspapers that remain is declining as well. The trend is toward consolidation and merger, becoming part of regional or national chains. Declining numbers of newspapers means fewer journalists – i.e., the people employed to seek out and report not only on what currently is happening in society but also on all other matters that may be of interest to the general public. Of course, journalists require editors and others whose responsibility it is to verify or ensure a degree of truth and accuracy in what is being published or reported. Roles and responsibilities that may or may not be present in social media outlets.

In part, this decline can be attributed to encroachment of actors from other media organizations into advertising markets that had been a major source of revenue for newspapers. Declining advertising revenue led to consolidations and mergers. Newspapers themselves began to move toward a different business model, away from costly print to cheaper digital versions of their product. Competition from much newer organizations spawned by the internet, such as Facebook and other digital platforms, slowly at first but now at an increasingly accelerated pace, is draining the life blood of the mainstream newspaper business.

The critical question is what impact does this have on the ability of the public to confidently inform itself about what is happening in society locally, nationally and globally so that individuals can make rational decisions about politics and countless other things affecting their lives every day. Are the forms of media

that are supplanting newspapers capable of performing the role the U.S. Constitution and the founding fathers had in mind when referring to protections for a free press in American society and our scheme of government? The earlier generally available alternatives to newspapers and print media, i.e., radio and television, had many of the same attributes as newspapers and other print media, and followed similar patterns in marketing themselves to advertisers and others seeking to reach large, widespread audiences.

Ranked in importance to society, right alongside a top-quality universal system of elementary and secondary education, is a vibrant, diverse, accessible free press! It is essential to the proper functioning of a democratic form of government, though not a part of government itself. The people, who are the very foundation for democratic decision-making through the process of choosing their representatives and otherwise participating in the process of self-government, must be equipped with information and knowledge. The conclusive presumption is, in a democratic system of government, that the people collectively will make rational judgments about all the matters within the purview of their authority as citizens. Otherwise, the entire system of government fails.

In a democratic system a free press also is essential to the proper functioning of the instruments of government itself. Executives and agency officials, legislators and their staffs to varying degrees rely on facts and information made public through the operation of a free and independent press. It can serve as a means of protecting people from reliance on government propaganda concerning controversial public issues that are presented.

The facts about the performance of American governments at all levels over recent decades indicate that the system is not functioning well. What are some of the signs? Increasingly, people are choosing not to participate in elections. Too many seats in the House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate are

virtually uncontested in the general election, i.e., too many “safe” seats for one political party or the other. Certainly at the federal level, incumbency reigns supreme. It’s nearly impossible to defeat an incumbent who has held the office for more than one term. Having money or the ability to raise money is more important than anything else in elections, including personal character and where you stand on the issues. Being elected to office as a representative or senator too often becomes the equivalent of a lifetime job, instead of a temporary tour of duty away from some other chosen career or occupation to perform an important civic duty that citizens in a free society are expected to undertake from time to time.

Perhaps the most egregious example of dysfunction in our system is what happened following the 2020 presidential election. The candidate whose loss was confirmed at the conclusion of the process refused to accept the official result and continues to claim the election was stolen! Furthermore, the defeated incumbent staged a revolt at the Capitol building in an attempt to halt the formal process of counting the final electoral votes by a joint session of Congress. Such disruption of the peaceful transfer of power in presidential elections is unprecedented in American history. The closest the nation came to such a breakdown in the system was the forced resignation of President Richard Nixon during his second term in office in 1975. The press through its unrelenting pursuit of the true facts about “Watergate” can take much of the credit for the downfall of President Nixon. Watergate demonstrated the power and influence a properly functioning free press can have in a democracy.

But can the press as it is now constituted in American society engineer the kind of change that occurred largely because of its actions during the Watergate era? Over the last fifty years the press has changed structurally and in the nature of its relationship with government. It has become more of a partisan player in the game, and no longer an independent outside force like a baseball umpire calling balls and strikes, beholden to neither side in the contest. Increasingly, the press acts as if its most important role is to prevail in the contest, to bring people to agreement with a

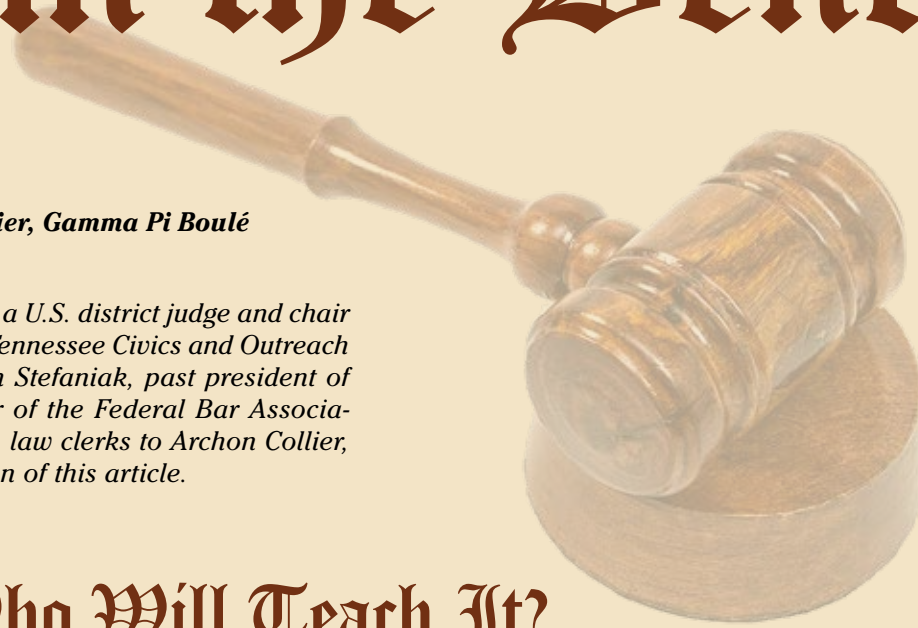
point of view, not primarily to ensure that people have access to all facts and information they need in order to make sound judgments themselves about political matters as free citizens in a democratic society.

To what extent can any of these and other problems now being experienced in the way American government operates be attributed to the changes taking place in the “free press”? I think this issue needs to be examined very thoroughly by everyone who is concerned about the long-term survival of the unique American experiment in government of, by and for the people.

What did early political leaders have in mind when speaking of a free press? Discussions among the founding fathers on this subject in the late 1700’s clearly show they were thinking a great deal about the liberty of persons to publish statements about actions of government without violating established common law against libel or slander. They wanted the people to have great latitude to criticize acts of government. And so they included freedom of the press among the very first things the Congress was forbidden to curtail in exercising its legislative power. It is therefore one of several constraints placed upon governmental power by the nation’s fundamental law.

The founding fathers obviously believed that freedom of speech, the right to peaceably assemble and the right to petition the government were not subsumed by the protections accorded to freedom of the press, as all of them distinctly are provided for in the very first amendment, also known as The Bill of Rights. They understood that the press is an institution that has capacities much like those of government itself. It has power to persuade, to motivate, to influence and to lead people to act, to bring about change. The other protections in the First Amendment essentially cover persons exercising rights acting in their capacities as individuals. This distinction has relevance to the question whether the various forms of social media such as Twitter (now X) and Facebook (now Meta), which were developed and greatly expanded in recent years, are or should be considered a part of the press as that term is used in the First Amendment.

From the Bench



By Archon Curtis L. Collier, Gamma Pi Boulé

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, law clerks to Archon Collier, assisted in the preparation of this article.

Civics: Who Will Teach It?

We can say with a good degree of confidence that the vast majority of U.S. citizens desire to be good citizens. It is hard to imagine that many people, if asked, would say they strive to be poor citizens. We may disagree on what it means to be a good citizen, but within our own definitions, we all want to be good ones.

An important component of being a good citizen is being an informed and knowledgeable citizen. That means having a working knowledge of how our government is structured, how it functions, the role of the different branches of government, their separate powers, the branches' responsibilities and the limitations on their powers. Without such knowledge, it is nearly impossible for us to fulfill our duties or wisely exercise our privileges as citizens.

Recent National Assessment of Educational Progress Report

Collectively, how do we rate as informed citizens? Unfortunately, national surveys generally show we are not acquiring and retaining the knowledge that makes for good citizenship. A recent example is the report of the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which is often called the nation's report card. This assessment is required by congress to assess and track the educational

achievements of students in U.S. schools. The latest NAEP report, released just a few weeks prior to this writing, demonstrates that students are moving backward, not forward, in critical civics knowledge. The NAEP shows that only 22 percent of eighth graders were proficient in civics, including the U.S. political system, principles of democracy and other topics. Meanwhile, only 13 percent of eighth graders were proficient in history. Both measures demonstrate a decline from the 2018 assessment – the first decline recorded since the NAEP civics assessment was first administered in 1998. This decline in civics proficiency, while only by two percentage points, is especially discouraging given the recent increase in focus and attention on civics education and knowledge. The recent NAEP assessment appears to show that we are falling further behind, rather than progressing, as hoped.

The Founders Assumed an Informed Citizenry

The founders hoped and assumed that the nation would have an informed citizenry. Thomas Jefferson stated this assumption frequently:

- “A well-informed citizenry is the best defense against tyranny.”

- “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.”
- “An informed citizenry is at the heart of a dynamic democracy.”
- “I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education. This is the true corrective of abuses of constitutional power.”
- “Convinced that the people are the only safe depositories of their own liberty, and that they are not safe unless enlightened to a certain degree, I have looked on our present state of liberty as a short-lived possession unless the mass of the people could be informed to a certain degree.”

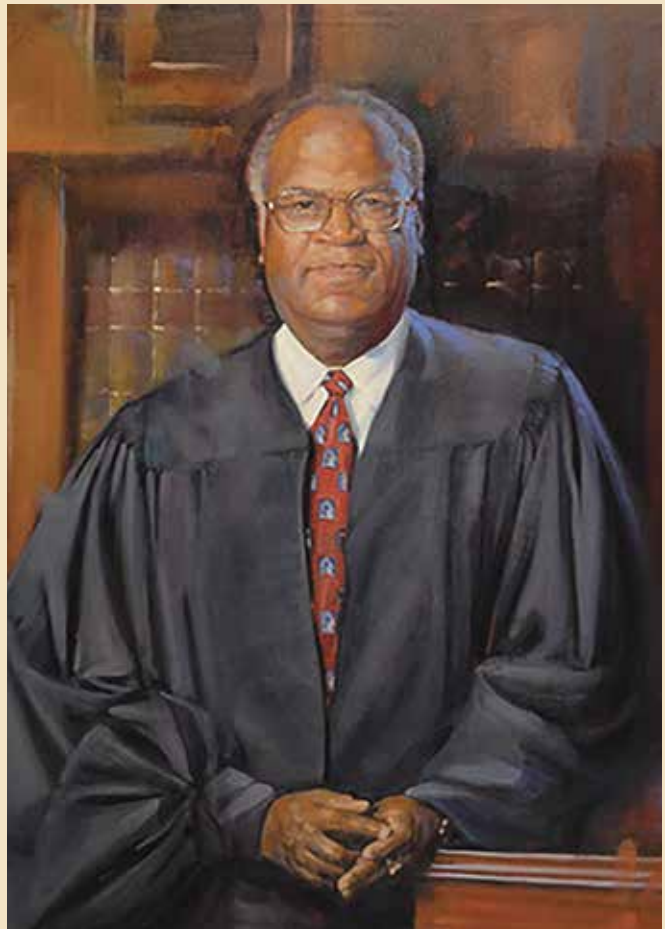
Other founders agreed. James Madison stated, “Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.” Sam Adams stated, “If virtue and knowledge are diffused among the people, they will never be enslaved. This will be their great security.” Benjamin Rush stated, “Where the common people are ignorant and vicious, a nation, and above all, a republican nation, can never be long free.”

Knowledge of Civics Does Not Come Through Osmosis

How did the founders expect successive generations of citizens would become informed and knowledgeable about our government? While today we think of schools and colleges as major sources of civics knowledge, at the time of the founding, public education was largely unknown, and a college education was rare. One figure is that in 1800, only around twenty-five colleges existed in the new United States. Yale, as the largest college in the United States, had only 217 students in 1800. Across the new country, just a few more than one thousand students attended college.

Obviously, then, the founders did not think that succeeding generations would learn about the values, ideas, ideals and beliefs of citizenship from schools. Nor did they assume that this knowledge would be passed on by osmosis or through drinking the water. Rather, they must have assumed that this necessary knowledge would be passed down through families, churches, public institutions, newspapers and other available sources. The founders must have assumed that what makes us Americans would be intentionally passed down from one generation to the next.

We are blessed today with a large number of schools – elementary, secondary, public and private, and colleges and universities – and these schools must play an important role in civics education. However, we cannot rely on schools alone to educate current and future generations on civics. Civics education is still today, as it was during the time of the founding, a job for each and every one of us.



ARCHON CURTIS L. COLLIER

ON THE SOCIAL ACTION FRONT

ALPHA DELTA BOULÉ AWARDS \$10,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS



In May 2022 Alpha Delta Boulé in Cincinnati awarded four scholarships to graduating high school seniors at its scholarship banquet, held at the Maketewah Country Club. These scholarships reward excellence and are given annually to help defray the cost of attending institutions of higher learning. The recipients were Dior F. Betts, a graduate of St. Xavier High School who plans to study kinesiology at Purdue University; Eian J. Elmer, a graduate of Robert A. Taft Technology High School, who will study marketing

at Miami University; Laron K. Kyles, a graduate of Purcell Marian High School, who will study business finance at the University of Cincinnati; and Vincent S. Oliver, a graduate of Sycamore High School, who will study music composition and music technology at Miami University.

*Archon Kenneth Washington
Grapter, Alpha Delta Boulé*

ALPHA LAMBDA BOULÉ SPONSORS YMOH CELEBRATORY END-OF-YEAR OUTING



Over the past decade, under the dedicated leadership of Past Sire Archon James Bass, Savannah's Alpha Lambda Boulé social action committee has continued a dynamic and successful mentoring program with the Young Men of Honor (YMOH) of the Andrea B. Williams Elementary School. This program, directed by its founder, Diane Jackson, consists of third, fourth and fifth grade African American male students in the inner-city neighborhoods of Savannah. Many of the students who participate in this program are from single-parent households.

Each year Alpha Lambda Boulé Archons visit the school on a weekly basis to provide guidance, encouragement and assistance to the program participants, who number as many as thirty students. The activities during the weekly school visits include instructions on leadership, health and wellness, business development, current events, and career goals.

At the end of each academic year the Archons of Alpha Lambda Boulé assist in sponsoring an end-of-the-year program recognizing the scholastic achievement of each student. Additionally, the Boulé

sponsors a summer excursion for the Young Men of Honor. This year, during the month of July, the students traveled to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Florida, and Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

To begin their summer excursion, the YMOH had the opportunity to spend a full day exploring the Kennedy Space Center. The students were able to visit NASA's primary launch center for human spaceflights and exploration over the past sixty years and to learn about plans for space travel and exploration into the future.

Following the incredible day of visiting the Kennedy Space Center, the YMOH traveled to Daytona Beach to tour Bethune-Cookman University. Deric Feacher, the city's manager and chief administrative officer, hosted the YMOH for day two of their visit. Although the primary objective of day two was a guided tour of the Bethune-Cookman campus, Feacher also provided a day of special events to make this trip one of the most educational and exciting trips ever for the YMOH. After a tour of the university, he led a special tour of the Daytona Beach City Hall, followed by one of the students' favorite lunches at Chick-fil-A. Then the students were surprised with a special visit to the

Jackie Robinson Ballpark, where they learned about the history of the integration of Major League Baseball and were given a baseball hat and ball as souvenirs.

The surprises continued with a tour of the Hunt House, a Black-owned rental home in downtown Daytona Beach, and what would a trip to Daytona Beach be without a tour and pictures of the Atlantic Ocean from the Daytona Beach Breakers and Beach Boardwalk. The day concluded with a surprise visit to the Daytona International Speedway arranged by Feacher. The students were driven onto the center of the racetrack and allowed to take pictures in the winner's circle. The students were extremely grateful for the hospitality shown by Feacher and thanked him for this exciting educational trip.

In thanking Feacher for his time and effort, Jackson said, "Thank you so much for making this a memorable and exciting trip for the Young Men of Honor and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students to see the rich history of our African American heritage." Alpha Lambda Archons continue the weekly school sessions and challenging the Young Men of Honor to strive for academic excellence in their studies.

Archon Ronald J. Gantt

Grapter, Alpha Lambda Boulé



ALPHA SIGMA BOULÉ'S CAVE WHITEMAN AND BOBCAT PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO THRIVE



The programs of Alpha Sigma Boulé, Brooklyn–Long Island, New York – Cave Whiteman and BoBCAT – stand as exemplars of holistic initiatives that thrive, fueled by an unwavering commitment to education, mentorship, training and the crucial objective of job creation. These programs are thoughtfully crafted to leave an enduring and transformative imprint on underserved communities, benefiting not only the individuals within them but also contributing to the betterment of society and the bolstering of the local workforce.

The Cave Whiteman Scholarship Program is an award-winning program that provides traditional scholarships, as well as scholastic awards, which support students through high school and college or vocational school. The scholastic awards are intended for students who are stifled in their ambition to succeed academically, but have been identified as having the potential to do so. The Cave Whiteman

Scholarship Program goes even further in its commitment to the success of its participants by offering continued mentorship, guiding and nurturing the students throughout their academic journey.

Many of the students, in addition to dealing with such limitations as poverty, behavioral issues and lack of self-esteem, come from single-parent households. This program, recognizing that these young people are at risk of dropping out of high school, supports them with all the necessary resources for them to succeed. So far, more than forty students who may have otherwise been “lost in the system” have successfully passed through the program. All have finished high school, many of them admitting that they would have dropped out or been in jail were it not for the Cave Whiteman Program.

A testament to the transformative power of education and the positive impact it can have on individuals, families and communities, this program offers a

beacon of hope for at-risk students who face a myriad of obstacles on their path to academic success. It not only provides financial assistance but also recognizes their potential and offers unwavering support.

The Borough of Brooklyn Center for Arts & Technology (affectionately known as BoBCAT) held its first annual golf outing on July 25, 2023, at the beautiful Bethpage Red golf course in Farmingdale, Long Island. Nestled in the heart of Brooklyn, BoBCAT is on a mission that is as clear as it is transformative: reshaping the future of its community by eliminating chronic unemployment and underemployment. Through education and innovation, it is arming underserved individuals age 19 and above with the skills they need to thrive in high-growth, high-wage sectors on a global scale.

At the core of BoBCAT's inspiring journey are three visionary leaders: Archons Reginald Manning, Derrick Hostler and Aaron Dean. United by their passion, determination and unwavering commitment to their community, they breathed life into an organization that has become a beacon of hope for countless lives.

The mission of BoBCAT is as ambitious as it is practical: to cultivate a world-class workforce in Brooklyn for the entirety of the twenty-first century. It doesn't stop there: its ultimate goal is to obliterate the pervasive issues of chronic unemployment and underemployment within the borough.

The Archons are reaching out to underserved individuals, including unemployed youth and those who embarked on but didn't complete their college education. The approach is holistic, equipping these individuals with skills, confidence and knowledge.

What sets BoBCAT apart is its unwavering focus on creating not just skilled individuals but also a well-rounded, job-ready workforce, as technical skills, while vital, are only part of the equation. Starting from the employers' perspective, BoBCAT ensures that its candidates not only meet the qualifications

but are also fully prepared for the demands of the job market. The mentors go the extra mile by providing training in essential soft skills, such as résumé and cover-letter writing, financial literacy and effective communication. What's even more remarkable is their commitment to securing jobs for candidates upon completion of their training. They start the recruiting process with a specific employer (and career path) in mind.

Offering career pathways designed to meet the demands of the employer while lifting the fortunes of the applicants, to date, BoBCAT has been active in the following areas:

1. Carpentry: Preparing individuals to enroll in the BuildingWorks carpentry pre-apprenticeship program, which leads to union membership. The center has sent almost twenty-five candidates to the union in the past two years.
2. Emergency Medical Technician: Screening and advising candidates to be trained at one of the best medical training facilities in the country, the Northwell Center for Learning and Innovation.

In addition to transforming lives, BoBCAT has made a significant economic impact in Brooklyn and around New York City. The organization has interviewed almost 135 candidates, sending almost fifty to BuildingWorks and about twenty-five to the New York City Council of Carpenters trade union. This, in turn, has contributed to the creation of more than \$1.4 million in recurring annual wealth within the community, bolstering the local economy and enriching the lives of graduates, their families and the community at large.

Not just an organization, BoBCAT is a catalyst for change, and is committed to creating a future where unemployment and underemployment are replaced with a world-class workforce.

*Archon Daren L. Hawthorne
Gapter, Alpha Sigma Boulé*

ALPHA CHI BOULÉ ANNOUNCES HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



In the summer of 2023 the Alpha Chi Foundation of Lansing, Michigan's Alpha Chi Boulé announced its five winners of \$1,500 scholarships. Scholarship winners from high schools in the mid-Michigan area are selected for their academic achievement and engagement in school and community. As a group, the three young ladies and two young men had an average 3.85 GPA, were members of the National Honor Society, and were active in high school sports and a variety of school and community-service activities.

Nevaeh Kiara-Marie Branson graduated with a 3.78 GPA in an honors enriched curriculum. She has coached youth football and basketball, and has excelled in both track and basketball at the high school level. She attends Wayne State University and is pursuing a degree in sports management.

Zylah C. Carter graduated twelfth in her class of 244 with a GPA of 3.87. She was active as a volunteer at a women's shelter and in passing out food to the needy, and she participated at the varsity level in both women's basketball and track and field. She attends Albion College in Michigan and is pursuing a degree in exercise science and kinesiology.

Kennedy Reese Duncan graduated summa cum laude with a 4.07 GPA and is active in her church, president of the UNICEF Club and a member of the Black Student Union. She attends DePaul University and is pursuing a B.F.A. in film and television.

Brandon J. Lewis graduated in the top 40 percent of his class of a highly ranked high school with a 3.67 GPA. He was extremely active in community groups and service projects, where he held various leadership positions. He participated in varsity golf and football. Brandon attends Michigan State University, is pursuing a degree in computer science and participates on the football team.

Dominique Smith graduated fifth in his class with a GPA of 3.9. He actively participated in an interschool esports league and JV basketball. He is a first-generation college student, attending Michigan State University and majoring in engineering.

Archon Steven L. Lonzo
Grapter, Alpha Chi Boulé

ALPHA PSI BOULÉ SUPPORTS SUMMER OF STUDENT ENRICHMENT



ARCHONS ROBERT GRIFFITHS AND KERWIN LOW WITH THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS AT THE STEM ACADEMY

This past summer Hartford, Connecticut's Alpha Psi Boulé hosted three programs that promoted educational and leadership development for students in the Hartford area. In June Alpha Psi held its annual scholarship dinner, after a COVID-induced hiatus. In July Archons participated in a three-week STEM Academy. In August, drawing the summer to a close, Archons supported a leadership forum, in conjunction with Archon Brooks Finch of Beta Sigma Boulé during the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement weekend.

Scholarship Dinner

On June 14 Archons hosted a dinner at Tumble Brook Country Club, recognizing this year's scholarship recipients. For more than twenty years, in part-

nership with the Greater Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Alpha Psi has granted four-year scholarships to African American male high school seniors. This year's scholars are Curtis Jones and Troy Meggie, both of Achievement First Academy-Hartford.

To start the evening, all Archons introduced themselves, giving the scholars a sense of the range of careers and depth of experience represented. Rashaun Davis, an Alpha Psi Boulé 2018 scholarship recipient, spoke about his college experience and the journey to his role as a securities analyst at an asset management firm. Alpha Psi's scholarship committee gave the scholars a copy of *The 2% Way: How a Philosophy of Small Improvements Took Me to Oxford, the NFL, and Neurosurgery*, by Myron L. Rolle. At the end of the evening, each scholar took the opportunity to thank Alpha Psi for the scholarship and their attending family members for their support.



STEM ACADEMY WORKSHOP

STEM Academy

Alpha Psi Boulé, in partnership with Jumoke Academy and Goodwin University, conducted the Jumoke Summer STEM Academy – a dynamic three-week summer enrichment program aimed at nurturing the talents of rising fifth to eighth grade scholars. The program, held in the advanced-manufacturing facility on the campus of Goodwin University, focused on the Base 11 Next Frontier industries, with a spotlight on advanced manufacturing, AR/VR, aerospace and health-care sectors.

The Jumoke Summer STEM Academy was designed to inspire, educate and ignite the passions of young scholars in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Under the guidance of Goodwin University staff and professionals from the aerospace and health-care industries, participants had the unique opportunity to explore the depths of these cutting-edge fields. Archons Rob Griffiths and Kerwin Low, joined by fellow engineers from Pratt & Whitney and a physician from UConn Medical Center, shared their personal career journeys, providing insight into the challenges they faced and revealing what enabled their success.

Archon Troy Monroe and his dedicated team at Jumoke Academy Charter School, Inc., are steadfast in their commitment to advancing STEM education. Notably, Jumoke Academy has decided to make a long-term commitment to serve as a pilot site for the creation of a “feeder program” into the national Base 11 Next Frontier industries initiative, which targets individuals from eleventh grade to age 35. This strategic initiative seeks to bridge the gap in representation in these transformative fields, providing ongoing mentorship, education and support to young talent. The academy aims to integrate these experiences into the regular academic year.

Education and Leadership Forum

Alpha Psi Boulé teamed with the Harrison Fitch Leadership Initiative and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame to give young scholars the opportunity to participate in the Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend on August 17 and 18. On Friday morning, thirty scholars from Hartford Youth Scholars, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works with young students – beginning when they are in middle school – to help them attend and graduate from college, and Jumoke Academy met for an education and leadership forum at the conference center at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut. The participants learned lessons in leadership, pursuing goals and excellence, the power of believing in oneself, and the importance of support for others.

Speakers included Archon Brooks Fitch, who told the story of his father, Harrison Fitch, the first African American scholar-athlete on the basketball team at the University of Connecticut, and the challenges he faced. The grandson of James Naismith described how his grandfather created the game of basketball, and how he continued to learn throughout his life. The headliners for the forum were Hall of Famers Spencer Haywood and Nancy Lieberman, who connected with participants through stories of their paths from childhood to the pinnacle of their profession and their postplaying careers.

On Saturday the scholars attended the Enshrinement Ceremony in Springfield, Massachusetts. After walking the red carpet, they were treated to an evening of inspirational stories and speeches from one of the strongest induction classes in Basketball Hall of Fame history.

*Archon G. Duncan Harris
Grapter, Alpha Psi Boulé*

BETA GAMMA BOULÉ ESTABLISHES PEOPLES-WASHINGTON COLLEGE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Beta Gamma Boulé of Jackson, Mississippi, proudly announced the inaugural class of eight scholars selected from Jackson State University and Tougaloo College to participate in the Peoples-Washington College Leadership Program for the upcoming year. The scholars were selected from a pool of applicants on the basis of scholarship, extracurricular activities, personal references and an essay on the importance of servant-leadership in the African American community.

During the COVID-19 crisis, then-Sire Archon Pieter Teeuwissen and Sire Archon-Elect Royal P. Walker extensively discussed the idea of creating a school-year program exposing college men of potential to varied facets of leadership. It was recognized that while some possess leadership innately, more often leadership is learned from the wisdom of elders. The Leadership Program's goal is to foster in young men a sense of the greatness that lies before them while instilling the values and unspoken, nuanced behavior required for a journey of success.

As Archons, we all recognize that new Archons ought to arrive in our august fraternity Boulé-ready. In turn, Boulé-ready often stems from a foundation of leadership, service and excellence beginning during college matriculation. Accordingly, Sire Archon Walker challenged the Beta Gamma Archons, led by Archon David Marion, to design monthly programming modules whereby different Archons can interact with college men while sharing their expertise in areas such as medicine, government, banking, business and the law. The idea is that Archons will illuminate the path to leadership for young men who seek to become servant-leaders while discussing the pitfalls that are too often hidden until they have derailed someone. Each participant has committed himself to monthly attendance as well as attendance during the open portion of a Beta Gamma meeting and attendance at the Christmas Is for the Archousai event.

The leadership program is named for two outstanding Beta Gamma Archons. Archon John Peoples was a founding Beta Gamma Archon who served from 1967 to 1984 as the sixth president of Jackson State. An

original Montford Point Marine, Archon Peoples was an All-SWAC football scholar-athlete at Jackson State, who later obtained his master's and Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Chicago. Archon Walter Washington obtained his undergraduate degree from Tougaloo College as well as advanced degrees from Indiana University and the University of Southern Mississippi, where he was the first African American to obtain a doctorate within the State of Mississippi educational system. Archon Washington served as president of Utica Junior College and later president of Alcorn State University from 1969 to 1994.

The inaugural class of the Peoples-Washington College Leadership Program have already demonstrated personal achievement and social commitment. When the young men complete the program, the hope is that each will feel empowered to make a difference by following in the legendary footsteps of Archons Peoples and Washington.

*Archon Pieter J. Teeuwissen
Grapter, Beta Gamma Boulé*



BETA GAMMA BOULÉ AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO TORNADO VICTIMS



On March 24, 2023, a severe weather and tornado outbreak occurred across portions of the lower Mississippi River Valley. Moving eastward over a four-day period with heavy rainfall and severe thunderstorms, the weather system produced an EF4 tornado as it moved through the small Mississippi towns of Rolling Fork, Midnight and Silver City in the lower portion of the Mississippi Delta. The storm resulted in catastrophic damage and numerous fatalities. Families living in the affected area, particularly those in mobile homes on the plains, described the storm as a monster. It left those in these communities, which are about 71 percent Black, without homes, stores or places to work.

As the storm careened through one of the nation's poorest communities, it claimed a reported twenty-six lives, fourteen of those in the town of Rolling Fork. At its widest point, the storm stretched three-quarters of a mile and utterly destroyed or severely damaged many of the buildings and homes in the small Mississippi town. Two of the buildings that sustained significant damage were the South Delta high and elementary schools. The damage was so severe that the students could not return to class. Ironically, the South Delta Middle School had sustained damage from a tornado in 2022 and was under repair at the time. The decision was made that all students K-12 would have to consolidate at the middle school and just "make do" to complete the school year.

Understanding the damage to the city and the potential damage to the futures of the young men

and women who were on the cusp of graduation, Beta Gamma Archons quickly concluded that they needed to do something to assist the graduates. Archons promptly started making personal contributions to award scholarships to those high school graduates who endeavored to pursue education beyond high school.

Erra Kelly, the superintendent of education, and Sam Matthews, the high school principal, polled the graduates regarding their higher-education goals. Of the thirty-three Rolling Fork graduates, twenty-nine planned to further their education. Additionally, four students in Silver City were added to this list, two of whom planned to attend college. Beta Gamma unanimously supported awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to each graduate enrolling in a four-year college or university and a \$500 scholarship to each graduate planning to attend a community college or trade school. Beta Gamma further endeavors to raise funds to award second-year scholarships for those students who successfully complete their first year.

The storm's wrath and fury took the material items of these young men and women, their homes, and even their family members. Nevertheless, the Archons of Beta Gamma want the graduates to understand that the storm did not take away their hope for a better life.

*Archon Pieter J. Teeuwissen
Grapter, Beta Gamma Boulé*

BETA EPSILON BOULÉ AWARDS FOUR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



JOMIRI GRAVES



KEITH PEMBERTON II



DANIEL PIGGOTT III



ANTHONY M. TAYLOR

On July 28, 2023, Greensboro, North Carolina's Beta Epsilon Boulé awarded two scholarships valued at \$2,000 each to twelfth-grade high-achieving Black males from Guilford County. Two additional scholarships at \$2,000 each were awarded by the Beta Epsilon Boulé Foundation. Applications for these scholarships were accepted from college-bound students who attend public and private high schools in the Triad of North Carolina.

Beta Epsilon has a long-standing history of service to the Greensboro community and supports those young people who exhibit the same commitment of education, excellence and service. These four students were selected following a rigorous selection and interview process led by scholarship chairman Archon Vincent Schooler. Additional members of the scholarship committee include Archons Henry Smith III, Rudy Clark and Anthony Graham.

Jomiri Graves, a senior at Northwest Guilford High School in Greensboro, will enroll at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, majoring in business management. He has a weighted GPA of 4.00. His career aspirations include obtaining a master's degree in business analytics and communication with a long-term goal of owning a business that focuses on empowering young people with humanitarian initiatives. He is a member of the National Honor Society. During high school he volunteered more than 1,000 hours in multiple community initiatives, where he developed leadership skills that will help him excel in the future.

Keith Pemberton II, a senior at Forsyth Country Day School in Lewisville, will enroll at Yale University. Keith has a weighted GPA of 4.37. His career aspirations include becoming a human-rights attorney and diplomat. To help develop this future career, he spent seven weeks in Morocco as a youth ambassador as part of the U.S. State Department National Security Language Initiative. During this summer program he studied Arabic and was immersed in the local

culture and community. Throughout high school he was elected to various roles in the student government association, and as a senior he was student body president. He has organized and led numerous school initiatives to improve student engagement with teachers and worked toward gender equity in sports. He also served on the student ambassador leadership committee and was president of the High Point Youth Chapter of the NAACP. He excelled as a student-athlete playing pivotal roles on the varsity lacrosse team and was named to the All-State and All-Conference teams. His team won the 2021 North Carolina State Championship and finished second in 2022, and he helped with a lacrosse summer camp for Winston-Salem youths.

Daniel Piggott III, a senior at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical STEM Early College, will attend North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro. Daniel is a recipient of the distinguished Cheatham-White Scholarship and has a weighted GPA of 4.47. He plans to major in chemistry with a career focus in pharmaceutical chemistry. He was selected for the National Honor Society in 2023. Throughout high school he was a Service-Learning Club ambassador, volunteering for various youth programs such as the Greensboro Youth Council and at the Ronald McDonald House.

Anthony M. Taylor, a senior at James B. Dudley High School in Greensboro, has a weighted GPA of 4.63. Anthony is valedictorian of his senior class and will enroll at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, with plans to major in electrical and computer engineering. He is a member of the National Honor Society, was active in multiple leadership initiatives and played varsity basketball every year of high school.

*Archon Frankie T. Jones
Gapter, Beta Epsilon Boulé*

BETA IOTA BOULÉ SCHOLARS PROGRAM BUILDS CONNECTIONS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS



SCHOLARS JOIN ARCHONS FROM BETA IOTA BOULÉ AT THE SUMMER EXECUTIVE WORKSHOP BLACK ECONOMIC FORUM IN OAK BLUFFS, MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Receiving a scholarship is both an acknowledgment of hard work and a welcome financial boost for most college students. But for the Beta Iota Boulé in Farmington Valley, Connecticut, its Boulé Scholars Program is about more than money: The boulé aims to make its program transformational in the lives of its recipients.

One such platform that has left an indelible impression on its scholars is the Summer Executive Workshop Black Economic Forum. Each year, young scholars are invited to participate in the premiere event, which is sponsored by Beta Iota Boulé, McKinsey & Co., and the Executive Leadership Council. A half-dozen scholars attended this year's event, held at the Farm Neck Golf Club on Martha's Vineyard from August 22 to August 24.

More than 250 Black executives attended this year's event, which featured keynote speakers Archon Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, and Michael S. Regan, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, among other esteemed speakers. The event represented a rare opportunity for the scholars to bond and network with African American leaders

representing across a broad spectrum of corporate, governmental, academic and philanthropic arenas.

Bloomfield, Connecticut, native Ethan Forbes, 19, has attended the forum for the past two years and said of the experience, "It's been eye-opening in many ways." He added that seeing so many African American executives in one place gave him a new perspective, especially having attended a predominantly white boarding school and college. "I can see myself in these executives. I can see myself in these positions," he said.

A rising sophomore, Forbes will enter the transfer portal from the University of Rhode Island, where he ran track, to attend either the University of North Carolina-Charlotte or Western Carolina University. He said he plans to double major in sustainability and economics, in part because of advice he received from Archons and leaders attending the Black Economic Forum. Because of the forum, he was able to connect with an executive who had a similar background. Forbes said after networking at the event, he later decided to study climate-risk management. He says

experiences such as the forum, as well as the ongoing guidance from Archons, has been invaluable.

Corey Plummer, another Beta Iota Boulé scholar, agrees. Plummer, a sophomore in the honors program at the University of Connecticut School of Business, said he is grateful for the connections he has been able to make through the boulé. “I came into a welcoming environment where they were willing to teach me,” he said. Plummer said he was able to get an internship this past summer with Access Health CT, in part because the company CEO, James Michel, is an Archon.

Plummer, 19, added that Archons and business leaders attending the Black Economic Forum encouraged him to use his time in college to challenge himself to get the most out of the experience beyond academics. Buoyed by the advice and encouragement, Plummer decided to launch a new club on campus targeting incoming Black freshmen. The organization will not only have a social component to help them feel less isolated, but it will also focus on teaching them interviewing, networking and tech skills that will help them stand out in the crowded job market, he said.

“As students of color, if we’re showing that we’re taking initiative to make ourselves better candidates, it will help us all in the end,” Plummer said. He added that besides the networking, internship and counseling opportunities it provides, the scholars program has also been beneficial in that it connects other like-minded African American men in college who are on similar journeys.

Beta Iota Boulé has supported twenty-three African American students and committed approximately \$180,000 in scholarships since its inception. Scholars receive four-year awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for Grand-level scholars. A portion of the proceeds from the Summer Executive Workshop goes to the scholars program.

According to Archon Tom C. McNeill, Jr., who chairs the Beta Iota Boulé Scholars Program, the Grand Boulé’s primary impetus for starting the program came after a study found that “among Black males, many end up in the penal system rather than higher education. So the program is meant to encourage, entice and promote Black males to seek higher education and even graduate education.”

Archon McNeill stated that the list of potential candidates for the program is compiled from recommendations from public and private school principals, guidance counselors and others, then reviewed and narrowed down by the committee, with an emphasis on good character and community involvement. Archon Greg Jones, who is chair of the social committee and assistant chair of the social action committee,

stated that one of the program’s goals is to “reduce or eliminate college debt so that they can get on the path of closing the racial economic wealth gap.”

In addition to promoting academic success, the program is also focused on helping students build lasting bonds that can propel them not only while in college, but as they pursue their career goals. “One of the biggest challenges for our youths is developing relationships and building connections,” said Jones, who is also executive director of the nonprofit Legacy Foundation of Hartford, another sponsor of the Summer Executive Workshop’s Black Economic Forum. “Part of this mentorship is about opening our networks to them. It’s all about building relationships.”

Archon McNeill agreed: “To use the Boulé network countrywide is probably bigger than the (scholarship) money. They get to network with some of the highest-ranking Black executives in the country. They’re able to offer them advice, jobs or other scholarships. Many of our scholars see it as an eye-opening event that gives them a broader understanding of why it’s important to make connections to further their career.” He said scholars volunteer at the Black Economic Forum, and many also give back to other young Black men by speaking to high school students who are scholars of the Legacy Foundation of Hartford – many of whom are the first in their families to attend college.

Olatunji Osho-Williams, 20, a rising junior at Northwestern University double-majoring in journalism and international studies, with a minor in Spanish, described the Black Economic Forum as educational in many ways. Hartford-born Osho-Williams, of Sierra Leone heritage, is a Grand Boulé Scholar, receiving a \$10,000 scholarship over four years. “I’m someone who isn’t necessarily business-, science- or tech-focused, and it introduced me to different worlds, and by that I mean different career paths – and I learned that I can do more outside my major,” explained Osho-Williams, who also interned at Access Health CT thanks to his Boulé connection. “I realized that these jobs are difficult in the sense that they require a lot of time and focus, but they’re not unattainable.”

These experiences are part of the fabric that strengthens both the scholars and other African American young men coming up behind them, according to Archon McNeill: “It’s more than what you can get out of a book. Relationships are being built that will enhance your scholarship.” Part of that brotherhood bonding will be on full display at the annual Celebration of Black Love in February.

*Archon Earl Exum
Grapter, Beta Iota Boulé*

GAMMA EPSILON BOULÉ HOLDS GOLF FUNDRAISER AND AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS



GAMMA EPSILON FOUNDATION 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé hosted its fifth successful golf tournament fundraiser and scholarship awards ceremony on July 31, 2023. A total of 117 golfers participated. The event was chaired by Archon James Jordan, foundation president, along with Archon Gary Strong, scholarship committee chair, Archon Eric Gravenberg, and cochair Archon Michael Marion with assistance from Archon Wornel Simpson.

A total of twenty-two scholarships were awarded this year. Eighteen of the scholars attended the scholarship awards ceremony. This year's ceremony included the presentation of the first Willie Bell Fellowships. Archon Willie Bell was a charter member of Gamma Epsilon.

The scholarship awards were presented as follows:

1. Ten scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded to new applicants. There were eight high school graduates and two continuing college students. There were two males and eight females, and four STEM students. The average GPA was 3.78.

2. Ten scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded to returning scholars. There were five males and five females, and four STEM students. The average GPA was 3.55.

3. The year 2023 marked the inaugural launch of the Willie Bell Fellowship. The Gamma Epsilon Foundation awarded two Willie Bell Fellowships for scholars attending graduate and professional school at \$2,500 each. The Willie Bell Fellows were two males, with an average GPA of 3.0. Members of the Bell family were in attendance for the award ceremony.

The chairmen of the committee would like to thank all the Gamma Epsilon membership for its support of this successful event.

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

GAMMA ZETA BOULÉ FOUNDATION LAUNCHES 2023–24 MENTOR PROGRAM WITH RECORD ENROLLMENT



LAMP MENTOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

On August 26 the Pasadena, California, Gamma Zeta Boulé Foundation LAMP Mentor Program began its 2023–24 year with an orientation and etiquette workshop. The program increased in enrollment from thirty-six African American high school male students to fifty-nine, with resultant challenges in terms of resources.

The orientation included the mentees and approximately ninety-five parents and twelve mentors, as well as members of the Gamma Zeta Boulé Foundation board of directors. Speakers included Archons Earle Charles, LAMP program coordinator; Ramsey Jay, Jr., foundation president; and Gilbert Holmes, LAMP director of curriculum and development. As part of



ARCHON RAMSEY JAY, JR., DEMONSTRATES AN “ICE BREAKER” EXERCISE.



RONALD MARTIN

the orientation, the mentors met the new mentees, who each received a LAMP Mentor Program pin.

In addition to the speakers' explaining the expectations and opportunities of the program, Archon Jay provided the parents and new mentees with an example of a traditional "ice breaker" of the LAMP Mentor Program. He kept mentees and parents on their toes with rapid-fire questions and hand-clap cadences that the program uses to stimulate critical thinking and focus attention, according to the program standard of excellence.

After the orientation, the mentees participated in a workshop on etiquette. Ronald Martin, the first African American to be inducted into Les Clefs d'Or, the international society of concierges, conducted the class. The class covered dress etiquette, social graces, respectful treatment of women, greetings, behavior at a business lunch or dinner, and dining etiquette. During the class, the mentees engaged in spirited discussion with Martin as they sought to understand etiquette traditions in the context of life in the twenty-first century.

After the class, the mentees had lunch at Fleming's Restaurant and Wine Bar. There they negotiated the placement of the bread dish, the beverage glasses and the napkins, following what they had learned in the class. They also ordered from the menu and engaged in conversation during lunch. They were not

permitted to use their cell phones at the table – a challenge for several of them, but one that they met with few reminders. At the beginning of lunch, Martin conducted a refresher course on the basic etiquette involved when eating in a public setting with multiple pieces of silverware and drinking glasses. Juice was served in the wine glasses to show the mentees how to hold stem glasses as well as water glasses.

During the mentee workshop, Mark Fowler, chair of the LAMP Parents Auxiliary Council, conducted an orientation for the parents. Fowler and others gave the parents an opportunity to introduce themselves to each other and to describe the talents and treasures that they can contribute to the success of the LAMP Mentor Program.

The program leadership wishes to thank Fleming's Restaurant and Wine Bar for hosting the August activity. Maria Haro, operating management partner, and the entire staff were extremely generous with their assistance, hospitality, flexibility and excellent food. They created a genuine and impactful environment for the LAMP Mentor Program to conduct its orientation, introduce parents to how the program operates, hold a significant class on etiquette, and introduce the mentees to fine dining.

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

GAMMA PI BOULÉ HOSTS McDANIEL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET



FOUNDATION BOARD AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Chattanooga's Gamma Pi Boulé hosted its annual Paul A. McDaniel Scholarship banquet on May 29, 2023, awarding four scholarships for this year's Paul A. McDaniel Scholarship. The scholarship goes to high school seniors who reside in the southeast Tennessee region and have been accepted to accredited four-year colleges or universities. The awards are made based on the students' high character, superior academic achievement, leadership skills and demonstrated willingness to use their talents to improve society.

The banquet, in addition to honoring these fine young men, is named in honor of the late Archon Paul A. McDaniel. Archon McDaniel was pastor of the Second Missionary Baptist Church and a Hamilton County commissioner. A legendary civic and community leader, he was one of the founding members of Gamma Pi and embodied all the qualities Gamma Pi hopes to encourage and instill in the young scholarship recipients. Since its inception, more than \$180,000 has been awarded to young men in the southeast Tennessee region.

Archon Wade A. Hinton, CEO of Hinton & Co., is the social action committee chair. At the banquet he described how incredibly proud Gamma Pi is of this year's winners and how inspired we continue to be by the talented young men in our community. We are proud to have the academic and leadership accom-

plishments of these young men represent our organization.

Sire Archon Travis L. Lytle, Sr., director of community development for Smart Bank, led the ceremony. He called the Paul A. McDaniel Scholarship a wonderful tribute to an amazing leader and change-maker, and even though we lost this great man, his legacy will live on in these talented young men for years to come.

Archon Curtis L. Collier gave an inspirational speech to the body to start the program. This was followed by the keynote speaker, Gamma Phi Boulé Archon Kenneth R. Kemp. The year's winners were as follows:

- **Marquez Thompson** of Brainerd High School will pursue his studies at Stanford University in the fall.
- **Evan Haynie** of Baylor School will attend Princeton University in the fall.
- **Joshua Adams** of Chattanooga School for Arts and Sciences will study at Middle Tennessee State University.
- **La'Nari Davis** of the Chattanooga Center for Creative Arts will attend Middle Tennessee State University.

*Archon John V. Golding III
Grapter, Gamma Pi Boulé*

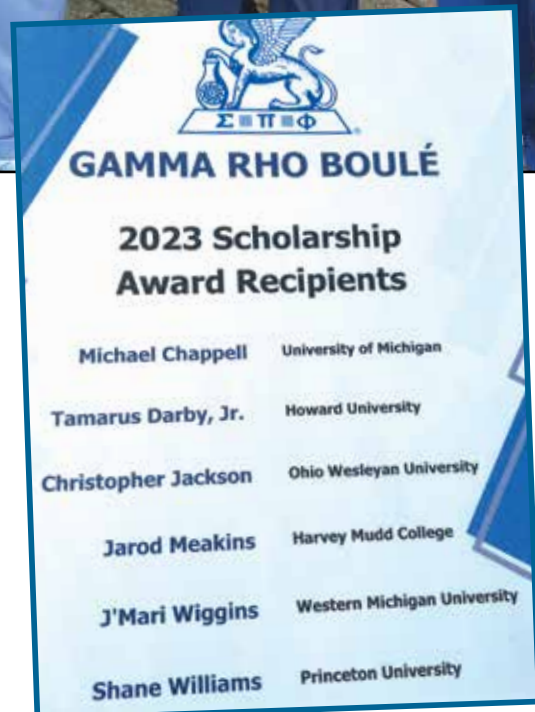
GAMMA RHO BOULÉ HONORS SCHOLARS AT SUMMER SOIRÉE



SCHOLAR MIKE CHAPPELL AND FAMILY

Kudos to Sire Archon Les Alexander of Gamma Rho Boulé, Ann Arbor, Michigan, on a very successful Summer Soirée, which took place at the majestic Barton Hills Country Club on July 30, 2023. Archon Charles Ramsey facilitated the event, which included six scholarship recipients and their families. Archon Glenn Moore, who serves on the scholarship committee, had the honor of recognizing seven high school seniors for their academic achievements and community service. Each student was presented with a check for \$2,000.

*Archon Bruce C. Gaines
Grapter, Gamma Rho Boulé*



THE SUN SHINES ON DELTA NU BOULÉ AND ITS SCHOLARS

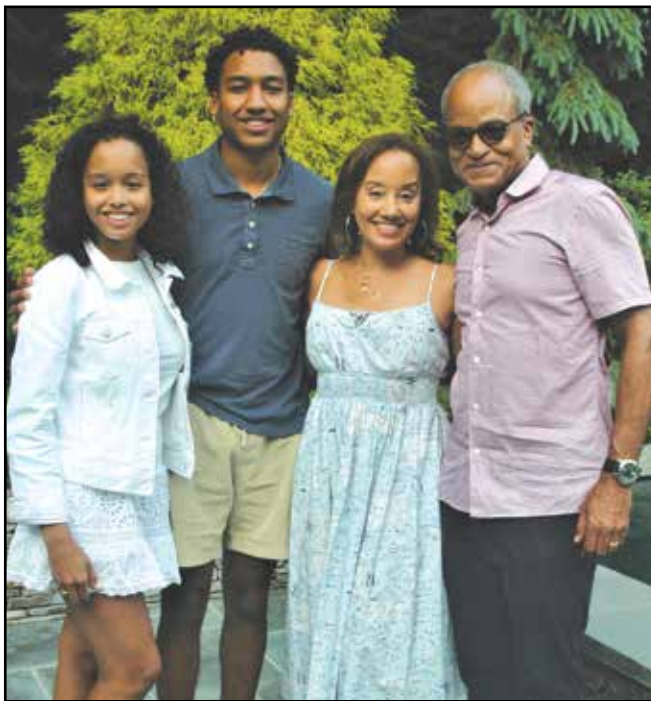


ARCHONS JOSIAH LINDSAY, DWAYNE SMITH, CHARLES BRANCH, TRACY McMILLAN, RON WOODS AND RAIFORD COCKFIELD WITH THE SCHOLARS

Delta Nu Boulé, Fairfield County, Connecticut, celebrated the start of summer with its scholarship recipients on June 17, 2023, at the lovely home of Archon Jason Few and Archousa Arvia Few in Westport. Delta Nu Archons and Archousai hosted the students and their respective families on a sun-filled day replete with engaging activities, music and dancing. The scholars received certificates of recognition from

Connecticut senator Richard Blumenthal in acknowledgment of their scholastic achievement, and two of them received blue blazers – college graduation gifts from Delta Nu's Opportunity Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

*Archon Charles E. Spaulding
Grapter, Delta Nu Boulé*



ARCHON JASON FEW AND ARCHOUSA ARVIA WITH THEIR CHILDREN JASON, JR., AND BRADLEE



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR ARCHON DWAYNE SMITH PRESENTS A CERTIFICATE TO CAMERON COLE WITH SIRE ARCHON ANDERSON LIVINGSTON.

EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ HOLDS INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY



ARCHON MARSHAL WILLIAMS, ARCHON KAMONTE McCRAY, SPENCER ACQUAH, AMARE COLEMAN AND SIRE ARCHON MARK MOORE

On June 13, 2023, Epsilon Zeta Boulé of Loudoun County, Virginia, held its inaugural scholarship ceremony for its deserving recipients. The event brought together a packed house consisting of Epsilon Zeta Boulé leadership, boulé members, Archousai, sponsors, past Grand Boulé Scholarship Program winners, parents, high school principals, guidance and career counselors, and other interested parties to celebrate academic excellence.

The theme of the night was “Empowerment Through Education: Celebrating Excellence While Overcoming Barriers.” Epsilon Zeta had much to celebrate with twelve scholars receiving a cash award of \$2,500 each, along with our two new 2023 Grand Boulé Scholars, who each received \$10,000 scholarships. Not surprisingly, these students will become aerospace engineers, biochemists, computer engineers, economists, political scientists, doctors and more. They will continue to enrich the community with the knowledge and experiences they gain. Those experiences include the support of their aspirations by organizations like the Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation and the Boulé Scholars Program. We at Epsilon Zeta know that the impact of a scholarship goes well beyond the individual who has received it. The impact ripples out through family and friends and continues in future acts of generosity from our grateful scholars.

The scholarship ceremony was a beacon of hope and inspiration, particularly for students from vulnerable backgrounds who face financial challenges when pursuing higher education. Although the night was

to recognize the hard work, dedication and achievements of fourteen incredible scholars, it is recognized that what these scholars have achieved is not a given. Their passion, determination and commitment to academic excellence, albeit commendable, do not guarantee college attendance for all. The Epsilon Zeta Boulé Foundation recognized the importance of providing financial assistance to students facing financial hardships, and the event underscored their commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusivity in academia.

Epsilon Zeta Boulé’s scholarship recipients shared their stories, expressing their gratitude for the financial assistance that has enabled them to pursue their academic aspirations fully. They shared their struggles with financial hardships and highlighted how the scholarship had helped address those challenges. Their stories were a testimony to the transformative power of education and the importance of supporting students from all walks of life, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Apart from the scholarship recipients, many prominent sponsors from the community attended, including Force Management, which was represented by CEO Grant Wilson; Daniel Pellegrom, director of ESG and corporate responsibilities for Leidos; and Antoine Oakley, director of government relations and corporate responsibilities for Sallie Mae. They graced our event and mingled with the scholars, provided words of encouragement, and shared insights on the value of education and community engagement.



ARCHON MARSHAL WILLIAMS AND SPENCER ACQUAH, THE FIRST EPSILON ZETA GRAND BOULÉ SCHOLAR FROM JOHN CHAMPE HIGH SCHOOL



ARCHON MARSHAL WILLIAMS AND AMARE COLEMAN, EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ'S FOURTH GRAND BOULÉ SCHOLAR FROM FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL



DANIEL PELLEGRAM, DIRECTOR OF ESG AND CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR LEIDOS, AND EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT COLE BROWN FROM RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



GRANT WILSON, CEO OF FORCE MANAGEMENT, AND EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT CLINTON BURKE FROM BRIAR WOODS HIGH SCHOOL



ARCHON MARSHAL WILLIAMS, ARCHON KAMONTE McCRAY, 2022 GRAND BOULÉ SCHOLAR JASON TAYLOR, 2021 GRAND BOULÉ SCHOLAR DESMOND HARRIS AND SIRE ARCHON MARK MOORE

The scholarship ceremony was a resounding success, with attendees lauding Epsilon Zeta's commitment to academic excellence and social responsibility. The event was an affirmation of our fraternity's values, which, according to the history of the Boulé Scholars Program, is to raise the level of educational expectations and performance of Black students by cultivating and celebrating their academic excellence from elementary school to college and graduate and professional school levels. The ceremony was a source of inspiration for the scholarship recipients and their parents, as well as a testament to the remarkable impact community engagement can have in promoting academic excellence. Epsilon Zeta Boulé looks forward to future scholarship ceremonies, which continue to benefit deserving students and further the cause of diversity, equality and academic excellence.

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

EPSILON PI BOULÉ LAUNCHES THE OARSMEN PROGRAM

On July 15, 2025, in Southlake, Texas, Epsilon Pi Boulé welcomed the inaugural class of the OARSMen program (opportunity, access, readiness, success). This inaugural class of twelve students represents a diverse group of young men in their junior year at Trinity High School in Euless. The exceptional event was attended by the students, their families, administrators and faculty from Trinity High School, along with many Epsilon Pi family members.

The OARSMen program was created with the mission to support and empower young men as they navigate the path from high school to college to achieve their dreams. Recognizing that African American young men face unique challenges as they transition to college, the OARSMen program is a multifaceted approach to offer support, including:

- **Mentorship:** The OARSMen program partners with professionals, educators and community leaders to provide mentorship to high school students. Archons serve as mentors and role models by offering insights into navigating college applications, career choices, and the academic and social aspects of college and life.
- **College Readiness Workshops:** The OARSMen program organizes workshops to educate students about college readiness. These workshops cover topics such as study skills, time management, financial literacy, health and building effective communication skills – all essential tools for success in higher education.
- **Scholarship Assistance:** The OARSMen program assists students in identifying and applying for scholarships,



INAUGURAL OARSMEN CLASS

grants and financial-aid opportunities. By alleviating the financial burden, the program helps students access higher education without the fear of overwhelming debt.

- **Community Engagement:** Recognizing the importance of a supportive community, the OARSMen program fosters a sense of belonging among participants. Regular community events, networking opportunities and support groups create a space where individuals can share experiences, challenges and successes.

The OARSMen program is the brainchild of Archon Thomas Whitaker to further the goals and principles of Sigma Pi Phi's social action initiatives. Archon Whitaker explained his calling

to launch this program: "The journey from high school to college is a pivotal phase in any young person's life, and I have always wanted to help young men with limited resources." Some of the unique obstacles these students face are socioeconomic disparities, lack of access to quality education, a scarcity of positive role models and systemic barriers that can perpetuate stereotypes and biases. As a result, many talented individuals within this demographic might not fully realize their academic potential or be equipped to navigate the complexities of the college application and enrollment process.

Epsilon Pi Boulé is thrilled to establish this program and honored to support the local community in this effort.

*Archon Gary L. Gadson
Grapter, Epsilon Pi Boulé*

EPSILON SIGMA FOUNDATION HOSTS GOLF FUNDRAISER



ARCHON JOSEPH TERRY OFFERS OPENING REMARKS.

The Epsilon Sigma Boulé Foundation of Epsilon Sigma Boulé, Prince William County, Virginia, held its third annual golf fundraiser at the Potomac Shores Golf Club on a balmy Monday, September 18, 2023. While many golfers agreed that the facility and course offered a fun-filled round of golf and fostered fellowship, the highlight of the day for everyone was having the legendary golfer Jim Thorpe in attendance, graciously sharing golfing tips with them. Golfers were also appreciative of the delectable meal as well as the smooth jazz sounds of the local saxophonist Chris Knight.

At the kickoff, Archon Joseph Terry, the foundation president; Archon Oliver Allen; and Archousa Andrea Bailey, supervisor in the in Prince William County Potomac District, offered greetings. Archousa Bailey spoke of Epsilon Sigma Foundation's continued positive impact in the community. Archon Allen provided an overview of the day's activities, and Archon Terry thanked all participants and sponsors for their continued support, adding that the tournament proceeds provide scholarships and benefit several local partnering organizations – primarily Future Kings, Inc., which gives minority youths access to STEM professions and mentors; Generation Redirect, which introduces students to colleges and universities and organizes tours to these institutions throughout the East Coast; and the Boys and Girls Club, which focuses on after-school programs and youth sports. Archon Terry noted that the foundation had assisted two college students this year in pursuing their aca-



ARCHON LUKE TORIAN WITH JIM THORPE

ademic goals – one of them attending Howard University and the other Yale. After hearing about the impact of the foundation, many of the golfers and attendees promised to return next year and support these worthy causes.

*Archon James E. Simpson
Grapter, Epsilon Sigma Boulé*

EPSILON SIGMA BOULÉ HOSTS EXHIBITION ON TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND WOMEN PILOTS



EPSILON SIGMA BOULÉ HOSTS EXHIBITION ON TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND WOMEN PILOTS

The Epsilon Sigma Boulé Foundation of Epsilon Sigma Boulé, Prince William County, Virginia, along with local businesses, was responsible for bringing *Rise Above* – a traveling exhibition honoring the Tuskegee Airmen and the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) – to Manassas Regional Airport on August 22, 2023. Many local and state leaders, including Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin and Manassas mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, attended the opening ceremony. Three thousand people visited over a five-day period, from August 22 to August 27.

The exhibition, presented by the Commemorative Air Force (CAF), is an educational outreach program that focuses on the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP. It includes a restored P-51C Mustang “red tail” fighter plane and a mobile movie theater inside a fifty-three-foot trailer. The theater has a panoramic screen that features two original short films.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black aviators for the U.S. Army Air Corps, a precursor of the U.S. Air Force. They trained at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama and flew more than 15,000 individual missions in Europe and North Africa during World War II, earning more than 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses and helping to encourage the eventual integration of the U.S. armed forces.

The women’s division, WASP, was an organization of civilian pilots trained to fly military aircraft in order to free male pilots for combat roles. Despite various members of the armed forces being involved in the

creation of the program, WASP members had no military standing until 1977, when they were finally designated as veterans, and in 2009 they received Congressional Gold Medals.

“The legacy of these men and women stands proud; it serves as a guidepost for future generations,” said Governor Youngkin during the opening ceremony. “We need to capture these stories and make them accessible to everyone, particularly our young people.” Mayor Davis-Younger said, “Much of what they taught us can still be applied today. It’s because of them and their determination and sacrifice that I can even be standing here as the first woman and the first person of color to ever hold the position of mayor for the city of Manassas.”

During their respective proclamations, Governor Youngkin and Mayor Davis-Younger both declared August 22 as Tuskegee Airmen and WASP Day throughout the city of Manassas and the state.

Asked why Epsilon Sigma Foundation board members decided to sponsor this project, Immediate Past Sire Archon Joseph Terry, foundation president, said, “We hoped to inspire and educate visitors, specifically our youth.” Sire Archon-Elect Roderick Hall added, “I hoped that this project would motivate our youth and educate others about the accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP during World War II.”

*Archon James E. Simpson
Gapter, Epsilon Sigma Boulé*

NEW MEMBER BOULÉ

Sigma Pi Phi Charters Zeta Epsilon Boulé in San Fernando Valley

By Archon Boris E. Ricks, Grapier, Zeta Epsilon Boulé

The Warner Center Marriott was the location of a remarkable event on August 26, 2023, when Zeta Epsilon Boulé was set apart in San Fernando Valley, California, as the 143rd member boulé. The ceremony was overseen by Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi (Iota), Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III (Kappa) and Pacific Region Sire Archon Michael G. Keeley (Gamma Epsilon). Also in attendance were Past Grand Sire Archon Wesley A. Coleman (Xi) and Past Pacific Region Sire Archon G. Bernard Brown (Xi). Zeta Epsilon was set apart with thirteen charter Archons, consisting of two transferring Archons and eleven new Archons. Zeta Epsilon is especially appreciative of the support from and sponsorship by Pasadena, California's Gamma Zeta Boulé. The charter Archons of Zeta Epsilon are as follows:

Archon Courtney D. Armstrong, a native of Chicago, is president of business affairs and administration for Paramount Pictures, where he oversees all day-to-day business and legal aspects of worldwide film acquisition, development and production (including negotiations of key deals with filmmakers and cast members), and initial distribution (such as theatrically and through streaming on Paramount+). He was previously executive vice president of worldwide business affairs at Warner Bros. Pictures.

A member of the Northwestern University board of trustees and a life member of the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law board, Archon Armstrong is also a member of the VeriSign, Inc., board of directors, the Executive Leadership Council, and the executives branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Northwestern University, his J.D. from the Pritzker School of Law and an M.B.A. from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. Archon Armstrong and Archousa Lori are the proud parents of two children: Miles and Ellis.

Archon Gilberto "Gil" Bultron is director of pediatric subspecialties for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and chief of pediatric gastroenterology for both Los Angeles General and Olive View-UCLA medical centers. In addition, he is a voluntary pediatric gastroenterologist at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Archon Bultron holds faculty positions as an associate professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and an adjunct associate professor of pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. He has served on the wellness advisory board for Plum Organics and as a board adviser for Talamus Health, the Difference, Inc., and various medical consultancies through his company, Mindful Pediatric Gastroenterology, Inc.

After graduating with honors from Amherst College with a bachelor's degree in biology, Archon Bultron earned an M.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at the Children's Hospital of Brooklyn/Maimonides Medical Center, where he was selected as chief resident. Archon Bultron also completed a fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology at the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital/Yale School of Medicine. He is originally from Bridgeport, Connecticut, and has two school-age daughters.

Archon Joseph F. Ellick is a district-wide information technology (IT) director of projects, programs and security for the Los Angeles Community College District's BuildLACCD program. He was previously a senior global IT manager for Sony. For the past eleven years, Archon Ellick's passion has been the Principles of Success mentoring program for African American males ages 13 to 18, which he helped found and where he sits on the board of directors. He is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity – where he has held local, regional and national leadership roles – and a member of Prince Hall Masonic Lodge and 100 Black Men of America.



ARCHONS DAVID PRYOR, BORIS E. RICKS, SHANE B. SCOTT, DAN LIMERICK, WILLIS STEELE, BRENTON A. HAMLET, COURTNEY D. ARMSTRONG, JOSEPH F. ELICK, GILBERTO "GIL" BULTRON, GRAYLIND R. WHERRY, ANTHONY D. LEE, CHARLES D. KENNEDY AND CEDRIC J. PENIX

The California native holds a B.B.A. in economics from Sam Houston State University, an M.B.A. from the University of Redlands and an M.S.P.M. from the University of Southern California; he is also a doctoral candidate at the USC Rossier School of Education. In addition, Archon Ellick is a certified project-management professional and certified scrum master. He is a widower, having lost his beloved Archousa, Delone Dyer-Ellick, in 2020 to cancer. Archon Ellick has two sons, Eric and Carter, and two daughters: Ericah and Skylar.

Archon Brenton A. Hamlet transferred into Zeta Epsilon Boulé as a charter Archon from Gamma Zeta Boulé. He is a senior vice president and wealth-management and sports-and-entertainment adviser at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. Archon Hamlet, who has worked in financial services since 2000, is particularly adept at creating and refining financial initiatives before, during and after life events such as divorce, death, retirement and the sale of a business. In 2015 he was awarded Merrill's David Brady Award for his outstanding philanthropy, client focus, and overall commitment to the company and his community. Recently, Archon Hamlet was named to *Forbes* magazine's 2023 list of Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams as a member of the Markoff Hamlet Group at Merrill.

Archon Brent earned his bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis and his J.D. from the UCLA School of Law. He holds the designation of certified investment-management analyst, sponsored by

the Investment Management Consultants Association at Wharton's Aresty Institute of Executive Education. Archon Hamlet lives in San Fernando Valley with his Archousa and their two children. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, kids' soccer and college football. Archon Hamlet is active in education and community-outreach organizations in the Greater Los Angeles area.

Archon Charles D. Kennedy is CEO of Blue Ox Healthcare Partners and also works for Arsenal Capital Partners as an operating partner. Both entities are private-equity firms that focus exclusively on health care. Archon Kennedy is also a subject-matter expert in health care administration and payment functions, value-based contracting, and scientific advances such as molecular diagnostics and precision medicine. Before entering private equity, he was CEO of Aetna's Accountable Care Solutions division, whose primary purpose was to develop and implement value-based contracts nationwide; he grew it into a business with revenues of \$1.9 billion. Archon Kennedy was also selected to sit on the U.S. government's Health Information Technology Policy Committee, which was responsible for the allocation of more than \$30 billion in financial incentives to enable physicians nationwide to adopt electronic health records.

In addition to a B.S. in genetics from the University of California, Berkeley, and an M.D. from the UCLA School of Medicine's Charles Drew Medical Education Program, Archon Kennedy has an M.B.A. from the Stanford Grad-

uate School of Business. He is married to Archousa Jeanine Kennedy and has two children: Mikayla and Charles IV.

Archon Anthony D. Lee is a senior vice president of investments with Wedbush Securities, where he brings more than twenty-seven years of experience in the securities industry to his mission of helping clients create a customized road map to achieve their financial goals. In 2021 he helped establish Wedbush United to foster a more diverse and inclusive work environment at the company. In 2017, as a member of the San Fernando–Santa Clarita Valley Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Archon Lee established the Kappa League leadership program to provide young men with resources to help them graduate from high school and college and become leaders and valued community members. He is also vice president of the board of directors of Penny Lane Centers, which provides residential, adoption, foster-care, mental health and other services to children and families throughout Los Angeles County.

Archon Lee has a B.A. in business administration from Colorado State University and earned the designation of chartered retirement-plans specialist from the College for Financial Planning. He has been married for more than twenty-nine years to Archousa Bridgett and has two sons: Brandyn and Austyn.

Archon Dan Limerick is chief operating officer of WME, where he works closely with the cochairmen in overseeing all areas of the talent agency, with an emphasis on strategic planning, business priorities and strategic initiatives. He is also head of business affairs for parent company Endeavor's client-representation business, including WME and IMG Models. In this role, Archon Limerick is heavily involved in the dealmaking process for the company's clients and the overall business strategy for client acquisitions. He was previously executive vice president and head of business affairs for Warner Bros. Television.

A member of the Ziffren Institute for Media, Entertainment, Technology and Sports Law advisory board, Archon Limerick also sits on the board of directors of the CAM Foundation, a nonprofit that provides scholarships to students who would not otherwise be able to afford a university or trade school education. After earning a B.A. in history from Wesleyan University, he went on to obtain his J.D. from the UCLA School of Law.

Archon Limerick and Archousa Dawn Limerick have two children: Ryan and Ava.

Archon Cedric J. Penix is the managing director for capital solutions at Enterprise Management Advisors/EMAGroup and has more than thirty years of experience in finance, private equity, accounting, consulting and acquisitions. Before joining EMAGroup, he was a managing director at Caymus Capital Group, LLC, and a partner at Fulcrum Capital Group, LLC, both private-equity enterprises.

Archon Penix is chairman of the board of trustees of Faithful Central Bible Church, a referee administrator for the American Youth Soccer Organization Region 1031 and a member of the strategic steering committee for the independent K–12 Chadwick School. He is also an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, where he is audit committee chair for the Western Province and immediate past polemarch of the Beverly Hills–Century City Alumni Chapter. Archon Penix earned his B.S.B.A. in accounting from the University of Arkansas and an M.B.A. from the UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management. He is married to Archousa Lori LeGall Penix and has one son, Cole Alexander.

Archon David Pryor has transferred into Zeta Epsilon Boulé as a charter Archon from Gamma Zeta Boulé, where he had previously served as Grammateus and Sire Archon. A board-certified internal medicine physician with particular expertise in wellness and health promotion, Archon Pryor is regional vice president and medical director of Anthem Blue Cross of California, where he works closely with the account-management team to develop innovative medical-management programs and clinical strategies that improve health care quality, outcomes and cost of care. He was previously corporate medical director for Comcast–NBCUniversal and a medical director at Aetna. He is the coauthor of *Lifestyle DNA: Live Happier, Healthier, and More Energized* and has been a member of the American Heart Association Los Angeles board of directors.

A native of California, Archon Pryor received his B.S. in biology from Stanford University and earned an M.D. at the UC San Diego School of Medicine. He also has an M.P.H. from the University of California, Berkeley.

Archon Boris E. Ricks is an associate professor of political science at California State University, Northridge. His research – which focuses on race, eth-

nicity and politics, with a concentration on local government and urban affairs – has appeared in several academic journals. Currently, he is completing a manuscript on race and politics in Los Angeles. Archon Ricks is also a certified justice, equity, diversity and inclusion facilitator and trainer and is a statewide academic senator at the CSUN Faculty Senate.

A life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, serving at both the national and province levels, Archon Ricks is also active with 100 Black Men of Los Angeles and the Weingart YMCA Wellness & Aquatics Center. He earned a B.S. in criminal justice from Mississippi Valley State University, an M.P.A. from the University of Mississippi, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Southern California; he completed an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at Pomona College. Archon Ricks and his Archousa of twenty-three years, Gina Owens Ricks, are the proud parents of Jazmyn and Brooklin and the grandparents of Lil Dallas. Archon Ricks enjoys traveling, fitness training and flag football.

Archon Shane B. Scott is senior pastor of the historic Macedonia Baptist Church and chairman of the Macedonia Community Development Corp. A community and business leader and adviser, he is a keynote speaker and guest minister at churches, community events and conferences throughout North America. Archon Scott is also a proud life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, a diamond life member of the NAACP and an active member of the National Urban League.

Born in Franklin, Louisiana, and raised in Richmond, California, Archon Scott earned a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy from Stillman College; a master's degree, with an emphasis on pastoral care and community development, from the American Baptist Seminary of the West, now the Berkeley School of Theology; and the D.Min. from New York Theological Seminary. He also holds a certificate in diversity, equity and inclusion from Cornell University. Archon Scott is blessed to share life with his best friend, Archousa Da'Vet, a licensed marriage and family therapist; their children: 15-year-old Savannah Grace, 13-year-old Lily Simone and 11-year-old Shane Bernard II; and their labradoodle, Missy, 5.

Archon Willis Steele is worldwide director of patient advocacy for hematology at Bristol Myers Squibb,

where he leads multiple myeloma-advocacy strategies and ensures alignment with company policies regarding health equity and diversity in clinical trials. He has more than twenty years' experience as a patient-advocacy leader in the biotech/pharmaceutical industry and was previously region lead for diversity, inclusion and belonging and for advocacy relations at Amgen, Inc. Archon Steele had a long tenure with AbbVie, Inc., and Abbott Laboratories, where he developed a partnership with the Magic Johnson Foundation to increase HIV/AIDS awareness and screening among communities of color.

Archon Steele was ordained to the gospel ministry under the leadership of the late Archon Calvin O. Butts III at the Abyssinian Baptist Church. He currently copastors Faith Mission Christian Fellowship Church with his Archousa of seventeen years, Gay Thompson-Steele. A charter member of the executive steering committee at Movement Is Life, Archon Steele earned a B.A.S.C. in community and health services from SUNY Empire State University and holds a master's degree in urban ministry and an M.Div. from New York Theological Seminary. He and Archousa Gay reside in West Hills, California, and have a son, Renaold.

Archon Graylind R. Wherry is a senior finance executive with thirty years' experience in financial planning and analysis, strategic planning, and team management. A certified merger-and-acquisition adviser, he has held executive financial roles – including senior vice president of finance and director of corporate planning – in both global and domestic companies, such as Amazon, Technicolor USA and Streamland Media, and Sony Entertainment. Archon Wherry currently consults with the Global Leader Group to help expand its capital-advisory practice into media and entertainment.

A member of the advisory board of the Hollywood Professional Association, Archon Wherry is chair of the special-events committee for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Omicron Mu Chapter and a fundraising committee member of the San Fernando Valley National Pan-Hellenic Council. He earned a B.A. in business administration from Morehouse College, his M.B.A. from Rutgers Business School and a D.B.A. from Pepperdine Graziadio Business School. He and his Archousa, Pamala, are the proud parents of three adult children: William, Anthony and Angelica.

THE NEW ARCHONS

Rho Boulé Proudly Welcomes Five New Archons



NEW ARCHONS CARLOS ETHEREDGE, CHARLES L. FISCHER III, NAFIS HILL, CHARLES R. JONASSAINT AND CLYDE W. PICKETT

Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé inducted five exceptional Archons at the Duquesne Club on September 9, 2023. Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III and visiting Archons Roland Criswell of Beta Boulé and Brian Wesley of Alpha Beta Boulé were also present. The induction ceremony was followed by dinner with the Archousai, fellowship and getting to know the best of one another. This induction comes months before Rho Boulé's Centennial Charter Day Gala, which will wrap up the boulé's celebration of one hundred years in Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Archon Carlos Etheredge is senior vice president of human resources at FedEx Ground. With more than twenty years of experience at FedEx in both operations and human resources, he provides strategic direction to recruit, develop and retain a highly talented and diverse workforce of more than 200,000 employees. Archon Etheredge leads the corporate diversity, equity and inclusion efforts that have inspired a dozen employee-resource groups and is executive sponsor for the company's Black Professional's Network. The recipient of multiple company

awards, including the FedEx Five Star Award, he is a member of the Advanced Leadership Institute CHRO (chief human resources officer) council.

Archon Etheredge earned a B.A. in sociology from the University of Miami, where he was also a two-time national champion in football. After playing for the Indianapolis Colts in the National Football League, he went on to earn an M.B.A. from Dowling College. Archon Etheredge resides in the Pittsburgh area with his Archousa, Sandra.

Archon Charles L. Fischer III is vice president for seminary advancement at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he is responsible for all fundraising, alumni and church relations, and marketing and communications. He has served parishes in the Episcopal dioceses of Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Maryland and Washington. Archon Fischer sits on several boards, including the St. Edmund's Academy board of trustees and the Episcopal Network for Stewardship board of directors. He is also a member of 100 Black Men of Western Pennsylvania.

A fellow of the Black Theology and Leadership Institute at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he has returned to serve as a theologian in residence, Archon Fischer earned a B.A. in business administration from Morehouse College and his M.Div. from Virginia Theological Seminary. He has also studied at Wesley Theological Seminary, Howard University School of Divinity, Columbia Theological Seminary, Bexley Seabury and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He and Archousa Rhonda are the proud parents of two sons: Charles IV and Cameron.

Archon Nafis Hill is chief financial officer of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) St. Margaret and UPMC Passavant, where he is responsible for all financial functions of the hospitals, along with their off-site medical and physician offices and outpatient facilities. Archon Hill is also chair of the UPMC Diversity Experience Network employee-resource group and sits on boards focused on youth development. He has more than twenty years of experience in financial management and business leadership, with the last thirteen in health care.

A native of Philadelphia, Archon Hill earned a B.S. in finance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and his M.B.A. from Point Park University. He is also a graduate of the Advanced Leadership Institute's executive-leadership track. After working in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area for subcontractors in the defense industry, Archon Hill moved to Pittsburgh to marry his college sweetheart, Archousa Stacey. Together, they have very active twin daughters: Jayla and Nyla.

Archon Charles R. Jonassaint is a tenured associate professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and a practicing clinical health psychologist. He has clinical expertise in chronic disease self-management and cognitive behavioral therapy interventions and has had extensive experience working with populations facing health disparities, including adolescents and adults living with sickle cell disease. Archon Jonassaint is currently funded through the National Institutes of Health and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to lead research in sickle cell disease, focused on designing and testing evidence-based digital health interventions for pain and mental health. He is also CEO of a digital health start-up and cocreator of Painimation, which is a novel electronic method of assessing and predicting pain outcomes using images and animations.

Archon Jonassaint earned a B.A. in psychology from Minot University and an M.H.S. in epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He completed his graduate training at Duke University, where he earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, and did a clinical research fellowship at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He and his Archousa, Naudia, have two children: Noelle and Micah. Archousa Jonassaint is a physician specializing in transplant hepatology and gastroenterology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Archon Clyde W. Pickett is the University of Pittsburgh's vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion, providing leadership for the school's comprehensive diversity, equity and inclusion strategy. He was previously chief diversity officer for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. Archon Pickett has also held positions at several other colleges and universities, including the Community College of Allegheny County, where he was special assistant to the president for diversity and inclusion, and Ohio Northern University, where he was director of multicultural development and director of new-student orientation.

Archon Pickett obtained his B.A. in agricultural economics from the University of Kentucky; an M.Ed. in adult and higher education leadership from Morehead State University; and an Ed.D. in language, literacy and culture from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education. He has two children: Alexander and Destiny.

*Archon Ron G. Jones
Gapter, Rho Boulé*

Alpha Delta Boulé Introduces Three Stellar Men



NEW ARCHONS JAMES R. FOSTER, ALVIN C. JONES AND MADISON C. CUFFY

Cincinnati's Alpha Delta Boulé welcomed three new Archons on June 24, 2023, at the Kenwood Country Club. Sire Archon Kenneth Parker presided over the ceremony, which was also attended by Sire Archon-Elect Steve Love of Epsilon Nu Boulé.

Archon Madison Colyn Cuffy is surgical director of the kidney-transplant program at the Christ Hospital Health Network and University of Cincinnati Medical Center and associate professor of clinical at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He has elevated the renal-transplant program at Christ Hospital beyond national benchmarks established for transplant programs. In addition, Archon Cuffy is chair of diversity, equity and inclusion for the department of surgery and has been diligent in increasing awareness of these issues in an environment where it has historically been difficult to address them.

In addition to earning a B.A. in philosophy from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Archon Cuffy received an M.B.A. from Cornell University's Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management and an M.D. from the SUNY Upstate Medical University. He was recently accepted at the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University. Archon Cuffy believes that the law degree, combined with the business degree, will better position him to address major challenges within health care. He and Archousa Yvonne, who is a staff anesthesiologist at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, are the proud parents of two daughters, ages 12 and 10.

Archon James Robert Foster is CEO and president of commercial-real estate and facilities-management company Robert Louis Group, LLC, and managing partner of commercial-mortgage firm Robert Louis Capital, LLC. He has developed Robert Louis Group – which works with both Fortune 1000 companies and small businesses and was named Emerging

Business of the Year by the Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council – into one of Cincinnati's top minority-owned businesses. Archon Foster's previous experience includes executive positions at J.P. Morgan and Lehman Brothers.

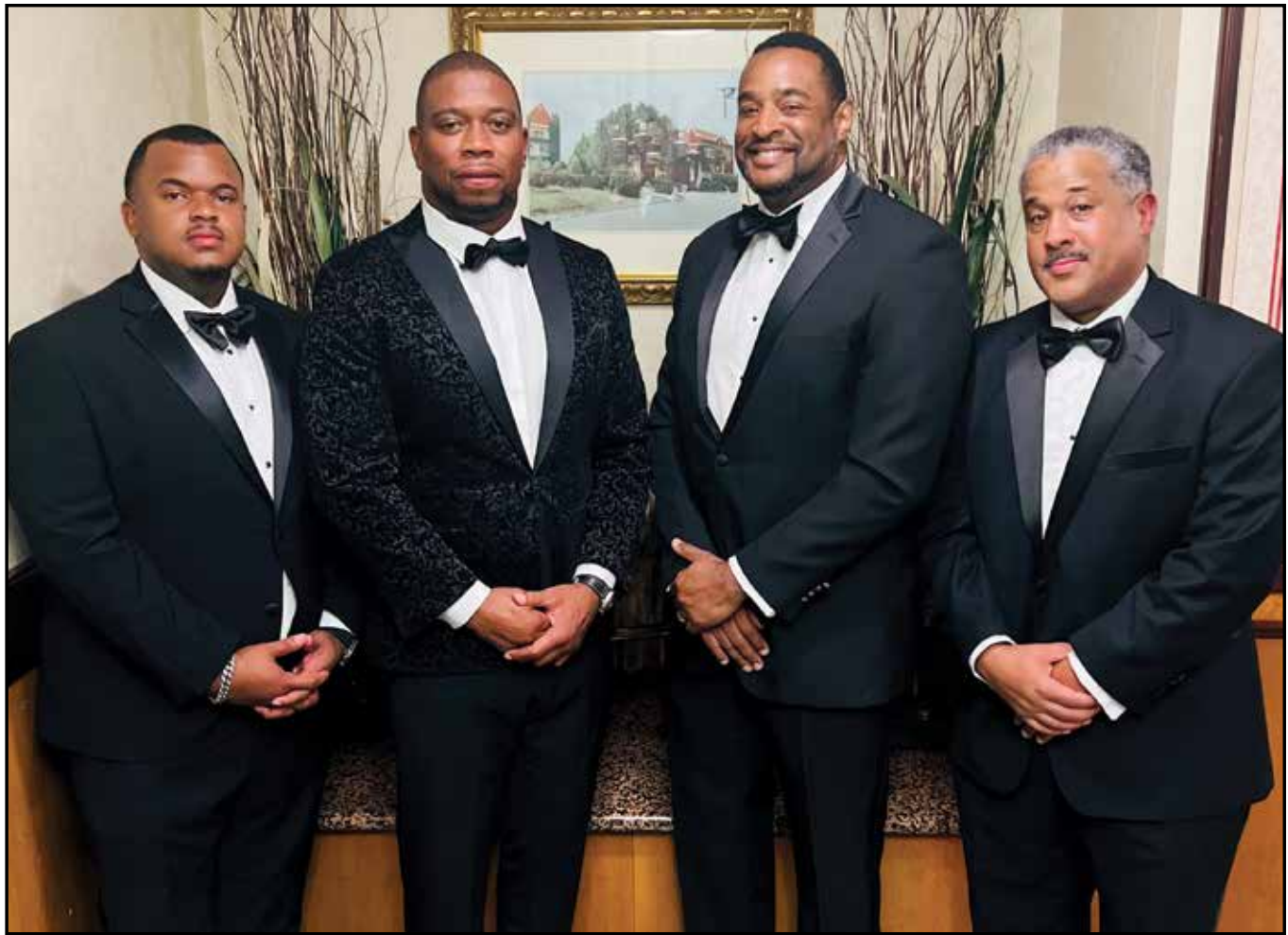
Archon Foster's civic-mindedness is reflected in his membership on the Talbert House and Green Umbrella boards of trustees as well as the boards of directors of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati, Aviatra Accelerators and ChangingGears. He earned a B.S. from DePauw University and an M.S. from Babson College. Archon Foster and Archousa Ronda are the proud parents of three sons, ages 5, 4, and 2.

Archon Alvin Christopher Jones is associate fellowship director of the pediatric orthopedic surgery clinical fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. He was previously a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Dayton Children's Hospital. Archon Jones is active with several nonprofits that support academic success: He is executive director of Black Men in Medicine, which is dedicated to helping African American male students progress through and graduate from medical school, and board president of Envision Children, which provides one-on-one and small-group tutoring for youths in grades K–12. Archon Jones is a member of the J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Archon Jones earned a B.S. in biological sciences from the University of Pittsburgh and his M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He and his Archousa, Yemisi, who is a pediatrician at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, are the proud parents of Eden, 10; Gabriel, 8; and Genesis, 1.

*Archon Kenneth Washington
Grapter, Alpha Delta Boulé*

Alpha Zeta Boulé Adds Four Prominent Men to Its Roster



NEW ARCHONS MICHAEL DAVID WHITE II, ANGELO CROWELL, ANDREW L. DIXON III AND MILES E. BYRD

On September 12, 2023, Tallahassee, Florida's Alpha Zeta Boulé welcomed four new Archons at the Florida State University Champions Club in a ceremony presided over by Sire Archon John Grayson.

Archon Miles E. Byrd is an ob-gyn at HCA Florida Capital Women's Health, which is dedicated to providing exceptional care to the Tallahassee community. He has also contributed to his field as a member of the adjunct clinical faculty at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine. Archon Byrd is actively involved with a number of national professional organizations, including the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, and the National Medical Association.

A graduate of Morehouse College, where he received a B.S. in biology, Archon Byrd earned his M.D. at Meharry Medical College. He completed an ob-gyn residency at Albany Medical Center. Driven by a passion for public health and epidemiology,

Archon Byrd embarked on a role as a clinical-trial research associate at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health after completing his residency. While a native of Fort Worth, Texas, he has embraced Tallahassee as his home. Archon Byrd and his Archousa, Maura, have shared more than twenty-three years of marriage and are the proud parents of two wonderful children: Madeleine and Miles.

Archon Angelo Crowell and his Archousa, Kimberly, are cofounders of Kalo Companies, where he is CEO and she is president. Kalo owns and operates multiple restaurant franchises: 48 Jersey Mike's Subs and 2 Slim Chickens restaurants in Florida, Georgia and Alabama, along with 16 additional locations in development for 2023 and 2024. After opening their first Jersey Mike's location in Tallahassee in 2010, Archon and Archousa Crowell grew the business to 5 stores within 3 years. They were named Rookie Franchisees of the Year and received the Reginald L. Rolle Economic Development Champion of the Year Award for their entrepreneurial impact on the community.

Archon Crowell grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and from an early age displayed both athletic prowess and a penchant for business. Heavily recruited out of high school, he attended the University of Virginia, where he majored in anthropology. During his college career, Archon Crowell received First Team All-ACC honors and was named defensive captain and MVP. He also holds the record for most tackles in a single season. In 2003 Archon Crowell was drafted into the National Football League in the third round and spent seven years with the Buffalo Bills, where he was a defensive captain. After his NFL career, he returned to the University of Virginia and obtained his bachelor's degree.

Archon Andrew L. Dixon III is the hearing-office chief administrative law judge (ALJ) at the Social Security Administration's Tallahassee Hearing Office, a position to which he was appointed in August. He had previously twice served as acting chief judge since becoming an ALJ in 2010. Archon Dixon is a member of the National Bar Association's Judicial Council and vice-chair of George Washington University's National Council of Arts and Sciences. He is also chair of the pastoral council of the St. Eugene Catholic Mission and Student Center and assistant director of the St. Eugene Gospel Choir; he has taught religion-education classes since 2013.

Originally from the Boston area, Archon Dixon is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He earned a B.A. in political science from the George Washington University – where he is a past member of the GW Alumni Association board of directors as well as the GW Black Alumni Association, having founded

its South Florida regional chapter – and a J.D. from St. Thomas University's Benjamin L. Crump College of Law. Archon Dixon's Archousa, Gecelyne, is also an attorney, and they have three daughters: Katrina, Cecilia and Jerline.

Archon Michael David White II is cofounder and chief business-development officer at Indelible, a national management consulting firm specializing in public and private sector organizations. The company is recognized as one of the nation's fastest-growing minority-owned firms and was a finalist for this year's Ernst & Young's Florida Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Over the last four years, Indelible Impacts, the philanthropic arm of Indelible, has made more than \$1.2 million in community-based contributions, including scholarships; toy, clothing and food drives; and live entertainment. Early in his career, Archon White worked at KPMG, where he contributed to innovations in the go-to-market strategy that led to significant growth for Florida's state and local governments. He is a member of the Economic Club of Washington, D.C.

Archon White earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Florida A&M University's School of Business and Industry, where he completed a semester studying abroad in Shanghai and received his CPA license shortly after returning from China. He is also a member of FAMU's board of trustees, where he is responsible for guiding the university's strategic initiatives.

*Archon Jamal A. Sowell
Grapter, Alpha Zeta Boulé*



NEW ARCHONS WITH SPONSORING ARCHONS: HERB BAILEY, MICHAEL DAVID WHITE II, MILES E. BYRD, JOHN MARKS, ANGELO CROWELL, ANDREW L. DIXON III AND ANDREW L. DIXON II

Alpha Lambda Boulé Announces Its Three Newest Members



SEATED: SIRE ARCHON—ELECT GARY HARVEY; NEW ARCHONS CEDRIC Z. KING, ALBERT B. GRANDY, JR., AND VAN R. JOHNSON II; AND SIRE ARCHON JESSE GREATHOUSE. STANDING: GRAMMATEUS RANDY GUNTER, GRAPTER RONALD GANTT, AGOGOS TERRY ENOCH AND RHETORICOS ALFRED McGUIRE.

Savannah's Alpha Lambda Boulé inducted three Archons into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity on June 26, 2023, at the historic DeSoto Hotel. After the induction ceremony, Archons and Archousai enjoyed a delightful dinner and musical performance. The occasion was presided over by Sire Archon Jesse Greathouse, and Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III (Kappa) and Past Grand Sire Cornell Leverette Moore (Omicron) were in attendance and gave remarks.

Archon Albert B. Grandy, Jr., is CEO of Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Care, Inc., where he manages a \$140 million budget and was previously chief financial officer and chief operating officer. The mission of the organization is to provide medical, dental and mental health care for people at all income levels in the Savannah–Chatham County community. A seasoned leader in the health care space, Archon Grandy has been an executive at organizations in Atlanta; Huntsville, Alabama; St. Louis; and Washington, D.C. He is a 2016 recipient of the Dale S. Chapman Administrator of the Year Award.

A life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Archon Grandy received a B.S. in accounting from the University of Maryland and earned his CPA designation from the state of Maryland. He is a member of the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Georgia advisory board, chair of the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council board of directors, and active in other organizations and committees supporting health care in the Savannah area. An avid golfer, Archon Grandy lends his athletic talents to coach youth baseball, basketball and football teams. He has four children and resides in Bluffton, South Carolina, with his Archousa, Michelle T. Grandy.

Archon Van R. Johnson II is the sixty-seventh mayor of Savannah. A native of Brooklyn, he has deep roots in the Savannah–Chatham County community. Prior to his election as mayor in 2020, Archon Johnson served three terms on the city council as alderman for District 1. His extensive human resources experience includes serving as director of the Chatham County Youth Commission. Archon Johnson is cochair of the National League of Cities (NLC) Council on Youth, Education and Families and is also a past member of NLC's board of directors and chair of its advisory council. He is also treasurer of the Democratic Municipal Officials board of directors.

Archon Johnson earned a B.B.A. from Savannah State University and an M.P.A. from Georgia Southern University. A life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Delta Sigma Pi, a professional business fraternity, he is involved in several community and civic organizations, with an emphasis on youth development. His many accolades include being named a 2017 Savannah Black Heritage Festival honoree and receiving the James M. Simms Public Service Award from the King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation and an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Savannah State University.

Archon Cedric Z. King is the CEO of four small businesses in the Darien-Brunswick area of southeast Georgia: two consulting practices focusing on employee-benefits management, human resources management, and community and government relations; a bail-bonds business; and a shopping center with a full-service laundromat. Archon King previously managed community relations, human

resources and employee development for Pinova, Inc., a textile-manufacturing company.

Archon King received his B.A. in interdisciplinary studies from Coastal Carolina University. A life member of the NAACP's Brunswick, Georgia, branch and a member of the Southeastern Bank board of directors since 2018, he is also a member of the Leadership Southeast Georgia and the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation boards of directors, the College of Coastal Georgia Foundation executive committee, the Coastal Area District Development Authority, and the Glynn County Airport Commis-

sion. Archon King's numerous accolades including being named to the Leadership Georgia Class of 2019 and receiving the 2017 Georgia State Council SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) Volunteer of the Year Award and the 2016 Brunswick NAACP Community and Justice Award. A basketball and baseball coach for local youths, he is the father of two children and lives with his Archousa, Crystal King, in Brunswick.

*Archon Ronald J. Gantt
Gapter, Alpha Lambda Boulé*

Alpha Rho Boulé Gains Two Business Leaders



NEW ARCHON J. CEDRICK REYNOLDS, SIRE ARCHON NELSON ADAMS AND NEW ARCHON LARRY QUINLAN

Miami, Florida's Alpha Rho Boulé inducted new Archons for the first time in five years on September 7, 2023. The induction ceremony for two outstanding business leaders was held on the roof-deck of the Main Las Olas office tower in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and was followed by a reception.

Archon Larry Quinlan has more than thirty-five years' experience in integration of complex enterprise systems, cybersecurity, technology organizational design and global shared-services models. He was most recently global chief information officer (CIO) for Deloitte, where he was responsible for all facets of technology strategy and operations, leading more than 10,000 information technology professionals in 175 countries. Archon Quinlan is a member of the boards of directors of numerous firms, including three Fortune 500 companies: ServiceNow, where he sits on the audit committee; Jones Lang LaSalle, where he is a member of the audit and risk committee and the nominating, governance and sustain-

ability committee; and Booking Holdings, where he chairs the cybersecurity subcommittee. Passionate about giving back, he chairs the NPower emeritus board and the technology committee of United Way of Miami; is a founding member of TechPACT, which is committed to bridging the digital divide; and is a mentor at the Venture Mentoring Team.

A member of the CIO Hall of Fame, Archon Quinlan earned a B.Sc. with honors in industrial management from the University of the West Indies, where he also received an honorary doctor of laws degree, and an M.B.A. from Baruch College of the City University of New York. He and his Archousa, Sue, have two adult children and reside in Aventura, Florida.

Archon J. Cedrick Reynolds is the founder and president of risk-management and financial-advisory firm Rhodes Strategy, Inc., where he is currently performing risk-management oversight and compliance for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He has more than twenty-five

years of experience in senior roles at leading global financial institutions and multinational corporations. Before founding Rhodes, Archon Reynolds was CFO at Sunrise Management Services, LLC, and then CFO of ButcherBox, a leading direct-to-consumer e-commerce company. In these roles he led public- and private-equity investments, balance sheet and cash flow management, risk management, and banking relationships. In addition, Archon Reynolds was a corporate banker at J.P. Morgan, where he was senior coverage executive and trusted adviser to CEOs and CFOs of leading financial institutions, both public and private. Earlier in his career, he managed inter-

national business-development projects and investments for Bunge Limited, MMC Capital and Prudential Financial and founded and led JCR Partners, a middle-market buyout firm that completed turnarounds and a roll-up of several food distributors.

Archon Reynolds has a B.S. in finance from Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. He is a native of South Florida, where he resides with his Archousa, Zarifa, and their two children: Joshua and Julia.

*Archon Myles C. Pistorius
Grapter, Alpha Rho Boulé*

Gregory A. Hudson Joins Gamma Nu Boulé



ARCHOUSA KENISHA SHELTON-HUDSON AND ARCHON GREGORY A. HUDSON

Gamma Nu Boulé of Northern Mississippi inducted an outstanding Archon on June 4, 2023, at the David L. Beckley Conference Center at Rust College.

Archon Gregory A. Hudson is vice president for student affairs and enrollment management at Philander Smith University, where he is a member of the president's executive cabinet and is also an assistant professor of education. In June he was appointed the school's interim executive vice president and chief operating officer. Archon Hudson has more than twenty years of faculty and executive leadership at institutions including the University of Phoenix, Trenholm State Community College and Coahoma Community College. He is committed to serving underrepresented, first-generation and other nontraditional students.

A native of Tutwiler, Mississippi, Archon Hudson began his educational journey at Alcorn State University and transferred to Delta State University, where he earned a B.S. in education; a master's degree in social science/sociology education and a master's degree in health, physical education and recreation; and an Ed.D. in professional studies and educational administration. He is also a graduate of the Harvard University Institute for Educational Management. In addition to membership in the DeSoto County, Mississippi, chapter of the NAACP, Archon Hudson is a member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals, and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. His Archousa, Kenisha Shelton-Hudson, is director of federal programs for the Coahoma County School District and is a Ph.D. candidate at Mississippi State University. They are active members of Brown Missionary Baptist Church.

*Archon Lauchland A. Roberts II
Grapter, Gamma Nu Boulé*

Epsilon Phi Boulé Adds Five Outstanding Archons



GRAND GRAMMATEUS SAMUEL BACOTE III; NEW ARCHONS VENNARD WRIGHT, TRAVIS LANGSTER, WILLIAM H. LAMAR IV, GABRIEL J. CHRISTIAN AND KIRK R. BLACKMAN; AND SIRE ARCHON MARTIN L. HAMLETTE

Prince George's County, Maryland's Epsilon Phi Boulé welcomed five new Archons on June 22, 2023, at The Hotel at the University of Maryland. Sire Archon Martin L. Hamlette presided over the ceremony, and the boulé was honored to have Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III (Kappa) in attendance.

Archon Kirk R. Blackman is the owner and managing partner of wealth-management firm Blackman Financial Services – which provides financial and strategic planning advice for professionals, business owners and their families – and a life and health insurance agent for New York Life Insurance Co. Archon Blackman brings more than thirty years' experience – including ten years as an auditor and consultant for KPMG, LLP – to his current role, in which he is responsible for more than \$100 million in assets and insurance under management. His company has received President's Council (top 5 percent) and Executive Council (top 15 percent) status from New York Life for outstanding sales production.

Archon Blackman is chairman of the advisory council for Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection of Prince George's County, which helps at-risk students

in nine local public middle and high schools overcome the challenges that might otherwise lead them to abandon their education. He is also treasurer of the Prince George's Healthcare Alliance, which coordinates care for high-risk, high-need community members. Archon Blackman earned his B.S.B.A. in accounting from Georgetown University, and early in his career, he was a certified public accountant. He and his Archousa, Donna Blackman, have two wonderful children.

Archon Gabriel J. Christian has led his own law firm, Gabriel J. Christian & Associates, LLC, since 1997. He also represents several prominent Prince George's County churches and has an active international law practice, where he advises clients on energy projects in the United States and the Caribbean. Originally from the island of Dominica, Archon Christian is a founding member of the Institute of Caribbean Studies. He has committed significant resources and time to rebuilding efforts in the Caribbean after storms and hurricanes, including serving as a founding member of the Caribbean Disaster Relief and Recovery Alliance and as president of

Rebuild Dominica. He works with many organizations dedicated to expanding opportunities across the African diaspora and was appointed a Commander of the Order of the Ethiopian Lion.

An active member of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Archon Christian also sits on the University of Maryland Eastern Shore board of visitors. He is past president of the East Coast Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., and the author of more than a dozen books and essays on history and literature. Archon Christian earned a B.B.A. in procurement and public contracting from the University of the District of Columbia School of Business and Public Management and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Archon William H. Lamar IV is senior pastor of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was ordained as an itinerant elder in 2000 at the AME Church conference in Florida and has served congregations in Florida and Maryland. Before joining Metropolitan AME Church, Archon Lamar was the managing director of leadership education at Duke University Divinity School. He is committed to building a community whose members engage one another in new and innovative ways as they grow closer to God.

A vocal advocate for social justice and equality, Archon Lamar has written extensively on race, religion and politics and is a frequent commentator on news outlets including MSNBC, NBC News, HuffPost and National Public Radio. He is also a member of the Wesley Theological Seminary board of trustees. Archon Lamar earned a B.S. in public management, with a minor in philosophy and religion, and a certificate in human resource management from Florida A&M University; has an M.Div. from Duke University; and is a doctoral student in the inaugural cohort of Christian Theological Seminary's Ph.D. program in African American preaching and sacred rhetoric. Archon Lamar is married to Archousa Dana Williams, dean of the Howard University Graduate School.

Archon Travis Langster is principal director of space policy and missile defense in the office of the assistant secretary of defense for space policy at the Department of Defense. His responsibilities include leading, reviewing and developing space policies that are aligned with Defense Department priorities and strategic guidance pertaining to the military services, international partners and private industry. Before being appointed to the newly created position in 2022, Archon Langster was vice president and

general manager of COMSPOC (previously known as the Commercial Space Operations Center), a provider of space traffic-management services. He has more than twenty years' experience in commercial and government sectors of the space industry and other business areas, including as vice president at COMSPOC's parent company, Analytical Graphics, Inc., and he has been an invited speaker at many national and international events on space security and policy.

Archon Langster received a B.S. in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from Purdue University and was named a 2021 Purdue Alumni Outstanding Aerospace Engineer. He is an active supporter of community organizations and foundations as well as youth mentoring and increased STEM awareness. Archon Langster and his Archousa, Andrea, have three amazing daughters: Brianna, Avery and Lauryn.

Archon Vennard Wright is the president and CEO of Wave Welcome, which specializes in digital transformation and information technology modernization. Before founding the consulting company, he held multiple executive leadership positions, including chief information officer (CIO) and vice president of operations for Iron Bow Technologies and CIO for the Prince George's County government. Archon Wright was also director of technology for Hillary Clinton during her successful U.S. Senate reelection campaign and subsequent 2008 presidential campaign and was chief technology officer and technical organization delivery manager for Electronic Data Systems, which was subsequently acquired by Hewlett-Packard.

Archon Wright's many honors include being named to the third annual Channel Futures DE&I (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) 101 list, which recognizes executives who are driving DE&I within communications and technology. He sits on several university and professional boards, including the Capitol Technology University board of trustees, and has considerable experience working with young people, including as a mentor to students. Certified by the Road Runners Club of America and USA Track & Field, he has also coached numerous young athletes to NCAA scholarships. Archon Wright, who earned a B.S. in business administration from the University of Maryland, is married to Archousa Janelle Wright, with whom he has four adult children.

*Archon Rodney A. Beverly
Grapter, Epsilon Phi Boulé*

Reintroduction of 2021 Epsilon Phi Boulé Inductees



ON NOVEMBER 20, 2021, EPSILON PHI BOULÉ INDUCTED FIVE OUTSTANDING ARCHONS, BUT BECAUSE OF COVID-19 PROTOCOLS, THEIR GROUP PHOTO APPEARED IN THE SPRING 2022 ISSUE OF THE BOULÉ JOURNAL WITH MASKS ON. EPSILON PHI WOULD LIKE TO REINTRODUCE THIS EXCEPTIONAL GROUP WITH AN UPDATED PHOTO OF THEM WITHOUT MASKS. SEATED: ARCHONS BRUNSON COOPER, JOSEPH L. WRIGHT, ANTHONY W. SWAIN, LIMONE C. COLLINS, JR., AND BRIAN WOOLFOLK. STANDING: ARCHONS K. BERNARD CHASE AND CEPHAS GOLDMAN, GRAND GRAMMATEUS SAMUEL BACOTE III, AND SIRE ARCHON MARTIN L. HAMLETTE.

Prince George's County, Maryland's Epsilon Phi Boulé welcomed its first class of new Archons at an induction ceremony on November 20, 2021, at the Hotel at the University of Maryland. This is the same location where Epsilon Phi was set apart from Beta Mu Boulé just two years ago. Sire Archon Cephas Goldman presided over the ceremony in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines as set forth by the Office of the Grand Boulé as well as those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the state of Maryland and the county. The following day, a Zoom champagne toast was held, during which current Archons and Archousai had the opportunity to welcome the new Archons and Archousai.

Archon Limone C. Collins, Jr., a board-certified pediatric physician, is chief of vaccine safety and evaluation at the Immunization Healthcare Division of the Military Health System's (MHS) Defense Health Agency (DHA), where he is responsible for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of all COVID-19 vaccines as well as any vaccine utilized by active-duty service members and MHS beneficiaries. He is nationally recognized as a published subject-matter expert on vaccine-adverse-event diagnosis and management and represents the DHA and Department of Defense on the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Vaccine Safety Technical Subgroup. After a twenty-six-year U.S. Army career

as an active-duty military physician, he retired at the rank of colonel.

A native of Prairie View, Texas – where his late father, Archon Limone Collins, Sr., was chairman of the Prairie View A&M University biology department – Archon Collins earned a B.S. in biology from Morehouse College and an M.D. from Meharry Medical College. He completed his residency in pediatrics and fellowship training in allergy and immunology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. A member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Military Association of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, Archon Collins is honored to follow in his father's footsteps as a Sigma Pi Phi Archon.

Archon Brunson Cooper has established himself as a respected professional in the commercial construction industry. As the managing director and owner of Corenic Construction – a commercial general contractor and design, engineering and construction firm in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area – he oversees the entire operation with a focus on business development. Archon Brunson sits on several boards, including the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce and the Washington, DC Economic Partnership. He and his company have received numerous honors, including being named one of the Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund's Forty Under 40, the *Washington Business Journal's* Top 25 Minority Business Leaders and the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council's Top 100 MBEs, an award that recognizes the region's top minority entrepreneurs.

An active member of his community both in the D.C. area and his hometown of Hemingway, South Carolina, Archon Brunson donates to several non-profit organizations. He holds a B.S. in civil engineering from North Carolina A&T State University and is the proud husband of Archousa Tia and the father of two children: Lillian Corine and Brunson Dominic.

Archon Anthony W. Swain is a retired U.S. Navy captain who commanded three warships during his thirty-year career: the U.S.S. *Hué City*, U.S.S. *Carr* and U.S.S. *Raven*. He was also deputy director for conventional arms control at the State Department and head of the sea-shield branch on the staff of the chief of naval operations. Archon Swain's last active tour was as director of inspections for the naval inspector general. He served with distinction and was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and Navy Achievement Medal.

Raised in South Mills, North Carolina, Archon Swain graduated from his hometown school of Elizabeth City State University, earning a B.S. in business administration with a concentration in accounting. After two years with the Internal Revenue Service, he joined the Navy and was commissioned as a

U.S. naval officer through Officer Candidate School. Archon Swain is chairman of the ECSU National Alumni Association (NAA) board of directors and president of the NAA's Washington, DC Metro Chapter. A life member of the National Naval Officers Association, the Surface Navy Association and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Archon Swain has been married to Archousa Joy for thirty-five years. They have a son, Trevon, and a granddaughter, Teagan.

Archon Brian Woolfolk is an attorney and a principal with Swan Creek Strategies, a government-relations firm. He has spent more than twenty years in private practice representing clients in congressional investigations and other matters before Congress and federal agencies. Prior to his private-sector work, Archon Woolfolk held senior positions on Capitol Hill, including minority Democratic counsel on the U.S. House Judiciary Committee and legislative counsel to Archon Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, who represents a Virginia district in Congress.

Archon Woolfolk is a member of the College of William & Mary board of visitors as well as the Chamber of Progress and DC Web Fest advisory boards. He has a B.A. in criminal justice from the University of Maryland and a J.D. from William & Mary Law School.

Archon Joseph L. Wright is chief health-equity officer at the thirteen-hospital University of Maryland Medical System. He is also an adjunct professor of health policy and management at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Archon Wright was previously a tenured professor and chair of pediatrics at the Howard University College of Medicine as well as senior vice president within the Children's National Health System. As a board-certified pediatric emergency physician, he has contributed more than 120 publications to the scientific literature and held more than twenty visiting professorships. Archon Wright is also an immediate past chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine and sits on the AAP board of directors. The recipient of two AAP career achievement awards, he also received the Shining Star Award from the Starlight Children's Foundation and the 2020 Minority Business Leader Award from the *Washington Business Journal*.

Archon Wright is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha and Delta Omega honor societies, the Academy of Medicine of Washington, D.C., and the American Pediatric Society. He earned a B.A. in psychology from Wesleyan University, his M.D. from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and an M.P.H. in administrative medicine and management from the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health.

*Archon Carver G. Mahone
Grapter, Epsilon Phi Boulé*

KUDOS & COMMENDATIONS



PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AWARDED ARCHON FRED DAVID GRAY OF PHI BOULÉ, MONTGOMERY–TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA, THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM, THE NATION'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOR, IN JULY 2022 (PAGE 75).

Clifton W. Albright

Los Angeles's Xi Boulé Archon Clifton W. Albright, founding partner of Albright, Yee & Schmit, APC, was recognized on the *Daily Journal's* prestigious list of the top labor and employment lawyers for 2023, which appeared in the journal's August 2, 2023, issue. Archon Albright is an active trial attorney specializing in employment, labor and tort defense. He has been involved in many state and federal jury trials and has a successful appellate record.



Alfonzo Alexander

Archon Alfonzo Alexander of Nashville's Chi Boulé was named chairman of the board of directors for The PhD Project, a New Jersey-based, national education nonprofit, on August 30, 2023. Archon Alexander is the president and CEO of Alexander Success Group, Inc., a Brentwood, Tennessee-based company that provides business consulting and training.



William A. Ampofo II

Baxter International, Inc., a leading provider of diagnostic, critical care, kidney care, nutrition, hospital and surgical products used throughout the international health care system, named Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé Archon William A. Ampofo II to its board of directors on June 29, 2023. Chairperson of the supply chain operations council and vice president of parts and distribution services and supply chain at Boeing Global Services, Archon Ampofo will serve on Baxter's quality, compliance and technology committee.





Alan Archer

On July 25, 2023, Archon Alan Archer of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia’s Beta Lambda Boulé was appointed acting city manager for Newport News. Archon Archer has more than thirty years of municipal management experience, including seventeen years as assistant city manager for Newport News. Newport News is the fifth-most populous city in Virginia with a population of 186,247. As acting city manager, Archon Archer will be responsible for managing a workforce of more than 3,000 employees.



Kelvin A. Baggett

On July 27, 2023, Patient Square Capital, a California-based dedicated health care investment firm with more than \$6 billion in assets, named Dallas’s Alpha Epsilon Boulé Archon Kelvin A. Baggett managing director, head of patient care and chairman of its newly formed EMPIRIC (Excellence in Medicine, Patient Impact Research, Innovation and Care) Institute. Archon Baggett is a nationally recognized health care leader with more than twenty years of academic and industry experience as a physician, clinical leader, operator and adviser to several of the leading health care institutions in the United States.



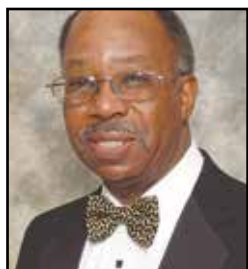
Edward Baiden

On August 10, 2023, Pittsburgh’s Rho Boulé Archon Edward Baiden was celebrated as a *New Pittsburgh Courier* 2023 Men of Excellence honoree. The Men of Excellence Awards celebrate local African American men who inspire others through their vision and leadership, exceptional achievements, and participation in community service. Archon Baiden leads the global traffic solutions business unit within PPG, overseeing 1,200 employees and twenty-four global production sites.



Edward H. Baine

July 1, 2023, was a historic day for the state of Virginia and Alpha Beta Boulé in Richmond. On that day Alpha Beta Archon Edward H. “Ed” Baine became the rector for the board of visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The outgoing rector, Letitia A. “Tish” Long, described Archon Baine’s appointment as “a very historic moment for our beloved university.” Archon Baine is the first Black rector in the university’s 151-year history.



Arthur Baldwin

Duquesne University president Kenneth G. Gormley appointed Pittsburgh’s Rho Boulé Archon Arthur Baldwin to Duquesne’s twelve-member inaugural engineering advisory committee in late June 2023. This committee was created due to the expansion of the School of Science to the School of Science and Engineering. Duquesne provost David J. Dausey chairs the committee. Archon Baldwin currently serves on Penn State Greater Allegheny’s energy engineering advisory committee and previously served as chair of Penn State New Kensington’s engineering advisory committee.



Keith Beverly

Chapel Hill, North Carolina’s Epsilon Gamma Boulé Archon Keith Beverly and veteran financial advisor Anna N’Jie-Konte have merged their practices together with the goal of building the wealth management industry’s first Black-owned registered investment advisory firm with \$1 billion in client assets. The two unveiled their firm, Re-Envision Wealth, on June 19, 2023. The firm is a Black- and Latina-founded wealth management firm committed to serving populations that are often dismissed by the financial services industry.

Steven D. Bond

Archon Steven D. Bond of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, was elected for a second term as chair of the board of directors for the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board on June 22, 2023. According to the board, its mission is “to provide a comprehensive continuum of services,” and it supports “promoting prevention, recovery and self-determination for people affected by mental illness, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disabilities, and advancing the well-being of the communities we serve.”



R. Steve Bowden

In June during the Father’s Day services at Saint Matthews United Methodist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, Archon R. Steve Bowden of Greensboro’s Beta Epsilon Boulé was recognized as the 2023 Father of the Year. Archon Bowden is the managing partner of R. Steve Bowden & Associates, PC, a personal injury and workers’ compensation law firm headquartered in Greensboro.



Alvin Bowles

In June 2023 Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, named New York City’s Zeta Boulé Archon Alvin Bowles vice president of its global business group for the Americas. In this role he will lead Meta’s ad sales initiatives in the United States and the rest of the Americas. Archon Bowles has been a member of the Meta and Facebook team for more than eight years, formerly holding the position of vice president of business ecosystems partnerships.



Charles E. Bray, Jr.

Thesauristes Charles E. Bray, Jr., of Orange County, California’s Epsilon Epsilon Boulé joined an exclusive club when he graduated from Pepperdine University on May 20, 2023. He is now part of the reported less than 1 percent of the population who hold two doctorate degrees. Archon Bray earned a doctor of education in organizational leadership and a doctor of philosophy in global leadership and change, both from Pepperdine.



Roy and Jennifer Brooks

Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas’s Delta Mu Boulé Archon Roy C. Brooks and Archousa Jennifer Brooks received the 2023 Tarrant County Harambee Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award on September 27 at Texas Wesleyan University. The award recognizes a lifetime of exceptional community service to Tarrant County. Archon Brooks is an advocate for the health and welfare of underserved communities and was Tarrant County commissioner for eighteen years. Archousa Brooks has been a teacher, principal, director, education consultant and dedicated community volunteer.



Artis M. Brown

North Houston, Texas’s Epsilon Omicron Boulé Archon Artis M. Brown received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Alabama Black Alumni Association. The second annual Vivian Malone Alumni Awards ceremony took place on June 10, 2023, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The awards, which recognize outstanding achievement, leadership and service among Black alumni, are the product of a collaboration between the UA Culverhouse College of Business Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the UA Black Alumni Association, and the UA Black Faculty and Staff Association.





Carlos M. Brown

Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé Archon Carlos M. Brown, senior vice president, general counsel and chief compliance officer at Dominion Energy, was named vice rector of the University of Virginia's board of visitors on July 1, 2023. Governor Ralph S. Northam appointed Archon Brown to the board of visitors in 2021. James E. Ryan, UVA president, described Archon Brown as a "champion of UVA" and noted that he is "deeply engaged with all that's happening around [campus], from student wellness to free expression."



John L. Burris

On September 6, Archon John L. Burris of Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé was named to the *Daily Journal's* list of the top 100 lawyers in California for 2023. As a civil rights lawyer for more than forty years, Archon Burris has represented more than 1,000 victims of police misconduct, and thousands more in class action, employment and toxic tort cases. Additionally, he has advised and represented defendants in many serious criminal cases.



Manwell Bynum

Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Manwell Bynum, head of business acceleration for Atrium Health, received the 2023 HBCU Living Legend award on August 19, 2023. The HBCU Living Legends organization aims to provide scholarships to students at historically Black colleges and universities and celebrate the achievements of HBCU alumni. Scholarship funds are raised through donations as well as sales of the organization's commemorative calendar and the HBCU Living Legends Scholarship Gala.



Richard K. Bynum

Archon Richard K. Bynum of Northern Virginia's Beta Nu Boulé received Howard University's Visionary Award in June 2023. The other awardees were Epsilon Boulé Archon Wayne A.I. Frederick, current president of Howard University; Epsilon Boulé Archon H. Patrick Swygert, past president of Howard University; and Barron H. Harvey, dean emeritus and associate provost at Howard University. The award is presented in recognition of outstanding work in support of the Howard University School of Business.



Hernando Carter

Birmingham, Alabama's Beta Kappa Boulé Archon Hernando Carter accepted a position as the medical director of the Birmingham market for ArchWell Health, a value-based primary care organization that provides medical services to seniors, in July 2023. Archon Carter will supervise the physicians and advanced practice practitioners, spanning multiple clinic locations, in the Birmingham area. His duties also include assisting with marketing, community engagement and providing medical care to members.



Kevin G. Chavers

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., presented The Billie Holiday Theatre with the National Medal of Arts in a White House ceremony held in March 2023. The organization was officially named a recipient as part of the class of 2021 honorees, but due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, it had to wait until 2023 to be officially honored. New York City's Zeta Boulé Archon Kevin G. Chavers is chairman of the board of directors for the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., which founded The Billie Holiday Theatre in 1972.

Harry Coker, Jr.

Archon Harry Coker, Jr., of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to serve as the country's national cyber director on July 25, 2023. The Office of the National Cyber Director, established in 2021, advises the president of the United States on cybersecurity policy and strategy and seeks to advance national security, economic prosperity and technological innovation for the United States as part of the president's national cybersecurity strategy.



Todd Collins

In August 2023 Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Todd Collins was named to the *Charlotte Business Journal* Power 100 for the second time, receiving special recognition for his contributions to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion within the community. Archon Collins is the founder and CEO of Charlotte-based Red Hill Ventures, a leading investment firm specializing in commercial property acquisition, development and the growth of operating companies through all phases of the business cycle, including private-equity sales.



Benjamin L. Crump

Tallahassee, Florida's Alpha Zeta Boulé Archon Benjamin L. Crump, famed civil rights and personal injury attorney, received what may be the ultimate professional honor. During Black History Month in 2023, the St. Thomas University College of Law became the Benjamin L. Crump College of Law. Of the nearly 200 American Bar Association law schools in the United States, this is the first to be named after a practicing Black attorney. Only one other law school in the country is named for an African American – the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston.



Mark and Rochell Davis

In 2021 Milwaukee's Beta Alpha Boulé Archon Mark Davis and Archon Rochell Davis decided to look for new ways to give back to the community. They reflected that they had been abundantly blessed and wanted to pay it forward. Their solution was to partner with the Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Foundation to administer a scholarship to encourage and support students who may experience hardships or struggle academically. The foundation announced the 2023 winners of the Rochell M. Davis Scholarship in its summer 2023 newsletter.



Richard Davis

Gamma Alpha Boulé, Tucson, Arizona, congratulates Archon Richard Davis, one of Gamma Alpha's founding Archons, on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law on November 3, 2023. Archon Davis joined the U.S. Air Force after high school and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, and at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson. He went on to receive his undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona and his J.D. from the University of Arizona College of Law.



Randal D. Dawson

In July 2023 South Suburban Chicago's Delta Sigma Boulé Archon Randal D. Dawson was appointed to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Americas World Regional Board of Directors. A global professional body, RICS aims to promote and enforce the highest international standards in the valuation, management and development of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. The Americas board is responsible for overseeing RICS activities and initiatives in the Americas region, which includes North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.





J. Mark Debro

Attorneys Insurance Mutual of the South announced the election of Huntsville, Alabama's Epsilon Kappa Boulé Archon J. Mark Debro to its board of directors on July 25, 2023. An alumnus of the Samford University Cumberland School of Law, Archon Debro is a partner at the Huntsville firm of Grace, Matthews & Debro, LLC, and serves on the Alabama State Bar's board of bar commissioners.



Raymond T. Diamond

On July 12, 2023, Archon Raymond T. Diamond of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé was named chair emeritus of the merit selection panel for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana that will consider the reappointment of United States magistrate judge Erin Wilder-Doomes. Additionally, on July 25, 2023, at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Archon Diamond served as a panelist for a constitutional law workshop about individual rights.



Rodger L. Duncan III

On July 30, 2023, Archon Rodger L. Duncan III of Epsilon Lambda Boulé, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida, received the Award of Distinguished Service, the highest award presented by the Florida Medical Association (FMA) House of Delegates. Archon Duncan received the award for his "unparalleled generosity and dedication to those less represented in medicine." Archon Duncan is currently vice chief of anesthesia at HCA Florida Palms West Hospital and is a member of the FMA's board of governors.



Jim Dunn

Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Jim Dunn, executive vice president and chief people and culture officer for Advocate Health, was named chair of the board of trustees for Central Piedmont Community College on August 15, 2023. He was also recently named chair of the board of directors for the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture and was named the top contributing writer for human resources by the human resources councils of both *Forbes* and *Newsweek*.



W. Franklin Evans

On August 22, 2023, Orangeburg, South Carolina's Delta Chi Boulé Archon W. Franklin Evans launched his new book titled *Untold Stories of Black Leadership in Higher Education: Learned, Gifted, and Black*. The book reveals the experiences and insight Archon Evans has gained while navigating the waters of executive leadership in higher education and includes stories shared by his former students, advisees and mentees who are also in positions of authority within the ranks of academia.



Louis L. Fletcher

Archon Louis L. Fletcher of Colorado Springs's Epsilon Chi Boulé was one of only thirty veterans selected worldwide to attend the Veterans Program for Politics and Civic Engagement hosted by the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and financially supported by JPMorgan Chase. The hybrid program runs from September 14, 2023, through January 16, 2024, with one on-campus residency in October 2023.

Wayne A.I. Frederick

Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé Archon Wayne A.I. Frederick, president of Howard University, received the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute Lifetime Achievement Award during the opening program of the National Medical Association 2023 Annual Convention & Scientific Assembly on July 29, 2023. The highest award presented by the W. Montague Cobb Institute, it recognizes Archon Frederick's commitment to scientific excellence, leadership in addressing bias in health care and impact on medical research.



Brian C. Gary

Several Archons of Phi Boulé, Montgomery-Tuskegee, Alabama, represent the epitome of brain and brawn. The latest is Archon Brian C. Gary, who was enshrined as a member of the Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2023 on September 15. Archon Gary committed to Tuskegee University with athletic and academic accolades after earning varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball while attending Sidney Lanier High School. The Montgomery native made contributions immediately, starring as a running back, return specialist and kicker.



Garland Goins, Jr.

Archon Garland Goins, Jr., of Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Epsilon Gamma Boulé is the vice president of revenue cycle management at Avance Care, a provider of primary care services at more than thirty locations in North Carolina. On June 25, 2023, Avance Care received the 2023 MAP Award for High Performance in Revenue Cycle from the Healthcare Financial Management Association during the organization's annual conference. Revenue cycle management is the process used to manage administrative and clinical functions related to claims and payments.



Fred David Gray

On August 5, 2023, Archon Fred David Gray of Phi Boulé, Montgomery-Tuskegee, Alabama, received the 2023 American Bar Association (ABA) Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the ABA. Described by Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., as "the chief counsel" of the Civil Rights Movement, Archon Gray represented Rosa Parks and was the chief legal strategist during the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955 and 1956. He also represented the marchers during the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights marches of 1965 and the victims of the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study.



Ervin V. Griffin, Sr.

Governor Roy A. Cooper III reappointed Archon Ervin V. Griffin, Sr., of Charleston, West Virginia's Upsilon Boulé to the Halifax County Board of Elections on June 29, 2023, to serve as chair for his second term. The appointment was effective immediately, and Governor Cooper thanked Archon Griffin "for his willingness to serve the people of North Carolina." Governor Cooper added, "Griffin's leadership and commitment to this board are key to our efforts to strengthen our communities and improve the quality of life for our people."



Charles J. Hamilton, Jr.

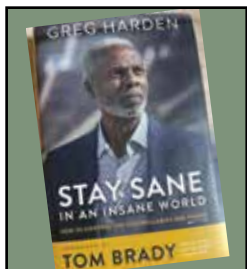
New York City's Zeta Boulé Archon Charles J. Hamilton, Jr., chairman of the board of directors of the Harlem School of the Arts, was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award on May 1, 2023, at the school's Annual Benefit Gala. Archon Hamilton's wife of forty-three years, Archousa Pamela Carlton, surprised him by presenting the award. Archon Hamilton has served as the school's board chair since 2010.





Noel Hankin

Queens College presented Archon Noel Hankin of New York City's Zeta Boulé with the President's Medal, the school's highest administrative honor, during its baccalaureate ceremony on May 30, 2023. Archon Hankin earned his B.A. from Queens College in 1968 and his marketing certificate from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He also holds an honorary doctor of humane letters from Medgar Evers College. Archon Hankin helped found the Thurgood Marshall College Fund in 1987.



Greg Harden

Since being released in August 2023, *Stay Sane in an Insane World: How to Control the Controllables and Thrive*, by Archon Greg Harden of Ann Arbor, Michigan's Gamma Rho Boulé, has appeared on multiple bestseller lists, including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. A peak-performance coach, executive consultant and motivational speaker, Archon Harden has empowered hundreds of world-class athletes, college students and professionals – including doctors, lawyers and business leaders – to take control of their lives with his proven system of personal improvement.



Lawrence B. Harkless

Archon Lawrence B. Harkless of San Antonio's Gamma Phi Boulé was inducted into the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association Hall of Fame on July 15, 2023, in Houston, Texas. Archon Harkless quarterbacked the Mayflower High School Panthers, which advanced to the state finals, and became the first Black quarterback in East Texas when he played for Tatum High School. Thereafter, he received his doctorate in podiatric medicine from the California College of Podiatric Medicine and is currently recognized as the father of diabetic foot care.



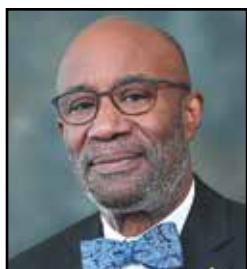
Fredrick C. Harris

New York City's Zeta Boulé Archon Fredrick C. Harris, Columbia University professor of political science and director of the Center on African American Politics and Society, joined the University of Oxford Nuffield College as a visiting fellow this past spring, working on a book project exploring African American thought and politics. He will return to Oxford as the Winant Visiting Chair in American Government during the 2026–27 academic year.



W. Drew Hawkins

In September 2023 Baltimore's Gamma Boulé Archon W. Drew Hawkins, CEO and founder of Edyoucore Sports and Entertainment, announced the launch of Edyoucore's new mental health programming initiative, which will accompany its financial literacy services that assist professional athletes and entertainers. The mental health offering was created to address a wide range of pressures that professional athletes face, such as relationship challenges, self-worth issues and external pressure to perform.



Charles Hayden

Philadelphia's Alpha Boulé Archon Charles Hayden is a newly minted recipient of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee's A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award. Archon Hayden, who is a judge on the Philadelphia Municipal Court, received the award on October 6, 2023, during the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Attorney Conference, held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Leonard L. Haynes III

On September 13, 2023, Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé Archon Leonard L. Haynes III had the opportunity to discuss the critical education issues facing the nation at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C. The Cosmos Club is a private Washington, D.C., social club for individuals distinguished in science, literature, the arts, learned professions or public service. The club has provided a prestigious environment for intellectual fellowship since 1878.



H. Beecher Hicks III

Archon H. Beecher Hicks III of Nashville's Chi Boulé was introduced as the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA) president and chief executive officer at the NBMBA Forty-fifth Annual Conference and Exposition in Philadelphia on September 12–16, 2023. Archon Hicks assumed his new role on October 9. A lifetime NBMBA member, Archon Hicks previously served ten years as the founding president and CEO of the National Museum of African American Music in Nashville.



Maurice J. Hobson

Archon Maurice J. Hobson of Montgomery–Tuskegee, Alabama's Phi Boulé was the host for the documentary *(Re)Defining History: The Atlanta Race Massacre* – focusing on four days of violence in September 1906, when white mobs terrorized African American neighborhoods and killed at least twenty-five residents – which premiered September 24, 2023, on WABE, Atlanta's Public Broadcasting Service and National Public Radio affiliate. Archon Hobson is an associate professor of Africana studies and a historian at Georgia State University.



MaCalus Hogan

Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé Archon MaCalus Hogan was celebrated as the Arthritis Foundation's medical honoree at the Arthritis Foundation Bone Bash Gala on October 13, 2023. Archon Hogan is the David Silver Professor and chair of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's department of orthopedic surgery. He is also chief of foot and ankle surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.



Hugh Holston

Archon Hugh Holston of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, was named chief executive officer of the Greensboro Housing Coalition (GHC) on August 7, 2023. The GHC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission to advocate for and provide resources to people with low to moderate incomes and those with special needs to secure or retain fair, safe, healthy and affordable housing.



Jeffery P. Hopkins

On June 28, 2023, at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Archon Jeffery P. Hopkins of Cincinnati's Alpha Delta Boulé was sworn in as judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., nominated Archon Hopkins on July 29, 2022, per the recommendations of both United States senators from Ohio, Sherrod C. Brown and Robert J. Portman.





Andrew Hughey

Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé Archon Andrew Hughey received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA) in July 2023. The award recognizes individuals who have given extraordinary service both to NACUA and to institutions of higher learning over an extended period of time. Archon Hughey is the general counsel of Point Park University in Pittsburgh.



David S. Huntley

On July 1, 2023, Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé Archon David S. Huntley retired from AT&T as senior executive vice president and chief compliance officer after twenty-eight years of dedicated and exemplary service. Archon Huntley joined the company's legal staff in 1994 and progressed by attaining increasingly significant legal responsibilities, including assistant general counsel, senior vice president, general counsel and secretary, supporting many of the company's large business units.



Derrick Z. Jackson and Michelle D. Holmes

Archon Derrick Z. Jackson of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé received two National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Salute to Excellence Awards on August 5, 2023, at the NABJ convention in Birmingham, Alabama. He was also a multiple winner in the Outdoor Writers Association of America Excellence in Craft contest, as announced September 10, 2023, at its conference in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The NABJ awards were for his writing on racial disparities in college sports and an essay cowritten with his Archousa, Michelle D. Holmes.



Derrick and CaMia Jackson

Archon Derrick Jackson of South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé was sworn in as state representative for District 68 of the Georgia House of Representatives on June 29, 2023. The swearing-in ceremony marks the start of his fourth term in the Georgia General Assembly. His Archousa, CaMia Jackson, served in the Georgia General Assembly as a representative of House District 153 until January 2023.



Harry S. Johnson

Archon Harry S. Johnson of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, received the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) Distinguished Service Award in June 2023 for his outstanding leadership as chairman of the MHA Executive Committee. He has served as committee chair since July 1, 2020. Archon Johnson is a litigation partner at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP, where he focuses his practice on complex litigation with an emphasis on product liability.



Harvey Johnson, Jr.

Jackson, Mississippi's Beta Gamma Boulé Archon Harvey Johnson, Jr., was recognized for his decades-long commitment to mentoring youths by the 100 Black Men of America, Inc., during the organization's 2023 conference in Las Vegas, June 14–18, 2023. Archon Johnson humbly accepted the Thomas W. Dortch, Jr. Mentor of the Year Award for his service as an exemplary role model, leader and advocate for the betterment of young people in the Jackson area.

Jay L. Johnson

On July 12, 2023, Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé Archon Jay L. Johnson was selected to serve on a merit selection panel for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana to consider the reappointment of United States magistrate judge Erin Wilder-Doomes.



Larry L. Johnson

Archon Larry L. Johnson of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, graduated from the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Fellows Program on June 23, 2023. Archon Johnson is special agent in charge of the policy and administration division within the Office of the Inspector General Social Security Administration. The CIGIE Fellows Program is a one-year senior leadership development program designed to increase the number of government oversight leaders who possess strong interagency experience and exposure to a broad cross section of government.



Troy Keen

Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Troy Keen, chief development and engagement officer of the Charlotte metropolitan area for Wells Fargo, was named a trustee of the William & Mary Raymond A. Mason School of Business in July 2023. An experienced financial services professional and talent leader with a track record of driving results in origination, execution and distribution-related roles, Archon Keen has expertise in attracting, mentoring and developing talent, effecting cultural and organizational change, and devising strategies for professional development.



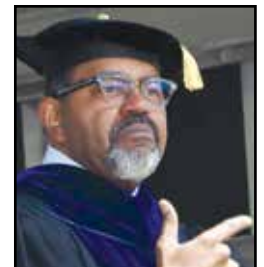
Kitonga Kiminyo

Archon Kitonga Kiminyo of Epsilon Lambda Boulé, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida, received the distinguished 2023 Meritorious Achievement Award from the National Medical Association (NMA) during the NMA Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly awards ceremony on July 29, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. Archon Kiminyo is the vice president and COVID-19 task force lead for the T. Leroy Jefferson Medical Society in Palm Beach County, Florida.



Willis L. Lonzer III

On May 12, 2023, Archon Willis L. Lonzer III of Chicago's Beta Boulé was the speaker for Delaware State University's graduate commencement ceremony at the invitation of the university's president, Archon Tony Allen of Delaware's Beta Eta Boulé. The commencement included candidates for the Ph.D. and Ed.D. degrees and master's degrees. Almost thirty-three years ago to the date, on May 20, 1990, he was a speaker at his undergraduate commencement as senior class president. Archon Lonzer is an executive scientist and regional medical director for a major pharmaceutical company.



Craig C. MacKay

Congratulations to Northern New Jersey's Mu Boulé Archon Craig C. MacKay, who was appointed interim president and CEO of Carver Bancorp, effective October 1, 2023. Carver Bancorp is one of the largest banks in the United States managed by African Americans and Caribbean Americans. Archon MacKay has served on Carver's board of directors since 2017.





Glenn Mahone

Archon Glenn Mahone of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé was celebrated as a *New Pittsburgh Courier* 2023 Men of Excellence Legacy honoree on August 10, 2023. The Men of Excellence Awards celebrate local African American men who inspire others through their vision and leadership, exceptional achievements, and participation in community service. Archon Mahone received the award as a retired partner of Reed Smith, LLP.



Daniel E. Martin, Jr.

Charleston, South Carolina's Gamma Lambda Boulé Sire Archon Daniel E. Martin, Jr., senior judge of the Charleston County Family Court, received the 2023 Buchan, Brown and Jacobs Award from the South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges (SCFCJ) in July 2023 for his "integrity, professionalism, skill, compassion, spirit, optimism and courage." He served as president of the SCFCJ in 2020 and also received the 2023 National Racial Justice Network Triumph Award.



Harold L. Martin, Sr., and Davida Martin

Archon Harold L. Martin, Sr., and Archon Davida Martin of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, served as the 2023 honorary chairs of the eighty-fourth annual Wyndham Championship, which was played August 2–6, 2023, at Sedgefield Country Club. The Wyndham Championship serves as the final regular-season event for the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) of America. As honorary chairs, the Martins promoted the Wyndham Championship and enhanced corporate partnerships while serving as ambassadors for the important PGA Tour event.



Franklin E. McCain, Jr.

Archon Franklin E. McCain, Jr., of Greensboro, North Carolina's Beta Epsilon Boulé was named president and CEO of the United Way of Greater Greensboro (UWGG), effective August 21, 2023. Archon McCain previously served for more than ten years as UWGG's president of community investment and impact. Prior to joining UWGG, Archon McCain held several positions in the banking and financial services industry, where he managed the assets of high-net-worth individuals and corporate clients. Archon McCain is the son of late Archon Franklin E. McCain, Sr., member of the Greensboro Four.



Byron J. McLain

Los Angeles's Xi Boulé Archon Byron J. McLain, equity partner, white-collar defense attorney and civil litigator at Foley & Lardner, LLP, was elected president of the Harvard Law School Association Black Alumni Network's board of directors on August 3, 2023. According to the Black Alumni Network, the aim of the organization is "to foster community among Black alumni of Harvard Law School, to promote diversity at all levels of the legal profession and to harness the collective power of this group for the good of society."



Tommy T. McNeill

In August 2023 Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Epsilon Gamma Boulé Archon Tommy T. McNeill, owner and operator of B&C Care System, Inc., a state-sanctioned provider of in-home care to veterans, partnered with W.A.R. Memorial Nurse Aide Training Academy to provide three full scholarships for nurse aide training along with full-time employment after successful completion of a five-week, 120-hour certification course.

Ricardo Michel

Archon Ricardo Michel of Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé was named co-executive officer of Palladium on August 1, 2023. Having joined Palladium in January 2022 as the first-ever African American managing partner in the organization's nearly sixty-year history, Archon Michel was quickly promoted to senior managing partner prior to taking the helm as a member of the executive leadership team.



Jahmal Miller

On September 6, 2023, Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé Sire Archon Jahmal Miller was interviewed on KCRA TV. He discussed his perspective on mental-health challenges in Black males by citing his own experiences with mental health challenges as a young man before he recognized his need for help. He described the reluctance of men of color to seek help because doing so would indicate weakness and cause them to be stigmatized. This reluctance is compounded by the lack of available culturally competent therapists.



Houston Mills

Louisville, Kentucky's Psi Boulé Archon Houston Mills, vice president of flight operations and safety at UPS; Pamela A. Melroy, deputy administrator at NASA; and Carlos A. Monje, Jr., undersecretary for policy for the United States Department of Transportation, presented their insights on overcoming equity barriers and paving the way for the widespread adoption and benefits of advanced air mobility (AAM) at the Federal Aviation Administration's AAM Summit on August 2, 2023.



Edwin Narain

Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Archon Edwin Narain was elected by the board of trustees of Saint Leo University to serve as chair of the board, effective July 1, 2023. Archon Narain, vice president of external and legislative affairs for AT&T, previously served as board secretary. His appointment makes him the youngest and first African American person to serve as board chair.



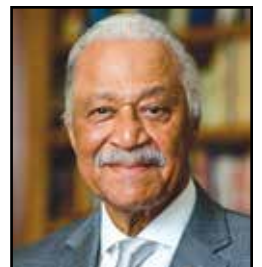
Clarence A. Nesbitt, Jr.

New York City's Zeta Boulé Rhetoricos Clarence A. Nesbitt, Jr., was appointed to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.'s Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans on April 21, 2023. The press release can be viewed at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/04/21/president-biden-announces-key-appointments-to-boards-and-commissions-25/>. This is a tremendous honor for Archon Nesbitt, whose talent and dedication are obvious and beneficial to the Black community.



Amos L. Otis

In July 2023 Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity presented Archon Amos L. Otis of Northern Virginia's Beta Nu Boulé with the Laurel Wreath Award, Kappa Alpha Psi's highest honor. The award is bestowed upon members who demonstrate meritorious achievements that are national or international in scope and effect. Archon Otis is the eighty-first recipient of the award.





Darrel J. Papillion

Archon Darrel J. Papillion of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé held his official investiture for his appointment to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana on September 15, 2023. Archon Papillion was confirmed by the United States Senate on May 30, 2023, and was officially sworn in on June 2, 2023.



Michael C. Payne

Archon Michael C. Payne of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé was promoted to interim associate division chief of gastroenterology at Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA), a Harvard Medical School teaching hospital. The appointment was announced on August 21, 2023. As part of his new responsibilities Archon Payne, who is also medical director of CHA's Somerville Hospital Gastrointestinal/Endoscopy Center, will lead recruitment efforts for the specialty. In the announcement, he was praised for his ability to build relationships among colleagues in the operating room and inpatient units.



Freddie Pitcher, Jr.

Archon Freddie Pitcher, Jr., of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé served as the keynote speaker for the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society's annual meeting on September 6, 2023. Archon Pitcher shared excerpts from his memoir *Breaking Barriers: A View From the Bench*, which was published by LSU Press. The memoir vividly details Archon Pitcher's early years and groundbreaking election to a seat on the Baton Rouge City Court, then the Nineteenth Judicial District Court and later the Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit.



Neil R. Powe

Archon Neil R. Powe of Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé received the W. Montague Cobb Institute's Cato T. Laurencin M.D., Ph.D. Lifetime Research Award at the National Medical Association Annual Convention & Scientific Assembly in New Orleans on July 29, 2023. The award is presented in recognition of an exceptional career in medical research and noteworthy innovation in medicine and health care.



Robert Powell

On September 3, 2023, Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé Archon Robert Powell, CEO and founder of Invictus Leadership Group and a best practice CEO executive coach with Vistage International, successfully passed the Stave and Thief Society examination to become a certified executive bourbon steward. Founded in 2014, Stave and Thief Society offers the first bourbon certification program recognized by the bourbon industry and the only program to be recognized as the Kentucky Distillers' Association's official bourbon education course.



Steven L. Reed

Archon Steven L. Reed of Montgomery–Tuskegee, Alabama's Phi Boulé was elected to serve as a trustee for the U.S. Conference of Mayors at the organization's ninety-first annual meeting held in Columbus, Ohio, on June 2–5, 2023. A Montgomery native, Archon Reed was elected to the City of Montgomery's top seat in 2019. His election as trustee makes him the first Alabama mayor to serve in that capacity. Earlier in the year in April, Archon Reed and other African American mayors met with President Joe Biden in the Oval Office.

Quentin P. Riggins

Archon Quentin P. Riggins of Phi Boulé, Montgomery-Tuskegee, Alabama, made history when he was elected the first Black president pro tempore of Auburn University's board of trustees on June 9, 2023. He has served as a university trustee since 2017. Currently, Archon Riggins is the senior vice president of governmental and corporate affairs for Alabama Power. Before Alabama Power, he worked in state government for twenty-four years, serving in senior leadership roles for the speaker of the house and the governor of Alabama.



Gerard Robinson

Archon Gerard Robinson of Charlottesville, Virginia's Epsilon Psi Boulé was appointed to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine as a member of the national committee on promoting learning and development in K-12 out-of-school time settings for low-income and marginalized children and youth. The committee, which held its first meeting on July 19, 2023, will conduct a two-year study that will focus on students from low-income households across urban, suburban and rural settings.



Brian K. Ross

On June 18, 2023, in Decatur, Georgia, Archon Brian K. Ross of South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé was named presiding judge of Division B of the DeKalb County State Court. The state court handles the trial of civil actions without regard to the amount in controversy, except those actions in which exclusive jurisdiction is vested in the superior courts. Additionally, the state court handles the trial of criminal cases below the grade of felony.



Alvin J. Schexnider

On September 14, 2023, Archon Alvin J. Schexnider of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton-Norfolk, Virginia, was informed that he will receive a 2023 International Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Book Award for his book *Mayfield and Schexnider: Portrait of a Family*. The book is the result of several years of research that began with a letter from Archon Schexnider's aunt in Houston, Texas, in 1978 that provided Archon Schexnider with clues enabling him to trace his roots across three centuries.



Simon H. Scott III

On July 1, 2023, Hampton-Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé Rhetoricos Simon H. Scott III, director of employee and labor relations at Dominion Energy, was appointed to the Economic Development Authority of Norfolk. The authority states that its mission is "to create jobs, maximize utilization of Norfolk's real estate, foster business capital investment, increase revenue by growing the tax base, focus on the needs of neighborhoods, and support minority and small businesses."



Roland R. Selby, Jr.

Archon Roland R. Selby, Jr., of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé joined the Baltimore Mayor's Office of Homeless Services as chief of staff in August 2023. The Office of Homeless Services strives to make homelessness in Baltimore rare and brief by focusing on four major areas that address the root causes of homelessness: affordable housing, comprehensive health care, sufficient incomes, and preventative and emergency services.





Thomas Shockley, Jr.

Cincinnati's Alpha Delta Boulé Archon Thomas Shockley, Jr., was appointed the inaugural chief health equity officer for TriHealth on April 21, 2023. Archon Shockley, an orthopedic surgeon, joined TriHealth in 2014 when the system acquired TriState Orthopaedic Treatment Center. Archon Shockley has served as associate chief medical officer for TriHealth's Bethesda North region since December 2021, and he has continued to serve in that capacity since beginning his new position as chief health equity officer.



Lowell L. Siler

On July 14, 2023, the lobby of the Durham County, North Carolina, Administration II Building was posthumously named for Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé Archon Lowell L. Siler, who was the first African American county attorney in Durham, serving for more than thirty-five years. Gamma Kappa Sire Archon Alan A. Andrews, who is Durham's current county attorney, other county officials and Alpha Tau Archons paid tribute to Archon Siler during the portrait unveiling and official lobby-naming ceremony.



George C. Simkins, Jr.

On August 23, 2023, the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission, elected officials, community members and others gathered at Gillespie Golf Course in Greensboro, North Carolina, for a ceremony to unveil a new North Carolina civil rights trail marker honoring the Greensboro Six – a group of six Black men, led by the late Archon George C. Simkins, Jr., of Greensboro's Beta Epsilon Boulé, whose act of civil disobedience led to the integration of Gillespie Golf Course.



Bob Simpson

Memphis's Delta Boulé Archon Bob Simpson was wined and dined on July 1, 2023, at TCP Southwind country club in Memphis, where he was fêted by scores of friends and family on his 80th birthday. The octogenarian was roasted and honored by many, including Delta Boulé Archons Charles Carpenter, Robert Cox, Bill Terrell and George Brown. Archon Simpson's wife of nearly fifty-nine years, Archousa Liz Simpson, and his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren also joined in the fun.



Leonard Sledge

On August 30, 2023, Archon Leonard Sledge of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé was featured in an article in *Virginia Business* titled "Economic Development 2023: Leonard Sledge." The article details the economic development success Archon Sledge has ushered in in his role as director of economic development in Richmond. The article highlights the \$2.4 billion Diamond District redevelopment project, which will feature a new baseball stadium for the Richmond Flying Squirrels Double-A baseball team, an 11-acre green space and mixed-income housing.



Darrell Smalley

Grammateus Darrell Smalley of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé was honored during the Mount Ararat Community Activity Center Twenty-fifth Annual Community Recognition Celebration. A black-tie affair, the event was held at Acrisure Stadium, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers, on September 8, 2023. Archon Smalley is the managing partner of Ernst & Young's Pittsburgh office and is the first African American to lead a large accounting firm in the city of Pittsburgh.

Jeffrey O. Smith

On July 1, 2023, Archon Jeffrey O. Smith of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé began his new position as executive director of the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, the official visitor center for NASA Langley Research Center. Archon Smith retired from his role as superintendent of Hampton City Schools on June 30, 2023. "I am looking forward to my next career at the Virginia Air & Space Science Center," said Archon Smith.



Jamal Allen Sowell and Karen Sowell

Archon Jamal Allen Sowell and Archousa Karen of Tallahassee, Florida's Alpha Zeta Boulé welcomed their first child, Jamal Allen Sowell III, on July 1, 2023, in Orlando. Archon Sowell is president of business solutions at Indelible, a national management consulting firm, and serves in the United States Navy Reserve. A Marine Corps veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, he is the former secretary of commerce for Florida and CEO of Enterprise Florida, the state's primary economic development organization.



A. Benjamin Spencer

Charlottesville, Virginia's Epsilon Psi Boulé Archon A. Benjamin Spencer became affiliated with McGuireWoods as of counsel on September 14, 2023. This affiliation follows Archon Spencer being named to the 2023 Virginia 500 power list in the legal category on August 30, 2023. Additionally, in June 2023 Archon Spencer was promoted to the rank of major in the United State Army Reserve and, shortly thereafter, received the Meritorious Service Medal from the army for his four years of service to its Government Appellate Division.



Eugene Spencer

On August 28, 2023, Minnesota's CBS News interviewed Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé Archon Eugene Spencer to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the August 1963 March on Washington. Archon Spencer, an Air Force veteran, was born in Claiborne County, Alabama. An Alcorn A&M University classmate and close friend of civil rights worker Medgar Evers, he recalled Medgar Evers as a great inspiration and motivator and said he attended the march to honor his assassinated friend. He recalled his awe at being part of such a historical event.



Richard E. Stewart

Archon Richard E. Stewart of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, chaired the historic 150th anniversary celebration of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Dallas on August 19–21, 2023. St. Paul is arguably the oldest Black church in the region, if not the state. Huston-Tillotson University was born there before subsequently moving to Austin. The celebration's luncheon recognized several area partners, including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Black Dance Theater, and the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.



Stephen Thomas

Congratulations to Archon Stephen Thomas of Northern Illinois's Delta Alpha Boulé. On August 31, 2023, it was announced that Archon Thomas joined the board of directors for Fay Financial, an integrated real estate services provider. Archon Thomas brings thirty years of experience in residential mortgage, community banking, affordable housing, and diversity and inclusion initiatives to the board.





Leo Twiggs

On July 16, 2023, at an awards ceremony held at Grace Church Cathedral in Charleston, South Carolina, Archon Leo Twiggs of Orangeburg, South Carolina's Delta Chi Boulé received the Dean's Cross for Servant Leadership. This award, sponsored by the Virginia Theological Seminary and presented on behalf of the Episcopal Church, is given in recognition of "outstanding leaders who embody their baptismal views to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being."



William J. Walker

On September 6, 2023, Archon William J. Walker of Epsilon Zeta Boulé, Loudoun County, Virginia, was named vice president and corporate security director for Allied Universal, the world's leading security and facility services provider. Archon Walker served as the sergeant at arms of the United States House of Representatives for the 117th Congress. He is a retired United States Army major general and a retired Drug Enforcement Administration Senior Executive Service special agent.



Matthew L. Watley

Outreach Magazine interviewed Archon Matthew L. Watley of Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé for its September/October 2023 issue to explore why Kingdom Fellowship AME Church, where he is senior pastor, is at the top of the 2023 Outreach 100 list of fastest-growing churches. With an active membership of more than 5,000 people, Kingdom Fellowship grew by more than 500 percent between 2021 and 2022. Archon Watley has led the church since its founding in 2019, when the congregations from two churches were merged.



Arthur E. Williams

Archon Arthur E. Williams of Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas's Delta Mu Boulé is included in a listing of the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex's Mom Approved Dentists on *DFWChild* magazine's website. The selection was made following a magazine-sponsored regional survey. A pediatric dentist with almost forty years' experience, he has been practicing in the Dallas–Fort Worth area – where he is part of Archon John Barnett's practice, Kids Stop Dental – for more than ten years.



George Woods

In May 2023 Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé Archon George Woods joined Past Sire Archon Larry Jackson as a community director for the board of directors of Stanford Medicine Partners. Archon Woods is board chair of the Felton Institute, the largest provider of behavioral health services in the San Francisco Bay Area, serving approximately 80,000 clients across six Bay Area counties.



Terry R. Woods

Archon Terry R. Woods of Chattanooga's Gamma Pi Boulé received the 2023 Malone-Jones Lifetime Achievement Award during the University of Alabama's Vivian Malone Alumni Awards ceremony on June 10, 2023, commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the desegregation of the University of Alabama. On June 11, 1963, after a failed attempt by the Alabama governor to block registration efforts, Vivian Malone and James Hood registered as students at the university.

DISCRIMINATION IN THE BUILDING TRADES: THE STRUGGLE AT MARE ISLAND

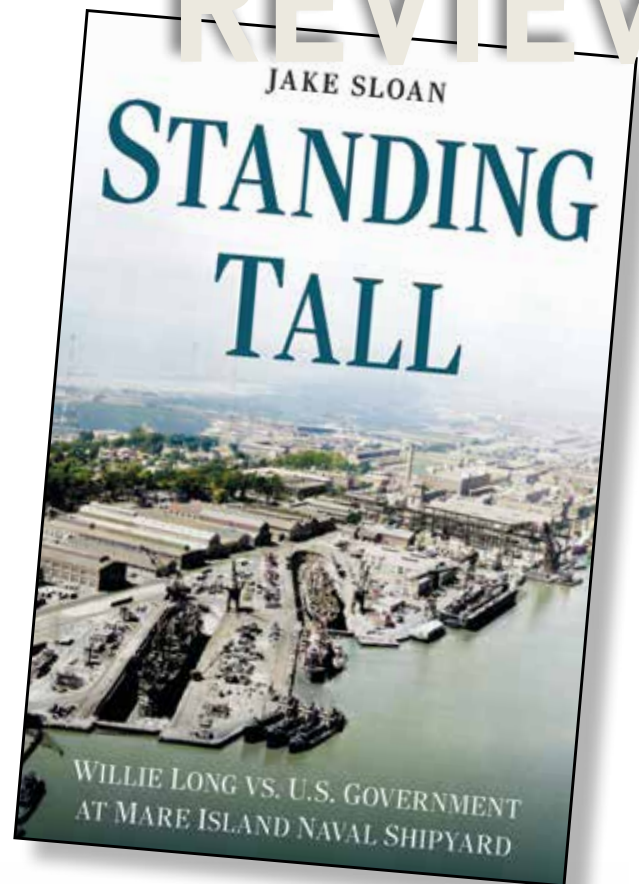
Review by Archon Willie Lott, Jr., Grapier, Epsilon Beta Boulé

Standing Tall: Willie Long vs. U.S. Government at Mare Island Naval Shipyard

BY EPSILON BETA BOULÉ ARCHON JAKE SLOAN
ARCADIA PUBLISHING BY ARRANGEMENT WITH FONTHILL
MEDIA, LLC, 2023

At the age of 15, Archon Jake Sloan, the author of *Standing Tall: Willie Long vs. U.S. Government at Mare Island Naval Shipyard*, joined the Army National Guard. Soon thereafter, he volunteered to train with the regular Army, and then successfully completed basic training and advanced infantry training at Fort Ord in California. On his seventeenth birthday, Archon Sloan joined the regular Army. After getting timely promotions and winning some special recognition awards, he left the Army with an honorable discharge at age 19.

One of the things that had bothered him was that, after more than three years of active-duty service, he only served with one African American officer, and only saw a total of three. He often thought about it. After his discharge, he began on-the-job training to become a pipefitter at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Since he had dropped out of high school to join the military, he felt that he was fortunate to have such a



ARCHON JAKE SLOAN

“good” job. As a veteran, he enjoyed paid vacations, sick leave and other benefits, along with job stability. He thought this “good” job would one day lead to a comfortable retirement.

Increasingly, however, as he looked around, he felt that something was wrong, that something was out of balance. He remembered that same feeling of a lack of balance from his time in the military where he had noticed the paucity of African American officers. The more he looked, listened and talked to others, the more reality came into view. Archon Sloan saw what many others had seen, heard and resented for a long time. Too long. The reality of what he saw and

experience to inform his life’s work in integrating the building trades and to tell the story of the struggle at Mare Island for history. *Standing Tall* is that story.

In 1961 there were more than 1,000 African Americans working at Mare Island, the vast majority of them men. For decades, they suffered under organized, systematic and sometimes unconscious discrimination in working conditions, hiring, training, promotions and equal-pay opportunities. An example of discrimination was that out of one thousand African American workers, only two African Americans were supervisors. Neither of them worked in the production shops where the skilled African Americans

worked, and therefore they were not able to gain supervisory experience and promotions in the skilled trades areas of Mare Island.

That said, working at Mare Island meant good jobs, relatively speaking.

AN OLD AFRICAN PROVERB STATES THAT WHEN AN ELDER DIES, A LIBRARY IS BURNED.

what followed would dramatically change his life. The experience was formative in many ways. Retirement from Mare Island would not be part of his destiny.

The story of *Standing Tall* is not primarily about the author. The star of this story is the great Willie Long and his mentor, the one who greatly inspired him, John Edmondson. Both John and Willie inspired Archon Sloan in many ways, as they inspired others. Although long dead, they still inspire many today. According to Archon Sloan, “I often think about what they did for me and so many others. All my life since then, I have tried to be as great as those great men.” And though he has tried, he never feels that he has succeeded.

This book describes how he, along with a small group of men led by Willie Long, organized to file a complaint of discrimination, and then fight against such discrimination at Mare Island and beyond over many years. Archon Sloan was not a leader at any stage of the action: That was not his destiny. He did not know it at the time, but his destiny was to use the

Conditions for those in the production shops were better than those in the private sector for similar work, especially in the building trades. However, for at least the three decades preceding 1960, there had been growing dissatisfaction with the status quo among a small but growing group of the African American workers, especially among those in the “skilled” trades, the production shops. For example, they were tired of being paid less than whites for performing the same work, and tired of being supervised by whites whom they had trained. Finally, they were tired of being tired, as the old saying goes.

And so in 1961 a relatively small group of African American workers, consisting of fewer than 3 percent of the total number employed at Mare Island, inspired by John Edmondson and led by Willie Long, decided to file a complaint of discrimination with the federal government. Despite resistance and foot-dragging from the leadership in Washington and Mare Island, and eventual internal strife within the group’s leadership, that action helped to bring about slow but sig-

nificant long-term change at the shipyard, as well as at other federal installations in the area and beyond. The action and subsequent activity may also have influenced some of the wording of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Over the years, many would join the group, but in the beginning there were only twenty-five, after a period of exceedingly difficult organizing. It was not easy to organize in the shipyard. In fact, it was extremely hard. The men were up against entrenched thought about the roles and expectations of African American workers in the workplace. This thinking was firmly rooted in the minds of both whites and many African Americans on the shipyard. In fact, they sometimes had as much resistance from reluctant and fearful African Americans as they had from whites. Many workers, both white and Black, had come from the South, where such discrimination was the norm. On both sides, they were accustomed to and accepted things such as tiered pay and lack of promotions.

Organizing was hard and dangerous. If their actions had become known to the leadership at Mare Island, they may have been summarily fired. The struggle was long. Things had been building for many years but the actual organizing, once started, still took several months of intensive effort on the part of Long and the other leaders. When possible, they talked in the shops and on the ships and submarines while working, and on breaks. Some of them carpooled from Richmond, Berkeley and Oakland, and they talked and schemed along the way. Some patronized the same barber shops, such as Grier's in North Richmond and talked and schemed there. They held secret meetings after work.

Long was dedicated to the cause, fearless and relentless. Many workers feared losing their jobs, but Archon Sloan vividly recounts Long's saying "if the people down South are willing to risk their lives, I am

willing to risk losing this little job." That statement inspired all who heard it. Over the years after the filing of the complaint, progress was made, but, as the reader will discover, challenges remained when the shipyard closed in 1996. The leadership at the shipyard never admitted to discrimination, although changes were made. Everything was blamed on misunderstandings, but there was no misunderstanding for the men when John Edmondson, who had worked there for thirty years and was considered to be the best pipefitter out of 700, could not be promoted to supervisor. There was no misunderstanding when some of the men were paid \$3 an hour for the same work for which whites were paid \$4.

Ironically, some of the people who refused to sign with the group, or even join, received some of the best promotions. They owed the men who signed the complaint. One of the men who did sign, Louis Greer, called the nonsigners apple catchers, who would not shake the tree but would run to catch the apples after the signers shook it. What started at Mare Island and then spread was a move to address discrimination in hiring, training, promotions and equal pay – a move that had been building over the years but boiled over in 1961. Ultimately, the actions that were taken, as well as this book, are not just about discrimination. They are about courage and dedication to the greater good, as is pointed out by late Richmond resident Leonard McNeal, who wrote the foreword to the book.

What was done was not done with the purpose of integration or socializing with whites, either. It was done for overall fairness and opportunities for African Americans, then and in the future. Nothing more, nothing less. Why the story? According to Archon Sloan, "An old African proverb states that when an elder dies, a library is burned. When I die, I want at least a part of my library to stand, so that the story of Willie Long and the men who followed him will be told forever." *Standing Tall* is an attempt to tell that story.

Standing Tall is available online at Bookshop.org, www.bookshop.org, with 10 percent of the proceeds going to Marcus Book Store of Oakland, an African American-owned independent bookshop. It is also available at Arcadia Publishing, www.arcadiapublishing.com, and Amazon at www.amazon.com.

CORRECTIONS

THE BOULÉ JOURNAL, Volume 87, Number 3, Fall 2023 • The New Archons • Page 86

The photographs of two new Archons – William L Chapman, Jr., and James A. Johnson II – as part of the article, “Beta Eta Boulé Inducts Seven Men,” were incorrect. The correct photographs appear here.

Beta Eta Boulé Inducts Seven Men



ARCHON WILLIAM L. CHAPMAN, JR.



ARCHON JOEL V. COPPADGE



ARCHON TARIK J. HASKINS



ARCHON JAMES A. JOHNSON II



ARCHON MINION K.C. MORRISON



ARCHON MICHAEL L. VAUGHAN



ARCHON CHRISTOPHER A. WOMACK

THE BOULÉ JOURNAL, Volume 87, Number 3, Fall 2023 • Family Circle • Page 144

The wrong member boulé affiliation of Archon Kevin D. Wright and Archousa Felicia Wright was mentioned as part of the article on Daryl A. Wright. The correct member boulé affiliation for the Wrights is Beta Mu Boulé in Suburban Maryland.



Daryl A. Wright

As the rays of success shine upon the remarkable achievements of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health’s class of 2023, there is one who stands out, radiating brilliance and dedication in public health. We celebrate the extraordinary journey of Daryl A. Wright, daughter of Archon Kevin D. Wright and Archousa Felicia Wright of Suburban Maryland’s Beta Mu Boulé, whose accomplishments have not only earned her an M.P.H. in May 2023, but an induction into Columbia University’s chapter of the prestigious Delta Omega Honor Society.

FAMILY CIRCLE



Jennifer Jones Austin

Archousa Jennifer Jones Austin, wife of New York City's Zeta Boulé Archon Shawn V. Austin, received the 2023 Wyatt Tee Walker Social Justice Award from the National Action Network during the organization's annual Keepers of the Dream gala on April 12, 2023. Archousa Austin also received an honorary doctorate from Fordham University on May 20, 2023. Archousa Austin, a 1993 graduate of the Fordham University School of Law, is CEO and executive director of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies.



Halle Bailey

On May 26, 2023, Halle Bailey, granddaughter of Archon Richard Singleton and Archousa Jerri Singleton of Orangeburg, South Carolina's Delta Chi Boulé, hit the box office with her starring role as Ariel in Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. The movie has grossed more than \$465 million worldwide. Halle is not only an actress, but also part of a singing duo with her sister Chloe Bailey.



Chanza Baytop

Archon Allen Baytop of Alpha Pi Boulé in San Diego, California, is proud to announce that in February 2023 his daughter Chanza Baytop, M.P.H., Dr.P.H., was promoted to vice president at Westat. Baytop became the second African American vice president at the company and the only African American woman vice president. Her expertise is in reducing health disparities in health system settings and has worked on projects around the world with multifaceted teams.



Brandon Belford

In June 2023 Brandon Belford, son of Archon Tom D. Belford, Jr., and Archousa Linda Belford of Flint, Michigan's Gamma Delta Boulé, was named chief commercial officer of Applegreen Electric, an international company dedicated to designing and operating networks of electric vehicle charging stations. Brandon brings more than two decades of experience to his new role at Applegreen Electric, including senior positions in the White House and as chief of staff at Lyft. In this role Brandon will seek out and solidify relationships with strategic partners and policymakers.





Ingrid Bynum

Archousa Ingrid Bynum, wife of Archon Ken Bynum of Beta Nu Boulé in Northern Virginia, was crowned Mrs. Virginia in June 2023. One of her passions is student literacy and increasing funding for literacy, which she promoted while participating in the Mrs. Virginia pageant. A school principal in northern Virginia for K–8, Archousa Bynum previously won the Alexandria City Public Schools Principal of the Year award, while leading the most diverse school in the district. She competed in the Mrs. America pageant in Las Vegas in August 2023.



Taylor Cross

Taylor Cross, daughter of Archon Don Cross and Archousa Maria Cross of Epsilon Chi Boulé in Colorado Springs, began a judicial clerkship at the United States District Court for the District of Maryland in October 2023 after one year at a New York City law firm. Taylor is a 2022 graduate of the George Washington University Law School and member of the New York Bar. She was recently admitted to the Southern District of New York.



Noah Alexander Elliott

Noah Alexander Elliott, son of Archon Marques A. Elliott and Archousa Rosalie Elliott of Gamma Alpha Boulé, Tucson, Arizona, was inducted into the National Junior Honors Society at his junior high school in June 2023. He is also a member of the first Black Student Union Club at his school, plays basketball and is co-CEO of Noah Elliott Media, LLC, along with his father. Offering video, audio, production engineering and drone video services, the company has local clients and produced the hype video for the 2023 Pacific Region Boulé, hosted by Xi in Los Angeles. The video is available on BLuE.



Claire Elise Gary

Claire Elise Gary – daughter of Archon Brian C. Gary and Archousa Helen G. Gary and granddaughter of late Archon Robert C. Gordon and late Archousa Catherine M. Gordon, all of Phi Boulé, Montgomery–Tuskegee, Alabama – has committed to attend The University of Chicago. Claire, who made the decision to attend UChicago in June 2023, attended the Montgomery Academy, where she graduated with a 4.9 GPA. At the age of 15, she scored a 34 on the ACT and became a National Merit Finalist her senior year.



Alexis Ivana Griffin

Alexis Ivana Griffin, daughter of Archon Greg Griffin and Archousa Debra Griffin of Phi Boulé, Montgomery–Tuskegee, Alabama, joined the Harvard Medical School faculty as a urogynecology fellow in June 2023. Griffin received her medical degree from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology from Tufts University School of Medicine. She plans to return to Montgomery with her husband and son upon the completion of her fellowship.



Desideria Hacker

On September 1, 2023, Archousa Desideria Hacker, wife of Archon Bruce Hacker of Beta Lambda Boulé (Norfolk–Hampton, Virginia), was appointed dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Norfolk State University. The School of Graduate Studies and Research administers the university's graduate programs in the School of Education, College of Liberal Arts, Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work, and College of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

Majella Chube Hamilton

On September 14, 2023, Archousa Majella Chube Hamilton, wife of Archon Herschell Hamilton, Jr., of Beta Kappa Boulé, Birmingham, Alabama, via the Ballard House Project, hosted internationally renowned author, political commentator and Princeton professor Eddie Glaude, Jr., for a book signing and presentation at the 16th Street Baptist Church, where a bombing killed four young girls in 1963. Along with her husband, Archousa Hamilton leads the nonprofit Ballard House Project, which is dedicated to documenting African American history and educating others.



Arana Hankin-Biggers

Entrepreneur Arana Hankin-Biggers, daughter of Archon Noel Hankin of New York City's Zeta Boulé, successfully launched her business, Union Square Travel Agency: A Cannabis Store, in New York City on February 13, 2023. The dispensary is doing well in this rapidly growing industry and is ahead of schedule for its earnings.



Laila B. Hishaw

Gamma Alpha Boulé of Tucson, Arizona, congratulates Archousa Laila B. Hishaw – who is married to Archon Alex Hishaw – on receiving the Mentor of the Year Award from the Arizona Dental Association in September 2023. A board-certified pediatric dentist in private practice, she is the founding partner of Tucson Smiles Pediatric Dentistry and is a champion for greater diversity and inclusion in dentistry. Archousa Hishaw founded Diversity in Dentistry Mentorships, a nonprofit committed to strengthening the diversity pathway from middle school to dental school.



Nicholas Hishaw

We are thrilled to announce that Nicholas Hishaw, son of Archon Alex Hishaw and Archousa Laila Hishaw, of Gamma Alpha Boulé, Tucson, Arizona, was elected and installed as the Far West Region teen vice president for Jack and Jill of America during the 69th Teen Leadership Conference, held in Sacramento, California, in June 2023. His passion for community service and exemplary leadership qualities earned him this well-deserved recognition.



Baron Hopson

Baron Hopson, son of Archon Derrick Jackson and Archousa CaMia Jackson of South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé, and a former standout linebacker from Jackson State University (JSU), has signed with the Kennesaw State University football program. He is pursuing a degree in civil engineering. Prior to transferring to Kennesaw State, which was effective in August 2023, Baron was personally recruited by Coach Deon Sanders to JSU. While there, he was named to JSU's dean's list each semester.



James Hopson

James Hopson, son of Archon Derrick Jackson and Archousa CaMia Jackson of South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé and a senior at Duke University, was voted basileus of the Omega Zeta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in May 2023. He is pursuing a degree in public policy and minoring in economics and African American studies. James received a full scholarship to Duke based on his achievements both on and off the football field, where he plays safety for the Duke Blue Devils football team.





John Blackshear Hopson

John Blackshear Hopson, son of Archon Derrick Jackson and Archousa CaMia Jackson of South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé, has been selected as a member of the freshman class at Morehouse College in Atlanta, beginning in fall 2023. John is pursuing a degree in art studies to further his career as an actor, model and fashion designer. John graduated from Sandy Creek High School in Tyrone, Georgia, and was recently featured as a model during New York Fashion Week 2023 for an up-and-coming fashion designer.



Brandon Huffman

Brandon Huffman, son of Archon Byron Huffman and the late Archousa Varanda Huffman of Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé, had a successful first season with the Bornova Belediyesi basketball club in Turkey this past season, which ended in May 2023. Brandon averaged 15.9 points per game and lead the league in rebounds and blocked shots with a total of 418 rebounds and 75 blocked shots. He was named league player of the week twice and was named to the All-American team.



Jerri Irby

Jerri Irby, daughter of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Jerry Jones and Archousa Rosella Jones, was named TriHealth's chief human resources officer in April 2023. Prior to accepting this role, Jerri served in multiple senior human resources roles in various industries, including most recently for the Mayo Clinic. Jerri earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Spelman College, a master's degree in industrial engineering from Georgia Tech and an M.B.A. from Stanford University.



Jonah Johnson

Jonah Johnson, son of Archon Frederick Johnson and Archousa Stephanie of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé, graduated from Swarthmore College in May 2023, earning a B.A. with an architectural studies special major. He is pursuing a master's degree at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. During his time at Swarthmore, Jonah was a member of the soccer team and named to the Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll.



Phoebe Johnson

Phoebe Johnson, daughter of New York City's Zeta Boulé Archon Joe Johnson, graduated from the Professional Performing Arts School in New York City on June 22, 2023. Now attending Emerson College in Boston, Phoebe is pursuing a major in creative writing and a minor in dance.



Kourtney D. Jones

In July 2023 Kourtney D. Jones, Esq., daughter of Archon Kurt Jones and Archousa Sharon Jones of Delta Pi Boulé, Pensacola, Florida, joined the Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson (BSW), LLP, law firm of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as an associate in environmental law. Established in 1928 with more than seventy lawyers, the BSW firm is one of Louisiana's oldest and largest law firms. Jones earned her juris doctorate from Southern University Law in 2022 after graduating from Spelman College cum laude.

Robert L.P. Knight

Robert L.P. Knight, son of Archon Samuel B. Knight, Sr., and Archousa Gail R. Knight of Alpha Pi Boulé, San Diego, California, completed his neuromusculoskeletal medicine residency at the Trinity Health Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine Residency Program in Muskegon, Michigan, in July 2023. Knight previously completed his family medicine residency program in 2022 at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Currently on the faculty at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Dublin, Knight plans to open his private practice in the very near future.



Zian Lane

On May 13, 2023, Zian Lane, the youngest daughter of Archon Fleenail Lane and Archousa Kathy Williams of Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Epsilon Gamma Boulé, graduated summa cum laude from Howard University's Cathy Hughes School of Communication. Zian is relocating to New York City to join the Creative Artist Agency in their Theatre Division.



Gail Lewis

Archon Phil Lewis of Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania's Zeta Delta Boulé was happy to support his Archousa, Gail Lewis, when her Go Forward Education Foundation (GFEF) hosted the White Tie Ball & Fundraiser for Scholarships at TPC (Tournament Players Club) Jasna Polana in Princeton, New Jersey, on June 30, 2023. Archousa Gail is the founder and president of GFEF, which aims to level the playing field by providing scholarships to K-12 students that enable them to move from low-performing to higher-quality schools.



Tiffany Mfume

Tiffany Mfume, Archousa to Sire Archon Kweisi Mfume, of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé, has been named associate vice provost for student success and retention initiatives at Johns Hopkins University, effective July 10, 2023. In this role Archousa Mfume will center her expertise on improving graduation rates and student retention at the university, while focusing on the needs of underrepresented, international and limited-income students. Archousa Mfume earned a bachelor's degree in biology, a master's degree in sociology and a doctoral degree in public health from Morgan State University.



Camille Stearns Miller

On August 23, 2023, Archousa Camille Stearns Miller, wife of Archon Daryl Miller of San Antonio's Gamma Phi Boulé, was selected by her peers as a *Best Lawyers* magazine 2024 Lawyer of the Year in the category of Labor Law - Management for Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. A member of Stewart Law Group, PLLC, Archousa Miller is a graduate of Howard University. She obtained her juris doctorate from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law.



Schery Mitchell-James

Archousa Schery Mitchell-James, wife of Archon Archie K. James of Gamma Epsilon Boulé, Sacramento, California, was interviewed by Fox News for medicine and music on July 2, 2023. Archousa Mitchell-James is a retired Kaiser pediatrician, vocalist and musician. She is quoted in the article, "It was previously thought that music was processed only in the right hemisphere of our brain along with other creative processes, such as art. But recent research has shown that processing music is distributed throughout the brain."





Ashley Oden

Ashley Oden, daughter of Immediate Past Sire Archon Walter Oden and Archousa Racquel Oden of New York City's Zeta Boulé, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania on May 15, 2023, with a B.A. in communications and a minor in Africana studies. Ashley will begin her career in the YouTube strategy group at Google in New York City.



Joi Camille Spaulding

Joi Camille Spaulding, daughter of Archon Charles E. Spaulding and Archousa Camille Spaulding of Delta Nu Boulé, Fairfield County, Connecticut, completed her residency on June 16, 2023, at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. Spaulding was cochief resident of her program and served as liaison between twenty-two family medicine residents and faculty. She also provided tailored medical care and education on diagnoses and treatment plans to clinic patients in Durham and the surrounding community.



Isabella Spencer

Isabella Spencer, daughter of Archon A. Benjamin Spencer and Archousa Marlette Spencer of Epsilon Psi Boulé, Charlottesville, Virginia, spent summer 2023 engaged in two work experiences connected to her aspirations to pursue a career in film and television. First, Isabella worked as a production assistant for Jai Jamison, a writer and filmmaker working in Hollywood, on his latest short film project. Second, Isabella served as an intern at Miles Ahead Entertainment, a woman- and minority-owned, global, multicultural agency.



Layla Spencer and Troy Spencer, Jr.

In July 2023 the USA Track & Field Junior Olympics were held at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon. Troy Spencer, Jr., and Layla Spencer, son and daughter of Archon Troy Spencer and Archousa Shavonne of Epsilon Omicron Boulé, North Houston, Texas, competed in the games. Troy competed in the 800m race in the 15-16 age group, where he finished 7th of 87 with his all-time personal best performance. Layla and her 4x400m relay team finished with a silver medal.



Mya Spencer

Mya Spencer, daughter of Archon A. Benjamin Spencer and Archousa Marlette Spencer of Epsilon Psi Boulé, Charlottesville, Virginia, was accepted as a member of the Scholars of Finance through its chapter at Spelman College effective September 2023. Scholars of Finance is an organization committed to ensuring that the finance leaders of the future have the utmost integrity and character. A sophomore at Spelman College majoring in economics with a minor in management and organization, Mya hopes to attend business school and become a finance professional and C-suite executive.



Deborah St. Lawrence Thompson

In April 2023 Deborah St. Lawrence Thompson, Archousa to Archon Craig Thompson of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé, was named as one of the Leadership in Law 2023 honorees. *The Daily Record* and the Maryland State Bar Association honor outstanding lawyers and judges annually through the Leaders in Law awards program. The award honors those in the legal field who perform outstanding work for their clients and communities across Maryland. Archousa Thompson is an attorney at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP.

Tristan Topps

On July 10, 2023, Tristan Topps, daughter of Phoenix's Gamma Mu Boulé Archon Lee Topps and Archousa Mary Topps, was named in *Automotive News's* 12th annual 40 under 40 category, which recognizes a group of talented leaders who are stars in the automotive retail industry. Tristan is the human resources manager for Penske Automotive Group, which has successfully advocated for the rights and benefits of Penske employees, including increasing their entry-level minimum wage.



Toni Townes-Whitley

Toni Townes-Whitley, daughter of Archon James McCall of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, was appointed CEO of Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC) in October 2023. A Fortune 500 technology company based in Reston, SAIC provides critical support services to the defense, federal civilian, space, health and intelligence sectors, with a focus on technology solutions. The company has an annual revenue exceeding \$6 billion and more than 24,000 employees.



Paulina Van

On June 28, 2023, the American Academy of Nursing announced that it will induct Archousa Paulina Van of Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé, as a distinguished nurse leader into the 2023 Class of Fellows. Archousa Van was recognized for her "substantial, sustained, and outstanding impact on health and health care" at the academy's annual Health Policy Conference on October 5–7, 2023, in Washington, D.C.



Briana Nicole Whitmore

Briana Nicole Whitmore, daughter of Archon Rodney Whitmore and Archousa Dawn Gaines Whitmore of Beta Nu Boulé in Northern Virginia, graduated from the George Washington University Law School with a juris doctor degree during a ceremony on May 21, 2023. Archousa Dayna Bowen Matthew of Epsilon Boulé, dean of the George Washington University Law School, conferred the degree. Briana began working in Washington, D.C., as an associate at Squire Patton Boggs, where she worked as a summer associate for the past two years.



Stacia Wilson

Archousa Stacia Wilson, wife of Archon Roderick L. Wilson of Phoenix's Gamma Mu Boulé, was appointed acting superintendent of the Tempe Union High School District in Tempe, Arizona. On August 9, 2023, the district's governing board voted 5-0 to appoint Archousa Wilson to the role of acting superintendent for the 2023–24 school year. Archousa Wilson has served the Tempe community as an educator for more than twenty-five years.



Thomasina Russell Wright

On June 1, 2023, Archousa Thomasina Russell Wright, wife of Archon Kenneth Wright of Beta Lambda Boulé, Norfolk-Hampton, Virginia, was promoted to vice president of Fleet Support Programs at Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS). A trailblazer in the shipbuilding industry, Archousa Wright received the Industry Career Achievement Award at the 36th Annual Black Engineer of Year Award Conference in February 2022. At NNS, she is the first African American in every leadership position in the company's 135-year history.



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THE MEMBER BOULÉS

Gamma Boulé Hosts Two Summertime Events



Summertime offers a chance to put a pause on business, and at Pinot's Palette in Ellicott City on July 7, 2023, twenty Archousai of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, spent the evening painting, sipping a little wine, listening to music for inspiration and simply enjoying one another's company. Archousa Tiffany Mfume organized the annual event, and, as it turns out, Gamma has some very talented artists.

Then on August 27, a beautiful afternoon, fifty-one Archons and Archousai in Orioles attire gathered in a suite at Oriole Park at Camden Yards to watch the American League East first-place leader, the Baltimore Orioles, take on the Colorado Rockies. The group enjoyed traditional ballpark fare, beverages and freshly popped popcorn. Deeper social connections were made, new relationships formed and mutual interests shared – a true opportunity to get to know the best of one another. Although the Orioles lost to the Rockies, they remained in first place, headed for the playoffs.

*Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé*

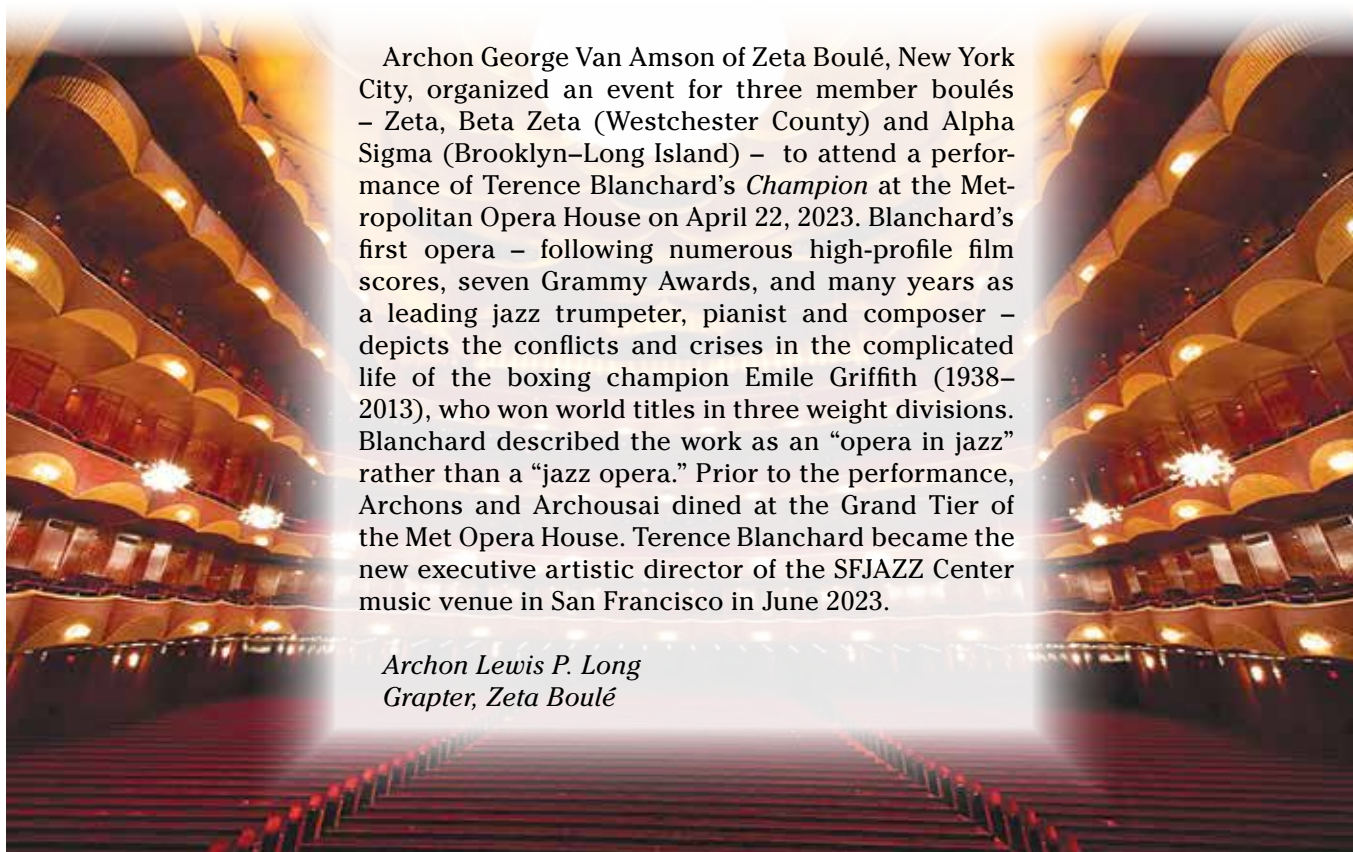


Zeta Boulé Organizes Evening at Metropolitan Opera House



Archon George Van Amson of Zeta Boulé, New York City, organized an event for three member boulés – Zeta, Beta Zeta (Westchester County) and Alpha Sigma (Brooklyn–Long Island) – to attend a performance of Terence Blanchard’s *Champion* at the Metropolitan Opera House on April 22, 2023. Blanchard’s first opera – following numerous high-profile film scores, seven Grammy Awards, and many years as a leading jazz trumpeter, pianist and composer – depicts the conflicts and crises in the complicated life of the boxing champion Emile Griffith (1938–2013), who won world titles in three weight divisions. Blanchard described the work as an “opera in jazz” rather than a “jazz opera.” Prior to the performance, Archons and Archousai dined at the Grand Tier of the Met Opera House. Terence Blanchard became the new executive artistic director of the SFJAZZ Center music venue in San Francisco in June 2023.

Archon Lewis P. Long
Grapter, Zeta Boulé



Upsilon Boulé Holds Summer Outing at a Mountaintop Mansion



ARCHOUSAI VALERIE JAMES, DOROTHY RHODES, ROZELLE “JENNE” WALKER, MAYOLA BOYKIN, EVA JONES, MINNIE JONES, EVA LEDBETTER, NANCY HICKS, KIMBERLY COUSINS AND LEAH GLOVER



ARCHONS GEOFFREY COUSINS, CHARLES RHODES, KELSEY JAMES, WILLIAM BOYKIN, ELLIOT HICKS, CHARLES LEDBETTER, MELVIN JONES, CHARLES JONES, CRAIG GLOVER, DERRICK GRANT AND ROBERT WALKER

After the COVID-19 hiatus, the annual summer outing of Upsilon Boulé, Charleston, West Virginia, resumed on August 6, 2023. Sire Archon Charles Rhodes had charged Archons Craig Glover and Derrick Grant with finding an appropriate location for the event, and they found a lovely 20,000-square-foot palatial mansion. Angela Mayfield, who served as the host, welcomed the Archousai, Archons and guests. The outing included tours of the mansion and grounds.

One special guest was Ericke S. Cage, the thirteenth president of West Virginia State University, who'd been unanimously selected for the position by the WVSU Board of Governors on March 31, 2022.

*Archon Ervin V. Griffin, Sr.
Grapter, Upsilon Boulé*



ARCHONS KELSEY JAMES AND GEOFFREY COUSINS CONGRATULATE ARCHON DERRICK GRANT (LEFT) FOR PLANNING A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER OUTING.



SIRE ARCHON CHARLES RHODES AND ARCHOUSA DOROTHY RHODES THANK ANGELA MAYFIELD (LEFT), WHO SERVED AS HOST.



Alpha Eta Boulé Hosts Book Signing for *I Am Debra Lee*



Archons, Archousai and distinguished guests of Alpha Eta Boulé, Indianapolis, attended a book signing and interview with Debra L. Lee, the author of *I Am Debra Lee*, at the Skyline Club on July 20, 2023. The event was organized by Archons John Hale III, Danny Portee and Michael Duff and Sire Archon Korlon Kilpatrick. Archon Portee served as host, and Archon Hale was the moderator and interviewer.

Debra Lee, former CEO and chairperson of BET Networks, who played a significant role in taking the company public, shared intimate details of her personal and professional life and spoke of the unique challenges Black women encounter as they climb the corporate ladder. Candid about her reproductive choices, her work relationships and their personal and professional impact on her career, she said that she wrote the memoir for her daughter and the current generation of young men and women so that they might learn from her experiences and be inspired to new heights.

She spoke of her father's expectations for her, which shaped her professional trajectory to becoming a cor-

porate CEO and a corporate board director, and she offered advice for young Black men and women that included distinguishing between mentors and sponsors as they strive for the next level of achievement, adding that current Black leaders should avail themselves as sponsors and have a positive influence on the careers of young Black professionals.

Lee also discussed the launch of the Monarchs Collective – a consulting firm that she founded, with its mission “to change the complexion of board rooms and leadership ranks” and to “onboard extraordinary Black talent and women to executive ranks and boards of directors.” An accomplished, sought-after board director who serves on the boards of several public companies, she tutors and mentors talented Black females regarding all aspects of corporate board service – from résumé writing to relationship building and handling interviews. Archons who read this book may profit by bringing these lessons to the Boulé's Blacks on Corporate Boards Committee. Corporate board service is one of the pathways to the economic empowerment of Black Americans.

Alpha Kappa Boulé Gathers for Midsummer Soirée



Archons, Archousai and guests of Alpha Kappa Boulé, Buffalo, gathered on July 15, 2023, for a summer soirée that was graciously hosted by Archon Raul Vazquez and his lovely Archousa, Toni Vazquez, at their beautiful Davinci estate. After fabulous hors d'oeuvres, scrumptious food, an endless variety of cocktails and make-your-own ice-cream sundaes,

everyone danced to spectacular music, fellowshiped and had the opportunity to enjoy the best of one another, spending a gorgeous afternoon by the pool and watching a special mermaid, the daughter of Sire Archon Stephen Clifford, as she cavorted in the pool.

Alpha Pi Boulé Plans Picnic in Mission Bay



The Archons of Alpha Pi Boulé, San Diego, closed out the 2023 summer season at the beautiful De Anza Cove Park in Mission Bay, joined by visitors from nearby Gamma Zeta Boulé (Pasadena) and Epsilon Tau Boulé (Inland Empire of Southern California). Sire Archon Ted Thomas welcomed and greeted the Archons, Archousai and guests. Immediate Past Sire

Archon Virgil Hillard and Archon Rodney Carey, who serve on the Alpha Pi special events committee, planned and coordinated the event.

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

Alpha Rho Boulé Attends Orange Blossom Classic



CONGRESSWOMAN FREDERICA WILSON AND ARCHON MYLES C. PISTORIUS (CENTER)

For the second consecutive year, Archons of Alpha Rho Boulé, Miami, Florida, and their families gathered on September 3, 2023, at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens to enjoy the Orange Blossom Classic, an annual football game between HBCUs. In its original incarnation (1933–78), the Orange Blossom Classic was the de facto national championship for HBCUs. Revived in 2021, this year's game, between Jackson State University and Florida A&M University, capped a week of festivities, including a career fair, golf tournament, parade, step show and battle of the bands.

Archon Myles C. Pistorius, senior vice president and general counsel of the Miami Dolphins and the Hard Rock Stadium, hosted the group, welcoming U.S. Congresswoman Frederica Wilson as she led students from her renowned mentoring program for at-risk young Black men to the field, where they unfurled a giant American flag during the singing of the national anthem before the game.

*Archon Myles C. Pistorius
Grapter, Alpha Rho Boulé*



STUDENTS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN WILSON'S 5000 ROLE MODELS OF EXCELLENCE MENTORING PROGRAM UNFURL THE AMERICAN FLAG.

Alpha Phi Boulé Hosts Event at African American Legacy Project



The change of seasons marks the time for the annual event hosted by Alpha Phi Boulé, Toledo. Traditionally, Archons from the Central Region get to know the best of one another in America's Glass City, enjoying great food and live entertainment. This year's event took place on September 4, 2023, as a white-attire party at the African American Legacy Project of Northwest Ohio, a museum founded in 2004 by Robert Smith, its president and CEO, offering collections and tours designed to preserve Toledo's history and stimulate the intellectual,

socioeconomic and participatory growth in African American communities.

"As Archons, our efforts to celebrate our history and memorialize the great contributions of our ancestors are consistent with the ideals of this great Fraternity," remarked Sire Archon Mallory Williams. Central Region Sire Archon Calvin Heard and Archousa Adrienne Heard offered greetings and all enjoyed a delightful brunch, entertained by the band Intuition with Lady K. The event chairmen, Archons Paul Hubbard and Thomas Winston, did an outstanding job.

Beta Alpha Boulé Celebrates Golden Anniversary With Gala Weekend



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...



FRONT ROW: GRAND SIRE ARCHON ANTOINE M. GARIBALDI, BETA ALPHA SIRE ARCHON KEVIN JOY, MAJOR CAVALIER JOHNSON AND CENTRAL REGION SIRE ARCHON CALVIN D. HEARD

The Archons, Archousai and guests of Beta Alpha Boulé, Milwaukee, celebrated the member boulé's golden anniversary on the weekend of August 11, 2023. The festivities included golf, a welcome reception and an Archousai brunch, culminating with a grand gala at the Milwaukee Art Museum that was accentuated by fireworks over Lake Michigan.

When 52 equals 50 – Owing to COVID-19 restrictions, the celebration took place fifty-two years after Beta Alpha's charter. One honored guest, founding Archon George Hughes, who traveled from Georgia with his wife, Archousa Evelyn Hughes, reflected on the genesis of Beta Alpha and the close connections the Archons, Archousai and families cultivated during the early years – a reminder of the incredible power of “getting to know the best of one another.”

Another guest, Archon Randle B. Pollard of Epsilon Psi, Southlake, Texas, shared his memories of his late father, Beta Alpha Archon Randall E. Pollard, who transitioned to Omega Boulé in October 2021, just months after the originally planned celebration. The event was graced by the presence of his wife, Archousa Mildred “Micki” Pollard, and many Pollard family members and friends.

The Fraternity and community came out in force to celebrate this important occasion. Beta Alpha had the pleasure and honor of hosting Grand Sire Archon

Antoine M. Garibaldi and Archousa Carol Garibaldi, Central Region Sire Archon Calvin D. Heard and Archousa Adrienne Heard, and Milwaukee mayor Cavalier Johnson and his wife, Dominique Johnson.

Young stars within the Beta Alpha family were not left out of the festivities. The Friday evening welcome reception displayed the artistic talents of Anwar Floyd-Priutt (son of Archon Eugene Pruitt and Archousa Charlotte Floyd-Pruitt) and Jillian Joy (daughter of Sire Archon Kevin Joy and Archousa Susan Joy). Their distinctive forms of expression provided the perfect backdrop for an entertaining evening. In addition, local scholars from four Milwaukee area schools joined in as well. The young men seized the opportunity to engage with leaders in the community and the broader Boulé family.

Sire Archon Joy captured the essence of the occasion: “Since its founding in 1971, Beta Alpha has consistently worked to uplift Blacks in the community through individual and group efforts.” Those efforts were on full display as we celebrated the Boulé community past and present for contributions within the Milwaukee community and beyond.

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

Beta Epsilon Boulé Assembles at Summer Fun Event



On the beautiful summer evening of August 5, 2023, Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, hosted its annual Summer Fun event at the exquisite Lake Jeanette Marina. Archons, Archousai and their families enjoyed a fabulous catered meal and craft cocktails. The event began with a welcome from social committee chair Archon Hugh Holston, who introduced the committee members, and Sire Archon-Elect Donison Willis saluted the Archousai, summarized Beta Epsilon's recent activities and reintroduced the Archons who'd been inducted into Beta Epsilon on May 6, 2023.

The extraordinary affair featured the live jazz and R&B stylings of the dexterous guitarist and talented vocalist Johnnie Woodard. The evening concluded with festive pontoon rides on the glimmering lake and engaging conversation as all continued to get to know the best of one another.

*Archon Frankie T. Jones, Jr.
Grapter, Beta Epsilon Boulé*



Beta Zeta Boulé Hosts Leadership Panel on Martha's Vineyard



Beta Zeta Boulé, Westchester County, New York, hosted a panel discussion on leadership on August 16, 2023. The event took place on Martha's Vineyard at the home of Archon Kevin Chavers of Zeta Boulé, New York City. Panelists included Archon Alvin Bragg, Manhattan district attorney; Archousa Racquel Oden, head of wealth and personal banking at HSBC; and Archon Josef Sorett, dean of Columbia College of Columbia University. The panel was moderated by Northeast Region Sire Archon-Elect Gregg Walker, managing director at Muller & Monroe Asset Management.

*Archon A. Keith Gordon
Grapter, Beta Zeta Boulé*

Beta Mu Boulé Gets Together for Summer Fellowship



For the Archons and Archousai of Beta Mu Boulé, Suburban Maryland, the summer season offers an opportunity for spreading love and cheer and just having a good time. This year the annual summer social was hosted by Archon Clay Goldsborough on July 22, 2023, at his residence.

*Archon Daniel T. Richardson
Grapter, Beta Mu Boulé*

Beta Nu Boulé Holds Napa Valley–Style Garden Party



The Archons and Archousai of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, enjoyed an amazing opportunity to continue getting to know the best of one another at a garden party hosted by Archon Reginald Brown and Archousa Tiffeny Sanchez at their home in Alexandria on July 16, 2023. The hosts, both wine lovers, introduced attendees to an impressive sampling of the fine wines of Napa Valley. While everyone dined on fresh seafood and other delicious cuisine, three of

the most prominent Black sommeliers from Washington, D.C., were on hand to answer questions and guide the guests in exploring the wine. Fine live music also flowed freely, everyone getting in the groove as they listened to the award-winning jazz vocalist Nicole Henry and her band.

*Archon Benjamin A. Dinkins
Grapter, Beta Nu Boulé*

Gamma Epsilon Boulé Gathers at Historic Mansion

Gamma Epsilon Boulé, Sacramento, California, held its summer event at the Julia Morgan House on August 19, 2023. Attended by more than fifty Archons, Archousai and invited guests, the event offered the outdoor luxury of mingling, a buffet-style dinner, and dancing in the beautifully landscaped grounds under a lovely sunset followed by a moonlit sky.

The historically significant mansion was designed in Mediterranean Revival style by Julia Morgan, California's first female architect, and was built for Charles Goethe, a Sacramento real estate mogul, philanthropist and eugenicist whose work was quoted by Adolf Hitler. Bequeathed to Sacramento State University, it is now available to rent for meetings and conferences.

Archon Charles Harvey gave the opening statement, which



SUMMER EVENT COMMITTEE AND GRAPTER ARCHIE K. JAMES

was followed by a prayer, and Sire Archon Jahmal Miller and Pacific Regional Sire Archon Michael Keeley offered additional remarks. Huge thanks to the event commit-

tee chairmen Archons Harvey, Ed Phillips and Jose Bodipo-Memba.

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

Gamma Phi Boulé Hosts 'Shades of Blue' Summer Social



The Archons and Archousai of Gamma Phi Boulé, San Antonio, enthusiastically reveled in one another's company in Texas fashion on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at Pedrotti's Northwind Ranch, with BBQ everything, comforting AC and the smooth sounds of the renowned BillyRay Sheppard Jazz Band. The theme for the occasion was "Shades of Blue" as Archons donned their casual yet distinctive blue sport shirts.

This year's summer social, which came before the recent rebound of COVID-19 precautions, offered the opportunity to enjoy the nearness of the Gamma Phi family, classy beverages, rich desserts and dancing until the late Texas sundown.

Archon William T. Burke III
Grapter, Gamma Phi Boulé

Delta Alpha Boulé Convenes Annual Chicago Cluster Picnic



In keeping with tradition, Delta Alpha Boulé, Northern Illinois, held its annual summer picnic for the Chicago cluster on August 13, 2023, in Highland Park. Those attending were members of Delta Alpha Boulé, Delta Sigma Boulé (South Suburban Chicago) and Beta Boulé (Chicago). For more than twenty-five years, family members, friends and Archousai and Archons of the three member boulés have gotten

together for some summertime fun. Among those present were Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III and Central Region Sire Archon Calvin Heard. All enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the best of one another.

Archon Herman S. Baskerville
Grapter, Delta Alpha Boulé

Delta Mu Boulé Supports Men's Health Foundation



DELTA MU ARCHONS CHARLES WILLIAMS, JOHN BARNETT, ROY BROOKS, JIM AUSTIN, KEN HAMPTON, GERALD ALLEY, MIKE HEISKELL, BILL SLATER AND VINCE ADAMS

The Archons of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, in support of a foundation created by one of their boulé brothers, turned out in force at a jazz brunch on September 7, 2023, at the historic Ashton Depot in Fort Worth. The Brooks Foundation, created by Archon Roy Charles Brooks, has held this event annually to support the foundation, which focuses on issues of men's health and on education regarding prostate cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

Archon Brooks has been in the forefront of health education for many years, using his platform as a Tarrant County Precinct 1 commissioner to highlight the issues.

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

Epsilon Iota Boulé Enjoys A Mid-Summer Night in White



With all attendees adorned in white attire, Epsilon Iota Boulé, Tulsa, held its annual "A Mid-Summer's Night in White" event in honor of the Archousai on July 29, 2023, on the thirtieth floor of the Summit Club, high above downtown Tulsa, with beautiful views of the city and the Arkansas River.

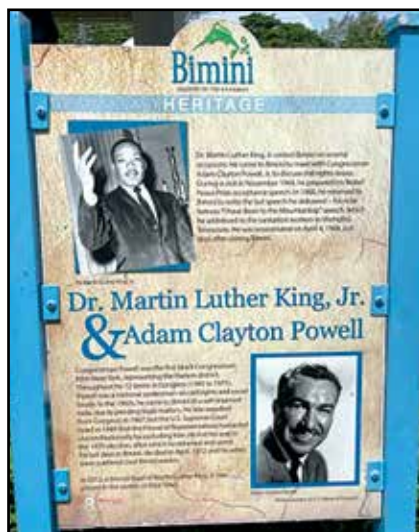
After social interaction, hors d'oeuvres, wine and cocktails, Sire Archon Calvin Moore presided over the gathering. Each Archon reflected on his life experiences and family matters, most importantly paying tribute to his Archousa. "A Mid-Summer's Night in White" was especially relevant this year, as it hasn't

been held since the summer of 2019 owing to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the need for social isolation.

After a delicious meal, each Archousa received delectable chocolate candies and a vase filled with a fresh summer bouquet. This annual celebration, an Epsilon Iota favorite, was especially enjoyed this year.

*Archon David W. Harris
Grapter, Epsilon Iota Boulé*

Epsilon Lambda, Alpha Rho and Delta Lambda Boulés Enjoy Bimini Soirée

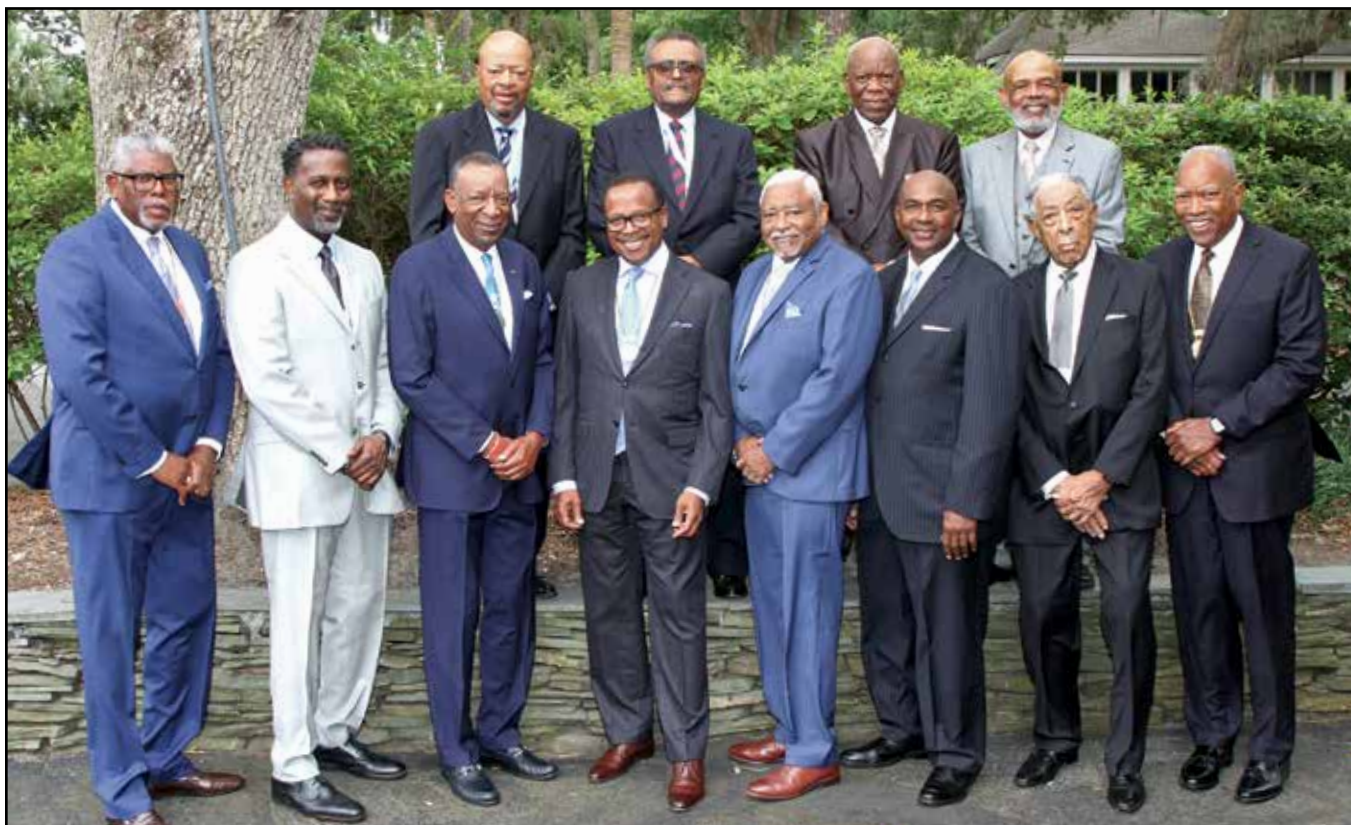


On June 17, 2023, Epsilon Lambda, Alpha Rho, and Delta Lambda boulés hosted their 2023 Summer Soirée at the Resorts World Bimini Beach Blue Lagoon in Bimini, The Bahamas. Archons, Archousai and guests enjoyed the stunning and luxurious private beach in Bimini surrounded by crystal-clear waters. They indulged in a mouth-watering feast of Bahamian delights during the day, while enjoying getting to know the best of one another. But the party did not end there! Those who were not ready to call it a day joined the Raft Up via yachts and took the party to the open seas. The afterparty was an unforgettable experience as all danced the night away under the stars, surrounded by the beauty of the Bahamian waters.

*Archon Gregory L. Williams
Grapter, Epsilon Lambda Boulé*



Grand Sire Archon-Elect Loren R. Douglass Attends **Epsilon Mu Boulé** Meeting



FRONT ROW: ARCHONS ERNEST “RAY” WERTS, MIGUEL THAMES, COLEMAN PETERSON, LOREN DOUGLASS, MELVIN JOHNSON, BENNETT GAINES, HENRY THOMPSON AND J. FRANKLIN LONG. BACK ROW: ARCHONS MILTON IRVIN, ERIC TURPIN, JIMMIE TATE AND ROBERT “BEAU” PATTERSON.

At their May 25, 2023, meeting, the Archons of Epsilon Mu Boulé, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, were delighted to host Grand Sire Archon-Elect Loren R. Douglass, who outlined his vision for the future of Sigma Pi Phi and described the progress made over the years. A Q&A period further reinforced the commitment that the Fraternity has for its organization, its members and the community.

Epsilon Mu had exciting news to share, as it was announced that Sire Archon-Elect Bennett Gaines was selected as Sigma Pi Phi's first executive director.

Sire Archon Melvin N. Johnson led a discussion on the Christmas festivities scheduled for December 1–3 on Hilton Head Island, which will be attended by five South Carolina member boulés – marking the first time these five will attend such a celebration.

The scholarship committee reviewed the progress of the current scholarship recipients and voted to offer one additional scholarship for 2023–24, bringing the total number awarded to four.



ARCHON BENNETT GAINES, GRAND SIRE ARCHON-ELECT LOREN DOUGLASS AND SIRE ARCHON MELVIN JOHNSON

Epsilon Phi Boulé Relishes in 'Summer Fun on the Bay'



Epsilon Phi Boulé, Prince George's County, Maryland, celebrated its annual summer soirée on August 27, 2023, at Archon Brunson Cooper and Archousa Tia Cooper's Pasadena beach house. The "Summer Fun on the Bay" event was a delightful evening filled with delicious food, signature cocktails, and lively and engaging conversation. As guests arrived, they were greeted by the cool summer breeze and stunning view of the Chesapeake Bay. The island-like venue was decorated with colorful flowers and dazzling lights, creating a festive atmosphere. Guests

mingled, enjoyed the food and drinks, shared stories about their summer adventures, and continued to get to know the best of one another.

As the sun began to set, guests moved to the fire pit to enjoy the warmth and watch the sunset. The view was breathtaking, and everyone was in awe of the beauty of nature. "Summer Fun on the Bay" was truly an unforgettable event.

*Archon Rodney Beverly
Grapter, Epsilon Phi Boulé*

THE REGIONAL BOULÉ

OFFICERS ELECTED AT TWENTY-FIFTH NORTHEAST REGIONAL BOULÉ

By Archon Donald C. Mullins, Jr., Grapter, Northeast Region



ARCHONS SHAUN NELMS, MICHAEL LYLES, DONALD MULLINS, DOUGLAS MELANCON, GREGORY WALKER, KELLY HOLLOWAY, DAVID TAPSCOTT AND ALFRED SPENCER (OUTGOING NORTHEAST REGION SIRE ARCHON)

More than 400 Archons and Archousai attended the twenty-fifth biennial Northeast Regional Boulé – “First State, First Fraternity, Inspiring Excellence” – held from September 14 to 17, 2023, and hosted by Beta Eta Boulé at Bally’s Dover Casino Resort in Dover, Delaware. Highlights included an evening of jazz featuring the pianist and composer Alex Bugnon, a golf tournament, and financial seminars hosted by sponsors JP Morgan Chase and AllianceBernstein. The Archousai lounge received high marks for its mixologist and massage therapists, and the outdoor area designated for cigar smoking was also a big hit! The meeting culminated with a black-tie gala on Saturday evening and a memorial service and farewell brunch on Sunday.

During the Saturday business meeting, officers for the upcoming biennium were elected. As is the custom, the Regional Rhetoricos and Regional Agogos were selected by lot. The regional officers for the current biennium are:

- **Sire Archon David Tapscott (Epsilon Zeta)**
- **Sire Archon-Elect Gregory Walker (Beta Zeta)**
- **Grammateus Kelly Holloway (Zeta)**
- **Thesauristes Douglas Melancon (Beta Zeta)**
- **Grapter Donald Mullins, Jr. (Mu)**
- **Rhetoricos Michael Lyles (Zeta Gamma)**
- **Agogos Shaun Nelms (Gamma Iota)**



PHOTO CREDIT: SHUTTERSTOCK

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

Through individual donations, Boulé members make the dream of a bachelor's degree a reality. Our recipients complete their degrees and go on to become some of America's top leaders, scholars and businessmen.

Our scholarship recipients have matriculated at some of the nation's top universities—Syracuse, Brown, Howard, Princeton, MIT and Morehouse.

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.

THE GRAND BOULÉ

*Know from whence you came.
If you know whence you came,
there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go.*
— James Baldwin



Well-Known Men of the Boulé

By Archon Douglas Bender, Chair, Grand History and Archives Committee

The Grand History and Archives Committee has been hard at work moving forward the initiatives we were commissioned to pursue by Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi at the beginning of this biennium. A personal commitment I embraced was to share something, anything I could in each BOULÉ JOURNAL edition that you might find interesting, educational and inspiring. We have been blessed with a pantheon of incredible members over the last one hundred-plus years – men of superior distinction who have bent the arc of history and many whose contributions to society and the Black community may never be fully known or appreciated.

Recently I was speaking with an Archon who shared that it might be useful to remind the newer members of some of those in our mystic circle of our storied past. Specifically, we should remind them and all of us of those on whose shoulders we stand. He was reacting excitedly to a comment I made regarding a couple of Archons who were active early in the life of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity with whom he was unfamiliar. Obviously, every member of the Fraternity is special in his own right and in his own way. That said, given his passionate suggestion, I wanted to share just a brief snippet on some of the gentlemen of the Boulé. As a cautionary note, the small number of profiles I have mentioned herein are clearly not meant to be all-inclu-

sive. I could probably feature a new cohort of Archons in each edition of THE BOULÉ JOURNAL for years to come and still not exhaust the membership list or the contributions each has rendered to the world. So I beg you not to be too critical of what's being shared here, as some future look at the great men of our organization will very likely include those not covered at this time.

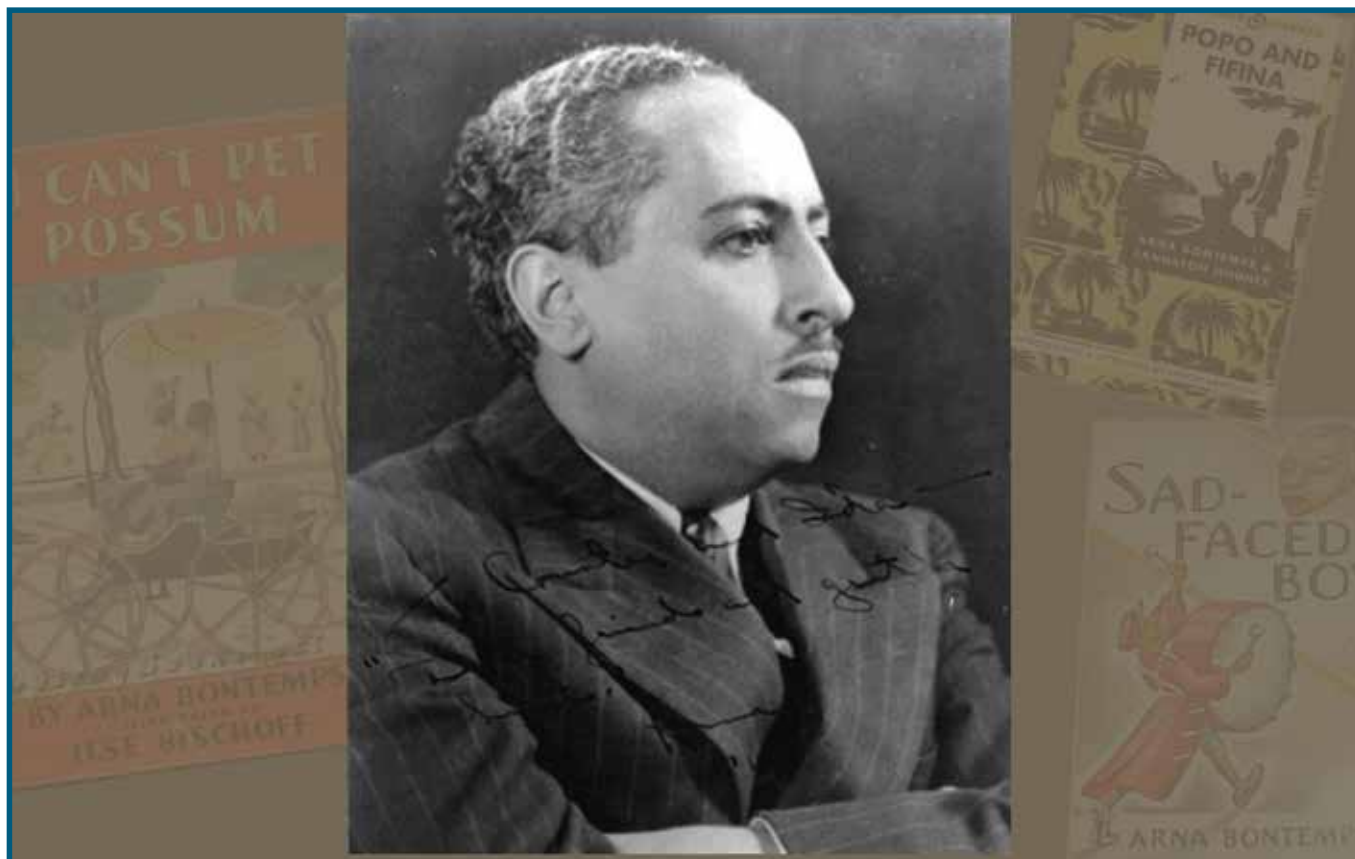
I would also point out that the members I highlight were active at some point during the Fraternity's first fifty years. This is intentional as many of you may be familiar with several Archons who made their respective extensive marks on history, but only in recent years. I wanted to share what might be some pleasant surprises – and to prick your conscious to reflect on the seriousness of your own presence in this august body.

As you all know, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (aka the Boulé) was founded in 1904 by six very remarkable men. In 1904 America was a rapidly growing and changing nation, marked by industrialization, urbanization and significant social and political developments. Many interesting developments were taking place in America at that time and during our first fifty years of existence.

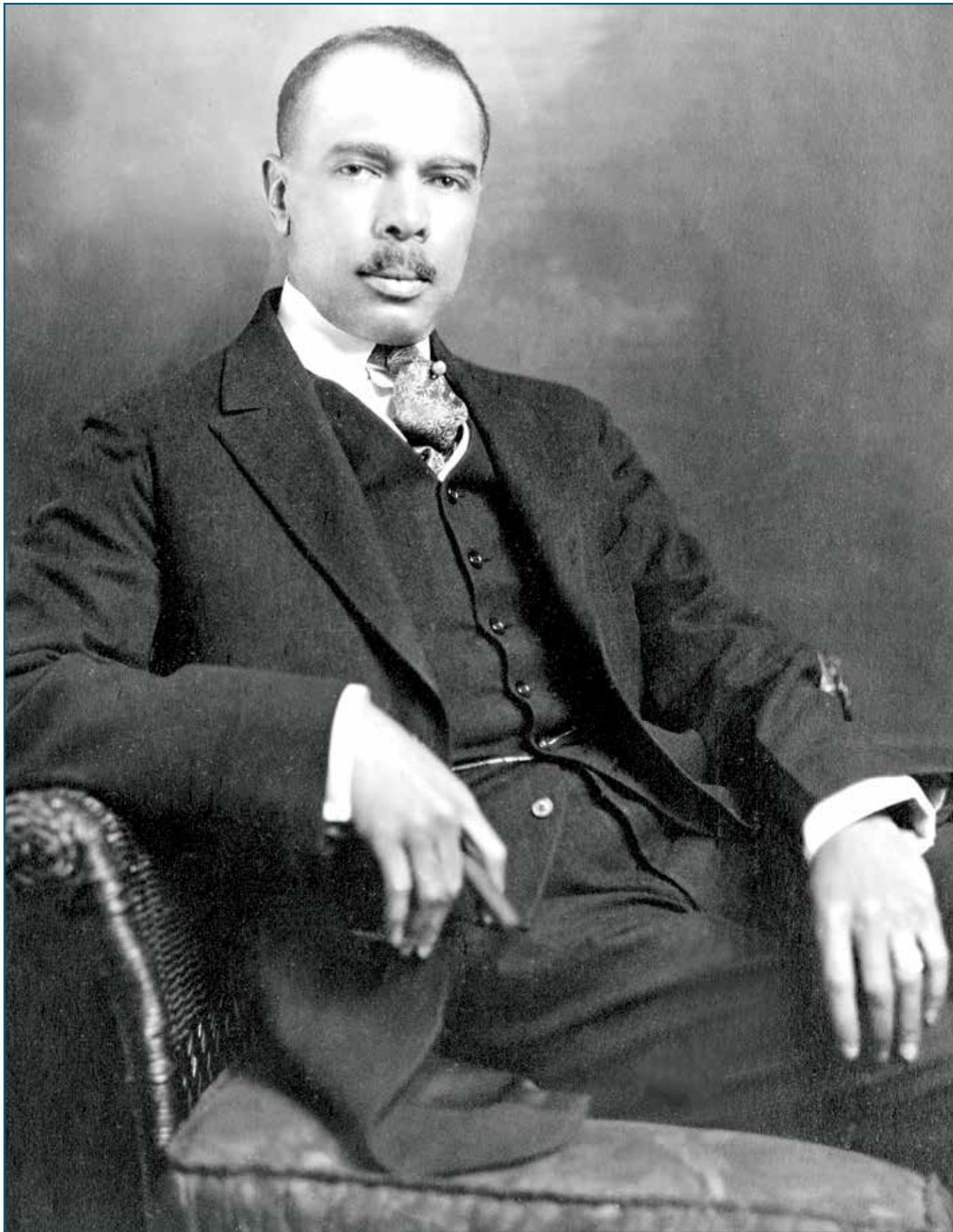
Following, for your information and inspiration, are some of the early great men of the Boulé:



W.E.B. DU BOIS — (ZETA, 1928) COFOUNDER OF THE NIAGARA MOVEMENT (1905) AND THE NAACP (1909); AUTHOR OF *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK* (1903); FIRST BLACK TO RECEIVE A PH.D. FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY (1895).



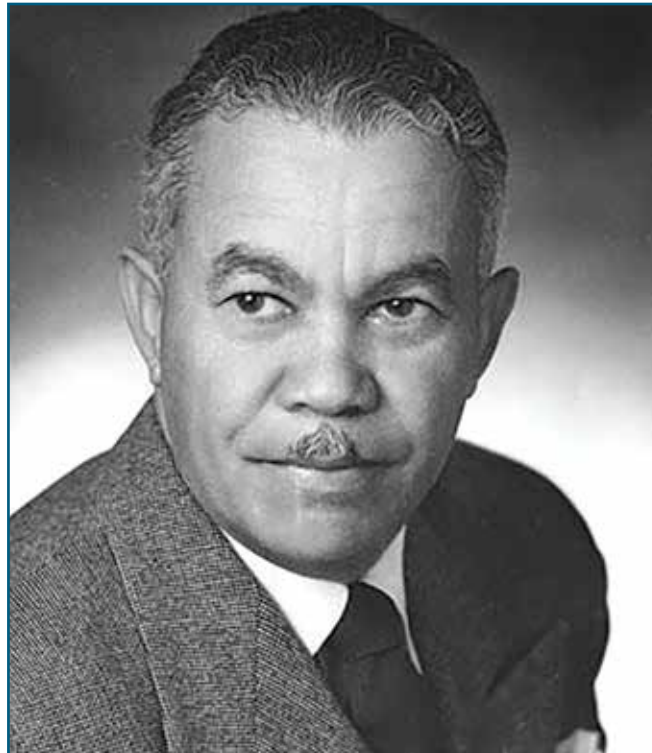
ARNA BONTEMPS — (CHI, PRIOR TO 1954) WAS NOTED MEMBER OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE (C.1918); EARNED TWO GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIPS (1951, 1956); WAS AUTHOR OF *GOD SENDS SUNDAY* (1931).



JAMES WELDON JOHNSON — (ZETA, 1913) AUTHOR OF “LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING” (1900); U.S. CONSUL TO PUERTO CABELLO IN VENEZUELA (1906); FIELD SECRETARY FOR THE NAACP (1916).



JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN — (ZETA, 1964) RECEIVED THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM (1995); HELD MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED HONORARY DOCTORATES; WAS PRESIDENT OF PHI BETA KAPPA (1973–76); PUBLISHED *FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM: A HISTORY OF NEGRO AMERICANS* (1947).



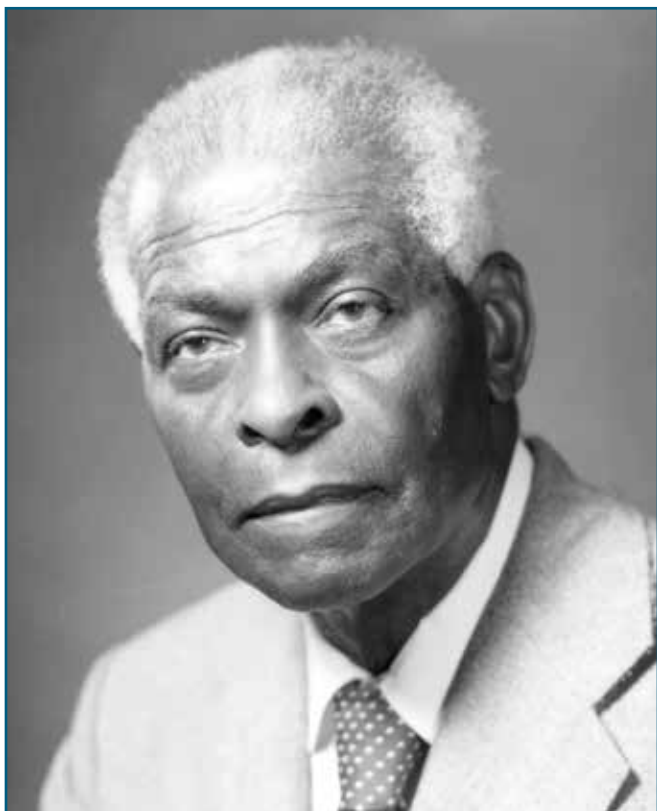
PAUL WILLIAMS — (XI, PRIOR TO 1962) FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS IN 1923 AND FIRST BLACK MEMBER TO BE INDUCTED INTO ITS COLLEGE OF FELLOWS IN 1957; NAACP SPINGARN MEDAL AWARDEE (1953).



CARTER G. WOODSON — (EPSILON, 1913) THE FATHER OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH; AUTHOR OF *THE MIS-EDUCATION OF THE NEGRO* (1933); FOUNDER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY IN 1915 AND *THE JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY*, NOW *THE JOURNAL OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY*, IN 1916.



JOHN BAXTER TAYLOR, JR. — (ALPHA, 1920'S) FIRST BLACK OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST (1908).



BENJAMIN MAYS — (KAPPA, 1953) WAS PRESIDENT OF MOREHOUSE COLLEGE (1940–67); HAD PORTRAIT COMMISSIONED IN THE GALLERY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE CHAMBERS (1981); INDUCTED INTO THE SOUTH CAROLINA HALL OF FAME (1984); AWARDED FORTY HONORARY DEGREES DURING HIS LIFETIME AND, AS OF FEBRUARY 2018, HAD RECEIVED FIFTY-SIX HONORARY DEGREES.



WALTER WHITE — (ZETA, PRIOR TO 1954) LED THE NAACP FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS (1929–55); WAS COFOUNDER OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE (C.1918); ADMITTED TO THE GEORGIA WRITERS HALL OF FAME (2009); AWARDED THE SPINGARN MEDAL (1937).

HARNESSING OUR POWER: THE BOULÉ ADDRESSES LACK OF DIVERSITY ON CORPORATE BOARDS

By Past Sire Archon Walter Oden, Zeta Boulé



PRIVATE EQUITY PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Despite increasing awareness of the need for greater diversity and inclusion in the workplace, many corporate boards in the United States still lack representation from underrepresented ethnic and racial groups. According to a 2020 study by the *Harvard Business Review*, the barriers blocking Black directors from joining boards include recruitment, onboarding, access to board leadership roles and board dynamics, in which Black directors report that their contributions are ignored or undermined.

To address this issue Sigma Pi Phi's Blacks on Corporate Boards Committee organized an event titled "Harnessing Our Power" on April 11, 2023, at JPMorgan Chase's headquarters in New York. The event aimed to demystify the process of securing board of director opportunities in private equity and share the opportunities within the ecosystem of advisory, C-suite and investment in the venture capital industry.

The event, chaired by Archon Earnie Ellison and Zeta Boulé's Immediate Past Sire Archon Walter Oden, was sponsored by Archousa Racquel Oden (managing director of JPMorgan Chase). In attendance were more than 150 Archons and Archousai, who participated in two powerhouse panels, an art exhibition and a reception. Archon Tracy Porter, chair of the

Blacks on Corporate Boards Committee and president of the National Football League Alumni Players Association, shared statistics highlighting the lack of diversity on corporate boards and the current trends. But he also highlighted the opportunities for the work the committee is doing to thwart the potential decline. Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi addressed the audience highlighting the importance of this work and emphasized his commitment to supporting the work of the committee and its mission to diversify corporate boards.

The first panel, "Private Equity Fireside Chat: Demystifying the Board Process," was moderated by Archon Dmitri Stockton, strategic adviser and investor at Pine Brook Partners and the Vistria Group. The panel featured newly minted president of Lazard Archon Ray McGuire, Blackstone's Archon Verdun Perry, and Archousa Pat Zollar, managing director of Neuberger Berman. Each panelist shared inspiring stories of their respective entries into the boardroom, as well as unvarnished pearls of wisdom for others to follow. Attendees in the medical profession were surprised to learn that private equity investment opportunities applied to them as well. Archon Stockton shared with the audience an anecdote of a physician who sold his multiclinic practice to a pri-



VENTURE CAPITAL PANEL PARTICIPANTS

vate equity fund and then proceeded to help the fund roll up more than one hundred additional clinics over the next few years, increasing his wealth significantly.

The second panel, “Venture Capital Panel: Investment, Advisory, C-Suite,” was focused on venture capital and was led by Richard Kerby (son-in-law of Archon Jim Hudgins), general partner with Equal Ventures. Kerby was assisted by Aaron Holiday, cofounder and managing partner at 645 Ventures; Bessie Watts (daughter of Archon Charles Watts, Jr.), executive director, external board of directors program, Vista Equity Partners; Nicholas Braithwaite, founding managing partner with VC Firm Celeste Capital; and Archousa Gena Ashe, chief legal officer and corporate secretary, Anterix, Inc. The audience was enthralled with the information flow, which was open and honest and focused on investment, advisory and C-suite opportunities.

“Board access is of critical importance to the Black community, and the Boulé will continue to provide opportunities for members to gain access,” said Archon Oden. By promoting diversity and inclusion on corporate boards, companies can benefit from a wide range of perspectives and experiences that can lead to more informed decision making, innovative ideas and improved financial performance. Studies have shown that diverse boards have higher returns on equity, lower stock price volatility and greater financial performance compared with boards that have less diversity. Additionally, having a diverse board can also improve a company’s reputation and help it attract top talent.

JPMorgan Chase also brought out managing director Darin Oduyoye, who shared the bank’s investment



ARCHON EARNIE ELLISON, ARCHON TRACY PORTER, ARCHOUSA RACQUEL ODEN, GRAND SIRE ARCHON ANTOINE GARIBALDI AND ARCHON WALTER ODEN

strategy around its Black art collection, which has been impressive. JPMorgan Chase was the title sponsor of the event, with Meta and Mitchell Titus serving as cosponsors. In conclusion, the “Harnessing Our Power” event organized by Sigma Pi Phi’s Black on Corporate Boards Committee was an inspiring and informative event that sought to address the lack of diversity on corporate boards. The event provided a platform for Black directors and executives to share their experiences and insights and demystify the process of securing board of director opportunities in private equity and venture capital backed private companies.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE HOSTS ITS SECOND YOUTH MENTORING SYMPOSIUM

By Archon E. Ron Kelley, Gamma Phi Boulé, Chair, Grand Boulé Education Committee



ARCHONS AND STUDENTS AT THE HISTORIC JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

After the tremendous success of the Grand Boulé Education Committee's inaugural mentoring symposium in Houston, Texas, there were immediate suggestions and requests to possibly take this innovative program to the vastly flourishing Dallas area. Upon further research, we decided that this was indeed a great second move for the program and that James Madison High School, a historic predominantly African American institution in inner-city Dallas, would be the ideal location for the second symposium.

The school selected its top African American male students to attend this comprehensive leadership and mentoring workshop. Archons from the four member boulés in the area were on-site mentors for the event. Archons from Alpha Epsilon Boulé in Dallas, Delta Mu Boulé in Fort Worth, Epsilon Pi Boulé in Southlake and Zeta Beta Boulé in North Dallas interacted masterfully with the students and shared their dynamic academic and career achievements. Archons in the fields of medicine, law, business, finance, the military and many other career fields provided valuable insight that truly sparked the interests of the young men in attendance. Former NFL player Archon Ray Mickens

of Epsilon Pi Boulé provided key insight regarding the professional sports world and the importance of education. Western Region Sire Archon Jesse Tyson traveled from Houston to attend and gave a powerful opening address that skillfully set the tone for the entire event.

The workshop portion of the event, led by Education Committee chair Archon E. Ron Kelley of Gamma Phi Boulé, consisted of college preparation techniques, career exploration, business etiquette tips and many other life topics pertaining to training for leadership and success. The event concluded with a luncheon for the students, which was provided by Alpha Epsilon Boulé. The tremendous success of these first two mentoring symposiums has made it clear that this methodology is the blueprint we should duplicate in every city where we have a member boulé. If your member boulé is interested in hosting a youth mentoring symposium in conjunction with the Education Committee at a school or college in your area, feel free to contact committee chair Archon E. Ron Kelley by email at ron.kelley@nationalmentoring.org.

IN MEMORIAM



Stephen Malone Brooks

Archon Stephen Malone Brooks, 72, of Beta Xi Boulé, Central Florida, passed away on July 2, 2023. Born on September 10, 1950, to Milton and Alta Brooks in Newport News, Virginia, he was inspired to pursue medicine by his father, a dentist and a graduate of Tuskegee Institute, who had also been a Tuskegee Airman. Listening to his father's stories, the young man developed a lifelong interest in Tuskegee Airman, Inc. (TAI), and continued his membership in TAI until his death.

His mother, a schoolteacher, inspired his academic success, teaching him to accept and excel in all academic challenges. His parents encouraged him to be well-rounded and supported his participation in several sports, and he played football, basketball and baseball during his youth. Unfortunately, his father died when he was 14 years old, and he lost his mother when he was 15. But he never lost the values they instilled in him.

After the death of his parents, he was embraced by Ernest and Hattie Sessions, close friends of his parents, who became his guardians. Ernest Sessions worked for the government and moved to California, while Hattie Sessions stayed



Emily Dupree Burnett

Surrounded by family members and friends, not long after her eighty-fifth birthday, Archousa Emily Dupree Burnett of Alpha Theta Boulé, Oklahoma City, was quietly called to her heavenly home on July 10, 2023, after a short but serious illness.

Born in Savannah on June 21, 1938, to Leroy and Alice Dupree, she graduated from Alfred E. Beach High School. Her humble devotion throughout her life guided her along the path of faith, fostering gratitude, humility and a strong belief in her Lord and Savior.

Married to Archon Willie H Burnett, Sr., for sixty-five years, she traveled with him for more than twenty-six of those years during his career in the U.S. Air Force, where he achieved the rank of senior chief master sergeant, the highest non-commissioned officer rank in the U.S. military services. Although she never wore a uniform, her unwavering commitment to her country and her community exemplified her spirit of patriotism and made an impact on the lives of countless military members, their spouses and their families.

Archousa Burnett dedicated herself wholeheartedly to charitable endeavors throughout the



Michael Perkins Johnson

After a courageous battle with cancer, Archon Michael Perkins Johnson, 77, of Beta Xi Boulé, Central Florida, died peacefully on July 12, 2023, at his home in Windermere, with his family by his side. He had been a member of Sigma Pi Phi since 1982 and served as Sire Archon of Epsilon Iota Boulé, Tulsa.

Born on June 21, 1947, in East St. Louis, Illinois, he attended Rock Junior High and East St. Louis High School, then earned a B.A. in business administration from North Carolina Central University in 1969, after which he began his professional career as a human resources trainee with the RCA Corp. He went on to graduate from the Advanced Executive Program of the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University.

After serving as a human resources executive at a number of companies, including Lockheed Martin (when it was Martin Marietta) and Amoco, he joined the Williams Companies, Inc., retiring in 2008 as senior vice president and chief administrative officer as well as chairman of the board of the Williams Foundation.

Archon Johnson was a board member of the Central Florida Foundation, an Orlando-based

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Annie Brown Kennedy

After living a life that was a testament to unwavering commitment to public service, justice and community involvement, Archousa Annie Brown Kennedy, 98, of Gamma Kappa Boulé, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, passed away on January 17, 2023. The matriarch of a family with strong connections to Sigma Pi Phi, she was preceded in death by her husband, Past Sire Archon Harold L. Kennedy, Jr., in 2005.

Born in Atlanta on October 13, 1924, the oldest of four children of the Reverend Mancy Brown and Mary Louise Brown, Archousa Kennedy attended segregated public schools, graduated from Spelman College in 1945 with a B.A. in economics and went on to earn her juris doctor degree from Howard University in 1951, becoming licensed to practice law in Georgia and North Carolina. After living in New York City, she moved to North Carolina with her husband and twin sons and began practicing in 1954, the second African American woman to practice law in Forsyth County.

She and Archon Kennedy created one of the first husband-wife law partnerships in the state and were eventually joined by their twin sons to form Kennedy, Kennedy, Kennedy and Kennedy LLP. One of the firm's most significant legal accomplishments was successfully

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Warner L. Pinchback

A pioneer who always stayed ahead of the curve in his profession, Archon Warner L. Pinchback, Jr., 74, of Phi Boulé, Montgomery-Tuskegee ("Pinch" to those who knew him well), a dedicated physician and beloved member of the community, passed away on May 25, 2023. Born to Warner Pinchback, Sr., and Clara Hughes Pinchback on July 14, 1948, in Danville, Virginia, his life was a testament to the power of education, hard work, dedication and love for one's family, church and community.

Archon Pinchback embarked on his educational journey at Langston High School, graduating in 1966, and went on to study civil engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg – where he played clarinet in the band – and biology at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he became a proud member of the Rho chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1968. After graduating in 1971, he pursued his deep-rooted passion for medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, where he met his future wife, Patricia "Pat" Turnbull, in 1972. They built a life founded on love, mutual respect and shared dreams.

His journey as a medical practitioner was nothing short of awe-inspiring. In 1979, after completing his orthopedic residency and fel-

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Stephen Malone Brooks, continued

in New Jersey with Archon Brooks while he completed the school year. The family soon reunited in California, where he completed his senior year of high school. He graduated from Stanford University, excelling academically and playing on the football team. Football highlights include winning the 1970 PAC-8 Conference championship and playing in the Rose Bowl. He earned his medical degree at Harvard Medical School and completed a residency in ophthalmology at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and he was encouraged to move to Orlando by Oscar Sistrunk, a dentist and family friend. Sistrunk and Archon Brooks' father initially met at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and had remained close friends throughout the years.

Moving to Orlando and starting his ophthalmology practice, Archon Brooks started his Christian journey there as a member of Shiloh Baptist Church. Later, he joined Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, where he served on the Feed the Homeless ministry. He also volunteered with Orbis's Flying Eye Hospital, a nonprofit organization that performed free eye surgery in underprivileged countries. Archon Brooks enjoyed volunteering, giving many surgical hours to patients who could not afford eye surgery. He said that "the gift of sight was the best gift" he could bestow on anyone. The last country he served in was the Philippines.

As his practice grew, he continued his love of sports. He was also an eye doctor for the Orlando Magic basketball team and developed a competitive tennis camaraderie with Reggie Theus, the current athletic director at Bethune-Cookman University. Archon Brooks loved tennis, but as he aged, he became an avid golfer. Tommy Dorsey taught him how to play the

game, and he won many trophies and awards, becoming a longtime board member of the Orlando Minority Youth Golf Association and a mentor to students who participated in the program.

He is survived by his life partner, Archousa Thelma J. Brooks; his daughter, Ashley P. Brooks; his son, Patrick Brooks; cousins Bruce Brooks, Allene McComb and Asa and David Cooper; and a host of relatives and friends.

Emily Dupree Burnett, continued

years at various military bases, and during her husband's retirement assignment at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, she was particularly active in the non-commissioned officers' wives' club and thrift shop. She offered her passionate support as a volunteer at the Tinker Chapel and the Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, where she sought respite and spiritual nourishment. Her home was a sanctuary of unwavering love for all who entered, and she found delight and fulfillment in her hobbies, particularly her cooking, which allowed her to express her creative spirit and share her love.

Her remarkable legacy lives on through her beloved and devoted husband, Archon Willie Burnett, Sr.; her daughter, Kathy D. (Hoover) McCoy, Jr.; her sons Willie H. (Carla) Burnett, Jr., and Joseph L. Burnett; cherished grandchildren Hoover C. (Analisa) McCoy III, Christopher L. McCoy, Simone N. (Tawanda) Mkanganwi and Willie H. Burnett III; great-grandchildren Cherish L. McCoy and Luca S. McCoy; and a host of other family members. Her legacy of love, self-sacrifice and dedication to family will continue to inspire and guide those who hold her memory dear.

Michael Perkins Johnson, continued

philanthropic nonprofit. Mark Brewer, the foundation's CEO and president, wrote, "Michael made a substantial impact during his time on our board, always offering poignant observations and steadfast advice, and, above all, keeping his community at the heart of everything. His legacy lives on through all of us as we continue the work he cared so deeply about. He will be greatly missed."

He was also a board member of the Metropolitan Orlando Urban League, the Orange County Branch of the NAACP, the Orlando Aviation Authority (now the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority), the Foundation for Tulsa Schools and the Tulsa Community College Foundation, and he was a trustee at Oklahoma State University-Tulsa and Bethune-Cookman University.

An alumnus of North Carolina Central University, he was vice chairman of its board of trustees until his death, and he donated \$500,000 to its business administration program – named the Michael P. Johnson Business Administration Program – in support of continued curriculum development, marketing and student recruitment efforts. "Trustee Johnson brought to the board invaluable business acumen and professional expertise," NCCU chancellor Johnson O. Akinleye said in a letter to the university's stakeholders. "He served diligently as a thought leader, strategic partner and champion on the board . . . The recent expansion in our campus infrastructure carries his distinct fingerprints and could not have happened without his engagement."

His many awards include the Oklahoma State University Inclusion Leadership Award, the Light Keeper's Award from the Tulsa Board of Education, the Tulsa Community College Vision Award, the 100 Black Men of Tulsa Community Service Award, the Oklahoma Jazz

Hall of Fame Community Excellence Award, the Oklahoma State University Community ICON Award, the Boy Scouts of America Whitney M. Young Award and Keeping the Dream Alive Award from the Martin Luther King Commemorative Society.

He is survived by his wife, Archousa Libby Moore Johnson, and his sons, Michael Johnson, Jr., and Paul Johnson. He dedicated himself to living a life marked by faith and courageous values driven by leadership.

Annie Brown Kennedy, continued

challenging the whites-only ordinance barring African Americans from using public golf courses and other recreational facilities in Greensboro.

During her highly decorated fifty-year career, Archousa Kennedy concentrated on criminal and civil litigation, employment, civil rights and family law. Her service to the community continued with her appointment to the North Carolina House of Representatives by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., in 1979. During her thirteen-year tenure, she represented Winston-Salem and parts of Forsyth County, chaired a number of key committees, including Courts and Justice, Judiciary, Labor and Ethics, and cosponsored family and medical leave bills in the legislature.

Perhaps what defined Archousa Kennedy most was her deep involvement in the Democratic Party, and in 1976 she became the first African American woman presidential elector in North Carolina. A delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984 and 1988, she was an organizing member of Forsyth County Democratic Women, serving as its president from 1970 to 1971. She also was honored by the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus as the inaugural recipient of the annual Annie Brown Kennedy Award in recogni-

tion of her many contributions to the citizens of North Carolina. She believed passionately in the party's principles, tirelessly advocating for policies that would lead to a fairer, more just society, particularly for women, children and minorities.

One of seven attorneys, and the first female, honored by the North Carolina Bar Association in 1992 for outstanding service to the profession and the public, in 1996 she became the first African American attorney inducted into the North Carolina Bar Association's General Practice Section Hall of Fame. She was a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the North Carolina Bar Association (past vice president), the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers, the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, the Forsyth County Bar Association (past president) and the Winston-Salem Bar Association.

In 2002 she received the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the highest honor given to a female lawyer in the United States by the American Bar Association. Inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame in 1992, she was honored with its Equal Justice Award two years later, and in 1998 she received the Wiley A. Branton Award, bestowed by the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs upon members of the legal community whose careers embody a deep, abiding commitment to civil rights and economic justice advocacy.

In 1995 she received the Founders Spirit Award from Spelman College for distinguished service in law and politics; in 1993 she received the Howard University Distinguished Alumni Award in law and politics; and in 1990 she received an honorary doctorate of humane letters degree from Winston-Salem State University.

In 1973 she was among ten organizers of the Forsyth Bank and Trust Company in Winston-Salem, serving on its board of directors and that of its successor bank, Southern National Bank, from 1973 to 1992. That became BB&T and is now Truist. She sat on the boards of the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development, the Winston-Salem Symphony, the Board of Visitors of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Clinical Research Practices Committee of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Bicentennial Commission.

A long-time member of the Moles and Mules social club, she was an active member of First Baptist Church for almost seventy years and a member of its board of trustees for eighteen years.

Archousa Kennedy is survived by her three sons, Gamma Kappa Archons Harold L. (Claudia) Kennedy III and Harvey L. (Pat) Kennedy, and Archon Michael Kennedy of Kappa Boulé, Atlanta, as well as other extended family members. She leaves behind a legacy of service, integrity and dedication that will continue to inspire those who knew her.

Warner L. Pinchback, continued

lowship, he moved his family to Montgomery, Alabama, where he opened Advanced Orthopedic Surgical Specialists, PC, a practice he would run for nearly forty years. Despite his many professional commitments, he never forgot the value of education, completing an MBA from Auburn University in 2002.

Archon Pinchback was the first Black orthopedic surgeon in Montgomery and the second African American orthopedic surgeon in Alabama. He introduced Montgomery surgeons to arthroscopic surgeries, which allowed them to see inside the knee, shoulder, hip,

wrist, ankle, spinal and elbow joints using a camera inserted through a small incision. He also performed the first posterior lumbar pedicle screw fixation, the first minimally invasive total knee surgery and the first computer navigation of the knee and spine. Prior to the summer of 2015 he was the only surgeon in Montgomery performing minimally invasive direct anterior hip reconstructive surgery. His patients remember him as a compassionate physician who cared deeply for their well-being and their smooth recovery.

A fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and the North American Spine Society, he was on the staff of all the major hospitals in Montgomery. A noted community leader, he was chairman of the Montgomery County Medical Society and a member of the Montgomery County Department of Health and the Capital City Medical Society, as well as the Montgomery Rotary Club, the Montgomery Community Foundation, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the First Baptist Church, where he was chairman of the trustee board and a devout member of the choir.

He leaves to mourn his passing his loving wife of nearly fifty years, Archousa Patricia Turnbull Pinchback; his three children: Tashwanda Pinchback (Robert) Dixon, Warner L. (Rebecca) Pinchback III and Wesley Pinchback; grandchildren Robert Dixon, Jr., Taliyah Dixon, Madeline Pinchback and Gabrielle Pinchback; and many extended family members and friends. He leaves a legacy of compassion, professionalism and outstanding medical care that will be remembered by all who knew him.

The Boulé Journal

ATTENTION ALL GRAPTERS!

EDITORIAL DEADLINES

All articles submitted for publication must cover events which have occurred no more than *three months* prior to the submission deadlines published below.
All photos submitted must be high resolution and excellent quality.

TO UPLOAD SUBMISSIONS GO TO: SIGMAPIPHI.ORG > ARCHON HOME > GRAPTER PORTAL

Summer 2024
Volume 88
Number 2

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
March 15, 2024

Fall 2024
Volume 88
Number 3

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
June 15, 2024

Winter 2024
Volume 88
Number 4

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
September 15, 2024

Spring 2025
Volume 89
Number 1

SUBMISSION DEADLINE*:
December 15, 2024

All articles documenting Christmas Is for the Archousai events must be submitted on the Grapter Portal by January 15, 2025.

All articles and photos must be uploaded to the Grapter Portal at sigmapiphi.org.

If your article appears without the image(s) you submitted, it means the image(s) did not comply with THE BOULÉ JOURNAL's best photo practices.

All photos must be high resolution and in focus, with good lighting and composition. For photographs of small groups and individuals, complete captions with first and last names must be provided.

The Grand Grapter and THE BOULÉ JOURNAL team thank you for your service to the Fraternity and for providing timely and dynamic content.

Grapter guidelines and full submission requirements are available at the Grapter Portal.



Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity

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