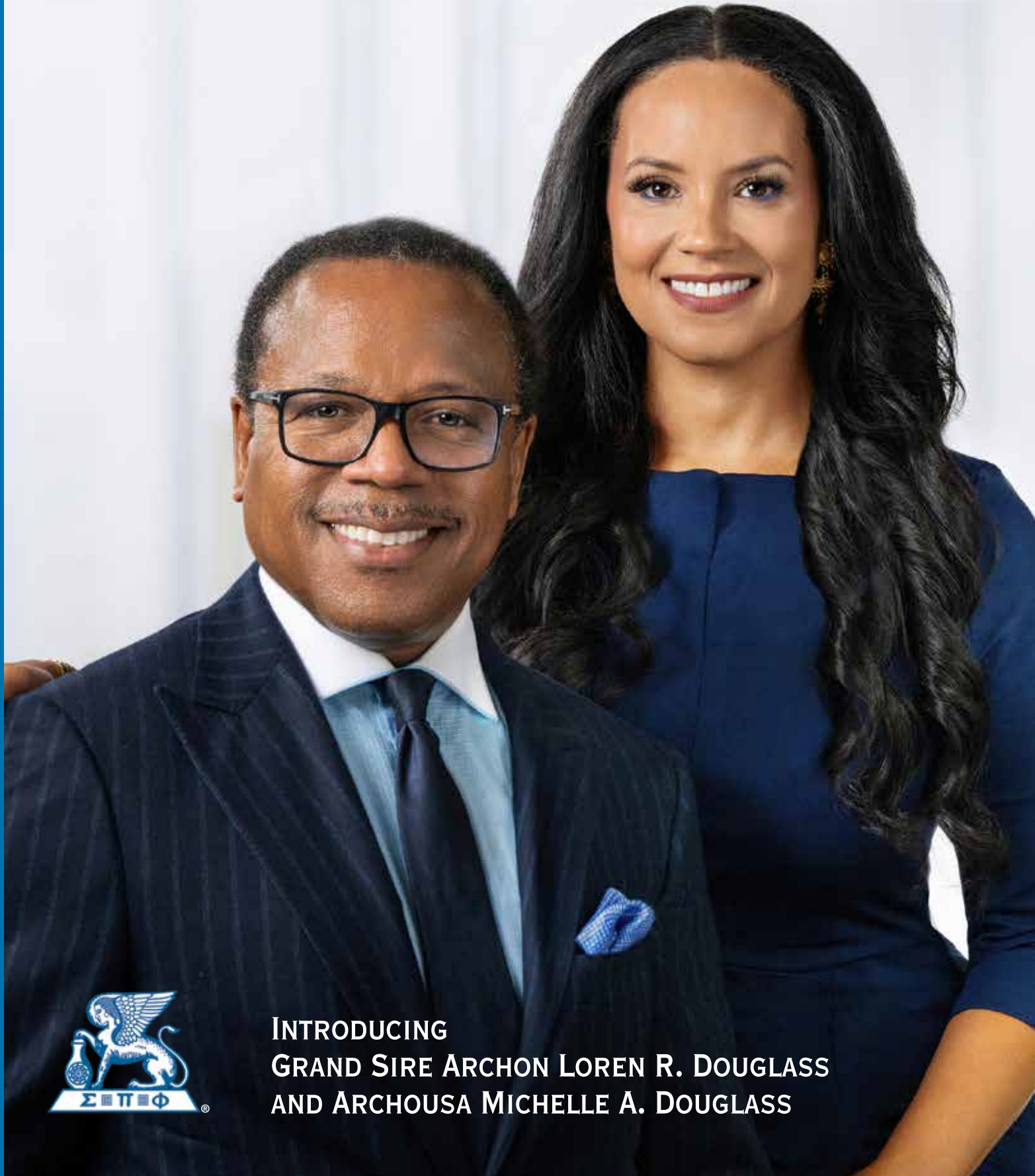


The Boulé Journal

SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY

VOLUME 88 / NUMBER 3 / FALL 2024



**INTRODUCING
GRAND SIRE ARCHON LOREN R. DOUGLASS
AND ARCHOUSA MICHELLE A. DOUGLASS**

A NEW CHAPTER FOR SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY: EMBRACING LEADERSHIP, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND ACTION

As Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity embarks on a new chapter following the recent Grand Officer elections, we stand at a pivotal moment for our organization and society. This complete leadership turnover within the Grand Boulé is not only an opportunity to reflect on past achievements, but a mandate to chart a forward-looking course. New leadership brings potential to invigorate our fraternity's influence and to encourage a renewed commitment to civic engagement, especially as we approach the consequential 2024 U.S. presidential election.

The Importance of Leadership Transitions

Leadership changes in Sigma Pi Phi are more than ceremonial; they symbolize renewal and the continued evolution of our mission. With each transition, we entrust new leaders to carry forward the core values of Sigma Pi Phi while adapting to meet today's challenges. This year's election marked a complete transformation at the highest levels, and the newly elected Grand Officers bring both experience and fresh perspectives, underscoring our dedication to excellence and service.

However, leadership is not just about representing the ideals of Sigma Pi Phi – it is about inspiring and guiding members toward action. Our fraternity's strength lies not only in the capabilities of its officers, but also in the unified efforts of all Archons and Archousai to support them.

Fraternal Organizations as Catalysts for Civic Engagement

Sigma Pi Phi has always been more than a social organization. It stands as a bastion for Black leadership and intellectual excellence, offering a platform to advocate for justice, equality and progress. As we navigate political polarization and social unrest, the need for engaged and active participation in civic life has never been greater.

Our leadership transition offers a renewed opportunity for Sigma Pi Phi to assert its influence in key policy conversations. Whether addressing issues

like education reform, economic empowerment or criminal justice, we must leverage our collective strength to address the challenges directly affecting our communities.

Seizing the Moment: The 2024 Presidential Election

The upcoming 2024 U.S. presidential election will be one of the most defining moments in modern history. As an organization that prides itself on being a quiet yet powerful force for change, Sigma Pi Phi must rise to the occasion. We cannot afford to be passive observers at a time that demands active participation.

Our fraternity's mission calls us to be thinkers, scholars and advocates. The Grand Officers and all members must encourage engagement – whether through direct political involvement, community organizing or individual efforts to mobilize voters. Every action counts. This election will shape key policies on racial justice, economic inequality and civil rights for years to come. Sigma Pi Phi, as a fraternity representing Black excellence, has a moral obligation to make its voice heard during this critical time.

A Call to Action

As we move forward under new leadership, we must commit to upholding the values that define Sigma Pi Phi: service, integrity and leadership. Together, we can support our Grand Officers and play an active role in shaping the future of our fraternity and communities.

The time for passive observation is over. It is time for action. Let Sigma Pi Phi's leadership be a catalyst for deeper, more meaningful civic engagement. By working together, we can ensure that our fraternity remains a powerful force for positive change, both within our ranks and across society. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we "seize the future" and take our rightful place as leaders in the pursuit of justice, equity and progress.



ARCHON JERLANDO F. L. JACKSON
GRAND GRAPIER

The Boulé Journal

ESTABLISHED 1912

The Boulé Journal for iPad/Android

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF

SIGMA PI PHI® FRATERNITY

Volume 88, Number 3, Fall 2024

GRAND BOARD 2024–26

Loren R. Douglass (Zeta)
Grand Sire Archon

Jesse J. Tyson (Epsilon Omicron)
Grand Sire Archon–Elect

Darrell B. Searcy (Epsilon Lambda)
Grand Grammateus

Derrick A. Roman (Iota)
Grand Thesauristes

Jerlando F. L. Jackson (Iota)
Grand Grapier

Stefan M. Bradley (Beta Sigma)
Grand Rhetoricos

Abraham J. Turner (Epsilon Alpha)
Grand Agogos

Antoine M. Garibaldi (Iota)
Immediate Past Grand Sire Archon

Anthony W. Hall, Jr. (Nu)
Chairman, the Boulé Foundation

Calvin D. Heard (Sigma)
Sire Archon, Central Region

David C. Tapscott (Epsilon Zeta)
Sire Archon, Northeast Region

Kanahl R. Kendrick (Gamma Chi)
Sire Archon, Pacific Region

James A. Welch (Delta Upsilon)
Sire Archon, Southeast Region

Askia B. Ahmad (Alpha Nu)
Sire Archon, Western Region

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bennett L. Gaines (Kappa)

REGIONAL GRAPTERS

John M. Williams (Beta Rho)
Grapier, Central Region

Donald C. Mullins, Jr. (Mu)
Grapier, Northeast Region

Karl E. Gentles (Gamma Mu)
Grapier, Pacific Region

Robert K. Belton, Jr. (Chi)
Grapier, Southeast Region

Kevin D. Covington (Theta)
Grapier, Western Region

THE BOULÉ JOURNAL PRODUCTION TEAM

CONTENT AND EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Cynthia Weidner

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Carol Mittelsdorf

COPY EDITORS
Charlotte Wiggers, Maxine Bartow, Teresa Ridley,
Courtney Bowling and Alexandra Hrankowskyj

DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER
Robert Macchi

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
Fred Weidner & Daughter Printers
New York City

THE BOULÉ JOURNAL would not exist without the generous contributions and ongoing support of regional and member boulé Grapters, who supply a constant stream of news and opinions on Archons, Archousai, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and the world.



ARCHON WILLIAM ALEXANDER LAWSON
1928 – 2024

“If there’s anything that I’d like for my legacy to be, it is for the different cultures of humankind to get to know each other, to respect each other and, if possible, to love each other.”



CONTENTS

The Editor's Page

5 Cover Story

57th Grand Boulé • San Diego

35 Features

The Boulé Beyond:

A Case for Evolutionary Change

For a Time Such as This: Leveraging
Boulé Power, Purpose and Program
to Transform America Through
Political and Economic Empowerment

Alpha Boulé Commemorates 120th
Anniversary of Sigma Pi Phi: The
First Member Boulé Convenes Four
Days of Outstanding Events

The Founding and Enduring Influence
of Sigma Boulé

Questions About Age and Membership
in Our Fraternity

William A. Lawson: Honoring an Icon for
a Legacy of Civil Rights Leadership

Pushing Back on State-Imposed DEI Bans
Black Leaders Release Affirmative Action
Stigma

Leadership Excellence: Navigating
Change and Inspiring Growth in
Sigma Pi Phi

Reclaiming Black Colleges

71 Forum



75 On the Social Action Front

113 The New Archons

Epsilon Boulé
Tau Boulé
Alpha Alpha Boulé
Beta Tau Boulé
Delta Alpha Boulé
Delta Kappa Boulé
Delta Xi Boulé
Delta Tau Boulé
Delta Upsilon Boulé
Delta Chi Boulé
Epsilon Zeta Boulé

135 Kudos and Commendations

159 Book Reviews

163 Family Circle

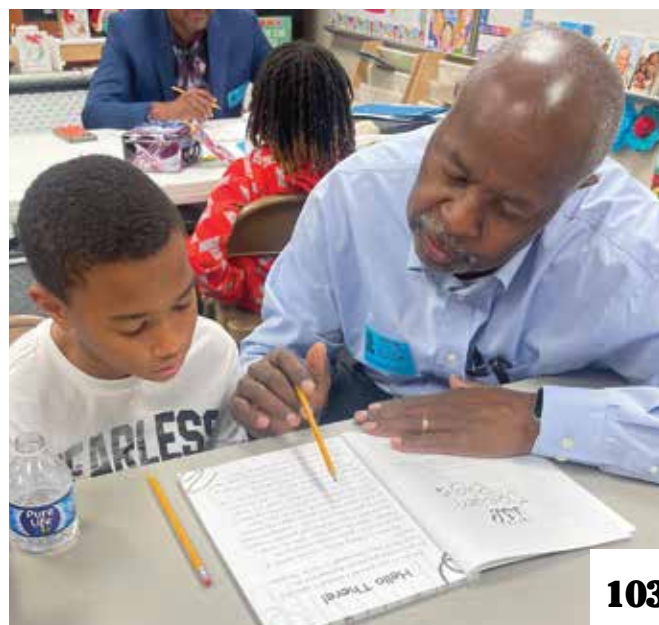
177 The Member Boulés

193 The Regional Boulés



195 In Memoriam

Allard A. Allston III
 Nancy Marie Shade Anderson
 Faye Williams Barksdale
 Natalie Stimpson Byers
 Samuel Daniel Ewing, Jr.
 Alpheus Alexander Finlayson
 Dawn Iris Finlayson
 Donald Horace Godbold
 William H. Harris
 Verona Mae Plummer Hughes
 Barbara Orange Jones
 William Alexander Lawson, Jr.
 Sherwood C. Lewis
 Henry Wadsworth McGee, Jr.
 Sandra Hall Morris
 Jerry Parnel Parker
 Famebridge Frances Cunningham Payne
 Olga Agnes Markham Pierre
 Thomas L. Walker
 Bernastein Caffee Winston



THE BOULÉ JOURNAL (USPS 061-700) is published quarterly for \$50 per year by Sigma Pi Phi® Fraternity, 260 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1604, Atlanta, GA 30303. Tel. 404-529-9919. Periodicals postage paid at Atlanta, GA, and at additional mailing offices.
 Postmaster: Send address changes to THE BOULÉ JOURNAL, 260 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1604, Atlanta, GA 30303.
 Copyright © 2024 THE BOULÉ JOURNAL, an official publication of Sigma Pi Phi® Fraternity. All rights reserved.



Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

USPS Form 3526

1. **Publication title:** The Boulé Journal
2. **Publication number:** 061-700
3. **Filing date:** October 1, 2024
4. **Issue frequency:** Quarterly
5. **Number of issues published annually:** 4
6. **Annual subscription price:** \$50.00
7. **Complete mailing address of known office of publication:** 260 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1604, Atlanta, GA 30303
8. **Complete mailing address of General Business Office of Publisher:** 260 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1604, Atlanta, GA 30303
9. **Full names and complete mailing addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor:**
Publisher: Jerlando F L Jackson, c/o Fred Weidner & Daughter Printers, 99 Hudson Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10013
Editor: Jerlando F L Jackson, c/o Fred Weidner & Daughter Printers, 99 Hudson Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10013
Managing Editor: Jerlando F L Jackson, c/o Fred Weidner & Daughter Printers, 99 Hudson Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10013
10. **Owner:** Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, 260 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1604, Atlanta, GA 30303
11. **Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities:**
None
12. **Tax status:** The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months
13. **Publication title:** The Boulé Journal
14. **Issue date for circulation data below:** Fall 2024, Volume 88, Number 3
15. **Extent and nature of circulation:** Domestic and International

	Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months	No. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
a. Total number of copies (net press run)	6,100	6,000
b. Paid circulation (by mail and outside the mail)		
(1) Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541	5,764	5,692
(2) Mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Paid distribution outside the mails including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS®	0	0
(4) Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS	192	185
c. Total paid distribution	5,956	5,877
d. Free or nominal rate distribution (by mail and outside the mail)		
(1) Free or nominal rate outside-county copies included on PS Form 3541	108	108
(2) Free or nominal rate in-county copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes mailed through the USPS	3	4
(4) Free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail (carriers or other means)	4	2
e. Total Free or nominal rate distribution	115	114
f. Total distribution	6,070	5,991
g. Copies not distributed	30	9
h. Total	6,100	6,000
i. Percent paid	98%	98%
16. **Electronic Copy Circulation:** Not claimed.
17. **Publication of Statement of Ownership required.** Will be printed in the fall issue of this publication.
18. **Signature and title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner:**



Jerlando F L Jackson
Editor
October 1, 2024

INTRODUCING THE GRAND SIRE ARCHON

Chapter 1: Formative Years in Baltimore

Grand Sire Archon Loren R. Douglass, the youngest of four children, was born and raised in Baltimore City in a family rooted in strong values and a commitment to excellence. His parents, Senator Robert and Bernice Douglass, were pillars of their church and community. Robert, a self-made man from South Carolina, an HBCU and Johns Hopkins University graduate, was an Army veteran who built a successful career in business and politics. Bernice, a dedicated children's aide in the Baltimore City Public Schools, instilled in Archon Douglass the importance of discipline, education and integrity.

Having demonstrated a remarkable aptitude for both math and sciences, he excelled academically while nurturing a strong passion and talent for music. His intellectual curiosity was boundless. He was an insatiable reader, which led him to explore a wide range of subjects with a strategic, systems-level approach to thinking. This versatility was mirrored in his athletic pursuits, where Archon Douglass was a standout varsity athlete in track and field, earning statewide recognition for his talents on the track.

In addition to his academic and athletic achievements, Archon Douglass was an active participant in extracurricular activities such as Youth in Government clubs and Model UN, where he honed his leadership skills. During summers, he worked at Baltimore Electronics, a business founded by his father, where he gained valuable hands-on experience in the world of business and technology.

Having graduated in the top 15 percent of his class from an advanced engineering high school as a scholar-athlete, he gained admission into the Johns Hopkins University Engineering School, where he continued his studies.

Chapter 2: Educational and Professional Journey

Archon Douglass embarked on his professional journey after earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with a minor in quantum physics. While in college, he began composing music for his college band and later went on to earn several copyrights (ASCAP) and become a twenty-seven-year voting



GRAND SIRE ARCHON LOREN R. DOUGLASS

member in the Grammys. Upon graduation, he became the only graduate from the Johns Hopkins University Engineering School to be recruited by General Electric (GE) that year. His early career at the space systems division of GE Aerospace was distinguished by four years of top-secret defense work with the U.S. government, where his technical expertise contributed to critical national security projects.

Despite his contributions in the aerospace field, Archon Douglass's drive for greater responsibility and a desire to engage more broadly with complex global challenges led him to seek new opportunities. His ambition propelled him to the Wharton School of Business, where he began studying finance. However, even the master of business administration program could not fully satisfy his expansive intellectual curiosity. He then secured admission into a dual master's degree program, combining finance at Wharton with advanced studies in international economics and international law at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins.

This pivot toward international affairs was deeply rooted in an experience from his childhood. At the age of 10, a transformational trip to Europe with his parents in the early 1970s ignited his fascination with



THE DOUGLASS FAMILY: FIRST ARCHOUSA MICHELLE A. DOUGLASS, GRAND SIRE ARCHON LOREN R. DOUGLASS AND THEIR DAUGHTER KYRA DOUGLASS.

foreign policy, economies and global cultures, setting him on a path that would shape the rest of his life.

Since completing his graduate studies, his career has been characterized by a series of key roles, each with a significant international component. He began as a legal assistant in GE's international law and policy staff, where his work laid the groundwork for future roles in global business development and leadership. As manager of international business development at GE information services, he demonstrated his ability to drive growth in diverse markets.

After leaving GE for a five-year stint in management consulting with leading consulting firms such as A.T. Kearney and Deloitte Consulting, in 2000 he returned to GE under Jack Welch's push into e-commerce. His GE ascent continued as he took on global leadership positions, including a global technology role as global leader of IT collaboration systems integration and operations, president and CEO of GE Global Asset

Protection Services, and chief marketing officer at GE IT Solutions. After a thirteen-year multifaceted GE career, Grand Sire Archon Douglass left GE to pursue a career on Wall Street, where his expertise was sought after by some of "the street's" most prestigious firms. His twenty-year Wall Street career included tenures at financial giants like Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, BNY Mellon and AIG, where he managed global operations, client relationships and transformational leadership initiatives.

Throughout his career, he has leveraged his broad skill set to navigate and shape the rapidly changing landscape of globalization, technological advancements and systemic disruptions in American and global institutions. His journey reflects a rare blend of technological acumen, business savvy and strategic vision and a deep commitment to understanding and influencing the complex forces shaping our world.

Chapter 3: Role as a Family Man

Archon Douglass has been a devoted husband and father for more than twenty years, sharing his life with his best friend and Archousa, Michelle Douglass. She is the founder and executive director of Prom Plus NYC, a nonprofit organization that provides targeted enrichment and educational programming for young adults. Together they enjoy traveling, savoring great food, exploring music and attending comedy shows. They are happiest when surrounded by fun, positive people who share their love of life and who contribute to society.

Their daughter, Kyra, is a recent graduate of Brown University and the apple of Archon Douglass's eye. He has adored her since the day she was born and proudly supports her in all her endeavors. As dog lovers, the Douglasses have made a warm and loving home for three adorable Shih Tzus – one boy and two girls. Their lives are grounded in strong Christian values, instilled in them from childhood, and they both bring these values into their daily lives. Committed New Yorkers, Archon and Archousa Douglass also understand that a successful life in New York City requires discipline, resilience and grit, and they strive to live with the determination that this vibrant city demands.

Chapter 4: Vision for the Boulé and the Benefits to the Organization, for Archons and Their Families

Archon Douglass's vision for the future is a broad call to action, a boundless conception of the possibilities available to the caliber of men who refer to themselves as Archons. "Seize the Future," along with its subthemes (wealth creation, stronger fraternal bonds, policy influence and community impact), positions the Boulé for long term success and vitality by adapting to the shifting demands of a globalized, technology driven world. His vision as outlined in his inaugural speech benefits Archons in several key ways:

- 1. Global Influence and Prestige:** As the Boulé positions itself at the vanguard of global influence, Archons gain increased influence on the world stage.
- 2. Leveraging Collective Expertise:** By making it easier to network and connect with one another, Archons benefit by having access to a wealth of knowledge, resources and connections that can enhance their personal and professional development.



- 3. Economic Empowerment:** The vision of self-contained business endeavors with internal capital sourcing creates a powerful economic foundation for Archons. It fosters financial independence and entrepreneurial growth within the organization, allowing members to start and sustain businesses with the support of other Archons and their families.
- 4. Policy Influence:** The idea of candidates visiting the member boulés before pursuing major offices underscores the organization's influence in shaping political landscapes.
- 5. Cultural and Historical Reverence:** A deep reverence for the Boulé's history and traditions strengthens the organization's identity and fosters a sense of pride and belonging among Archons.
- 6. Lasting Community Impact:** The focus on maintaining a profound yet understated impact on communities ensures that the Boulé remains a force for positive change, a status in which Archons can take pride and find a sense of purpose.
- 7. Enduring Reputation:** Upholding a reputation for being understated yet impactful benefits Archons by associating them with an organization that values substance over style.

Combined with the operations transformation of the Office of the Grand Boulé, this vision not only elevates the Boulé as an organization but also empowers Archons with influence, resources and a strong sense of community, ensuring their continued success and impact.

REMARKS OF LOREN R. DOUGLASS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INSTALLATION AS GRAND SIRE ARCHON



ARCHOUSA MICHELLE A. DOUGLASS AND GRAND SIRE ARCHON LOREN R. DOUGLASS

Introduction

Thank you, Archons. It is with great gratitude and humility that I stand before you. Being chosen to lead the world's oldest and most prestigious collection of Black male excellence is an honor and a privilege. It's an awesome responsibility whose magnitude I both accept and embrace as we begin to "Seize the Future!" I would like to extend my thanks to Immediate Past Grand Sire Archon Garibaldi, whose steady hand guided us through a challenging period in our history. His tenure has established a solid foundation, setting the stage for the bright and exciting future we are poised to build together.

In case you haven't noticed, America is getting less hospitable to Black and brown progress, and it's time that we meet that challenge head on. With unflinching confidence, we should boldly take responsibility for ourselves by becoming masters of our own destiny. We have everything we need to get it done. Combining our founding principles with our vast expertise, we position ourselves as the "go-to" leaders who make things happen. With our traditional low-key discretion, we will "Seize the Future!" by acting boldly today.

Backdrop of the Times

This year, we celebrate 120 years of enduring legacy. We've survived and thrived through every pivotal moment of the twentieth century – and we are still going strong in those of the twenty-first. The Boulé still exists because the need still exists. Our journey as Black men of high achievement is often lonely and stressful. At its best, the Boulé stands as a sanctuary of brotherhood and a haven of fellowship. It transcends the mere concept of a fraternity: It is a way of life that we must protect and nurture. We have produced some of the nation's greatest leaders, professionals, artists, commanders, scholars and more, who have given much more to America than we have collectively received in return. Well, the time has come to stop asking for what's rightfully ours. We must demand payment for what we have already earned. By engaging the system the way the framers intended, we cease being the pawn in the American chess game.

The stark reality is that the latest data show that we are no better off than we were in 1968 in terms of wealth, wages, health outcomes and college graduation rates. Although we're 14 percent of the nation's population, we are 59 percent of the prison population, marking a fifty-year surge. Even in 2024, some Americans are still insulted by our progress. The January 6 insurgents told us that they want their country back! Now, I ask you, to whom do you think they were talking? The guy standing on the street corner? No, they are talking to us, the strivers and achievers. Our history teaches that Archons act as if "wait" is a four-letter word. Archons make things happen, so the moment to act is now.

My Vision for the Future

I envision a future where the Boulé is at the vanguard of global influence. The Boulé has the deepest and broadest inventory of Black expertise in the world. We are invaluable to the global economy. And to the wider world, Black Americans symbolize resilience and innovation.

I envision a Boulé future where starting businesses is a self-contained endeavor. Where capital can be sourced internally. A future where candidates quietly come to us to get our endorsement before seeking important offices. I envision a future where Archons

have deep reverence for our history and traditions – where fraternal bonds are deep and broad. I envision a Boulé future where our profound impact on our communities is still felt and more than seen – where our tradition of being understated yet impactful continues to be our reputation.

What We Are Going to Do and When

For this future to be our reality, we must first take a hard look in the mirror. We've evolved over more than a century, but today presents unique demands. We've developed an innovative plan for the future after reviewing our operations. We've validated that plan using findings from McKinsey's 2021 study on how the Boulé should prepare for the future. One thing is certain: Our culture is the bedrock of our unity. Renewed commitment to our founding principles will make us stronger. Getting to know the best of one another is just the beginning. Working together and helping each other is just as important. You've told us that collaboration and networking are top priorities. By the fourth quarter, we will deploy the first stage of our technology village, where Archons can communicate, share documents, collaborate on projects and more.

Stronger Fraternal Bonds

Second, we will improve our culture by providing tools for learning our history and protocols. Later this year, we will introduce online courses that instruct Archons on the basics of our history. More advanced courses will be available shortly thereafter. Studying our past strengthens our present. Archons understanding our customs and protocols make good Archons. In the spirit of esteemed Past Grand Grammateus Peyton Williams, we will guide Archons in the proper ways to uphold our standards. Through study and practice, Archons will be better able to forge a clearer consensus of who should be inducted and why.

By 2026, Volume 4 of our history book will become available. The world has dramatically changed since 2010's Volume 3, and the Boulé has changed along with it. We've assembled a team of Archons who are renowned historians who will take a fresh look at our evolution amidst the significant changes in our globalized world.

Modernization and Operating Excellence

Third, we will modernize our business operations by creating a more efficient and value-added Grand Office. Archon Gaines has already started. He's

been upgrading our talent, systems and business processes. Going forward, we need to upgrade our vendors, outsource where we don't have competencies, and enhance services for Archons for greater value for your dues. We will also reorganize our finances so that we are financially efficient with a solid investment portfolio with respectable returns. We will endeavor to be less dependent on sponsors by seeking multiyear partnerships with companies that share our values. Outside money can either liberate us or constrain us. Sponsors may seek to dictate our priorities; partners don't. Efficiency combined with the resources to make things happen gives us independence while we shape our own destiny.

Wealth Creation

Boulé economic empowerment will be one of the cornerstones of our future. Past Grand Sire Archon Harvey Russell said in 1976, "free enterprise can create more opportunities for future improvement than any number of federal agencies." These words encourage us to harness American capitalism in the way that it was originally intended. We will start here at home by strengthening our Black banks. Led by Archon Mike Keeley (Pacific Region) and Archon Keith Levy (London), we will use our financial muscle to strengthen Black banks across the country.

Policy Influence

In the policy world of Washington, we are strategically building our presence. We are intentionally weaving our network into the fabric of the American wealth ecosystem. Archon Marlon Kimpson of the Southeast Region is leading the way for us as we become known to the decision-makers in the corridors of power. Our Politics and Policy series has successfully hosted Black leaders from both parties in conversations about topics relevant to our interests.

Community Impact

Focus will define our administration. We will concentrate our resources so that we make a lasting impact. For the next two years, we will dedicate ourselves to confronting the crisis state of young Black boys in our nation. Rather than stand by and watch them get gunned down in the streets, we will use our power to lift them up while others tear them down. Rather than reinvent the wheel, we will leverage our member boulés nationally, wherever feasible.

Amidst all this change, the one thing that won't change is our discreet, behind-the-scenes approach. The old adage, "Power moves in silence," is truer today than ever. Now that violence is increasingly politicized, this posture is not only wise but necessary.

What We Need From You

Now, having shared a glimpse of our future direction, here's what we need from you. My campaign emphasized transparency, accessibility and mutual accountability. Mutual accountability means that the bargain being struck here is what will we collectively deliver together, not what Grand Sire Archon Douglass and his team will deliver for Archons. It's all hands on deck. For the most part, what we need from you is quite simple and straightforward:

- Support your member boulés. Come to meetings and pay dues on time. Think hard before sponsoring, and take responsibility for the person you sponsor.
- Come to the Grand Boulé and Regional Boulés.
- Network and collaborate with other Archons.
- Learn the history and traditions. Respect the past, so we can build the future.
- Practice the protocols. Provide order and consistency. Demonstrate honor and respect for our traditions. Set clear expectations.
- Serve where possible. Run for office. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.
- Serve on a committee using your expertise or interests. Be the future we're building. Be an ambassador. Advocate for our direction. Be positive. Make no apologies. Step up. Lead your ideas, just don't tell me or wait for others to do it.

Conclusion

I know that some of you are saying to yourselves, *This is a lot, and he'll never get all of this done in two years.* Well, to the pessimists and skeptics, let me reassure you that we have thoroughly prepared for this moment. So we are not simply hitting the ground running, we are in a full sprint on our second lap. We have a diverse team of leaders in technology,

education, finance, operations, communications and more, including retired two- and four-star generals and top banking executives. Everyone I've asked to assist with this transformation has enthusiastically said yes! We have a solid structure, we've got project plans, the teams are already built, their milestones are set. The collective energy is high, and the excitement of anticipation is building.

Ending Story

Before I conclude, allow me to share a personal anecdote that significantly shaped my outlook. As a young engineer with modest savings, I was faced with a daunting decision. Do I leave a secure job during a recession and pursue a dual master's degree at Wharton and the School of Advanced International Studies? The financial risk was high and the uncertainty immense. While walking through a shopping mall, I had a chance encounter with a store window filled with motivational posters. The one that caught my eye was one of a tiny boat venturing into a vast and lonely ocean. The caption under the picture offered me a profound insight: It said, You can't discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore. That quote resonated with a power that I'll never forget. It said that one can hold on so tightly to the past that opportunities of a lifetime can be missed, and refusing to leave one's comfort zone is akin to self-imprisonment, leading to no growth and certain stagnation.

Emboldened by that wisdom, I quit my job the following week, sold my car, rented a U-Haul to Philly, and haven't looked back since. God made a way for me. Along the way, I've heard a few more gems: "If you're not being criticized, you're doing nothing important." "Closed mouths don't get fed." "Scared money don't make money." "Control your own destiny or somebody else will." "One of my favorites is "If you're not at the table, you are most certainly on the menu."

So, Archons, let's honor our traditions while we modernize. Let's go build wealth while we strengthen our bonds. Let's shape and influence national and global policy while protecting our young Black boys here at home and let's have an impact on our communities by being strategic and intentional in all that we do. Archons, let's unapologetically take our place at the table and not be on the menu. In short, Archons, let's "Seize the Future!" Thank you, and God bless the Boulé.

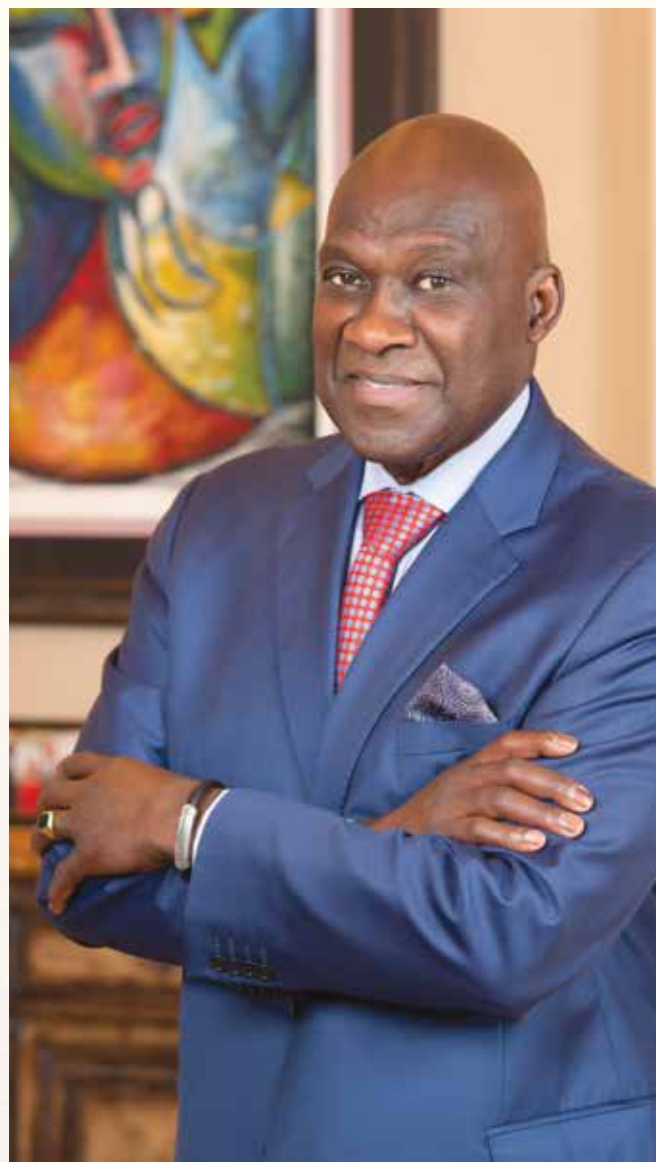
INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION AND HONORING LEGACY: A DISCUSSION WITH GRAND SIRE ARCHON—ELECT JESSE J. TYSON

By Grand Grappter Jerlando F. L. Jackson, Iota Boulé

Archon Jesse J. Tyson of Epsilon Omicron Boulé is committed to living a life of service to his community and society at large. Although he grew up picking cotton on a white family's farm in exchange for a place to live, he did not allow those harsh circumstances to define him. Instead, they fueled his character and goal-oriented mind-set. His moral compass is rooted in lessons learned at an early age growing up in Jackson, Tennessee. His grandmother taught him that getting ahead would require vision, preparation, sacrifice and commitment. She also reinforced his commitment to lift as he climbed. His desire to invest in others is focused on helping to build a runway for tomorrow's leaders, many of whom will be redefining their family's legacy and addressing society's most significant challenges. His mission and passion are to enable tomorrow's leaders. In other words, do good while doing well to make a difference in the world.

Archon Tyson was raised by his grandparents, who were sharecroppers, however, his roots spread globally. His grandparents taught him valuable lessons about survival, the importance of being flexible and resourceful, and, above all, being community focused. Archon Tyson was planted in Jackson as a sharecropper to ensure that his root system would develop strongly enough to stretch far beyond the cotton fields of Tennessee. He traveled to West Africa as a college intern to participate in leading a global call-center consolidation project for a Fortune 1 company, led a Latin America business unit, and became a corporate executive leading global aviation business in Brussels, Belgium.

Archon Tyson has held leadership positions at the highest levels, leading major business units domestically and internationally at ExxonMobil. After retiring from ExxonMobil, Archon Tyson became president and CEO of the National Black MBA Association, the largest United States membership organization of its kind with more than 15,000 members. As such, Archon Tyson is an accomplished leader with the ability to lead diverse and complex organizations. Further, Archon Tyson has received educational recognition and honors, including a Bachelors of Science and a Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Lane College; an internship



with the U.S. Agency for International Development; attendance at the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland; attendance at the Brookings Institute, a renowned nonprofit public policy organization; and an M.B.A. from The Ohio State University.

Archon Tyson holds membership in several organizations where he has received numerous awards for philanthropic efforts. He is a former treasurer at the Jack & Jill Foundation; a member of

the board of trustees at Lane College, Benedict College and Florida A&M University; a member of the Dean's Advisory Board at The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business; board president of The Ensemble Theatre; a board member of the Williams Petroleum Companies; a member of the Orange Bowl Committee, the Executive Leadership Council, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and 100 Black Men of America; a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and a 2022 inductee into the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association Hall of Fame.

All of these accomplishments stem from his lifelong lessons originating in Jackson, Tennessee.

Archon Jerlando F. L. Jackson: What are some of your early memories from growing up in Jackson?

Archon Jesse J. Tyson: In the environment I grew up in, the more I observed, the more focused my moral compass became. At the age of 13, I participated in my first stand against injustice, protesting working conditions on the farm. As a result, my family was evicted from the farm. Rather than showing anger, my grandmother simply vowed to get a job, purchase a home and send all her children to college to ensure eviction never happened again.

The more I observed the actions of others, the more I appreciated the teachings of my grandmother about the importance of ethics and morality. She taught me how results are achieved are as important as the results themselves. So, I keep my moral compass with me at all times to guide my behavior.

J.F.L.J.: You often refer to being raised by your grandmother, Lena Taylor. What are some of the lifelong lessons that you learned from her?

J.J.T.: I learned then that the road ahead would be hard fought and would require vision and preparation. My grandmother did, in fact, accomplish the goals she had laid out, fueling a goal oriented mindset in a young and ambitious Jesse Tyson. I also learned that success didn't come without sacrifice and a commitment to lift as I climbed. While we didn't talk about branding, she often talked to me about how reputation is developed and the importance of legacy.

J.F.L.J.: Other than your grandmother, were there other individuals who served as mentors?

J.J.T.: Dr. Frank W. Hale helped me transition from a life of a sharecropper, where seven of us lived in a four-room house with no indoor plumbing, no A/C and a wood-burning cooking stove that also served as a heating source, to achieving an M.B.A. at The

Ohio State University, and then to a thirty-five-year international corporate career with ExxonMobil, to, finally, an entrepreneur. I was also inspired by Dr. Wesley McClure, president of Lane College, who help me navigate some difficult times and develop a belief that I could compete with anyone in the world if I dedicated the time and energy into my craft. He also taught me that the path to success was not a straight line.

J.F.L.J.: You mentioned that one of life's lessons learned was community service. Is that the reason for you and your Archousa's focus on philanthropy?

J.J.T.: Our desire to invest is focused on helping to build a runway for tomorrow's leaders, many of whom will be redefining their family's legacy. The end game for our philanthropy is to enable tomorrow's leaders today. In other words, doing good while doing well and making a difference in the world.

J.F.L.J.: What college/universities do you and your Archousa support?

J.J.T.: Cheryl and I have established endorsements at Lane College, in honor of Lena Taylor, my grandmother; Spelman College, as a birthday gift for Cheryl; and Ohio State, in honor of my grandmother and Dr. Frank Hale. As a result, The Ohio State Business School Diversity and Inclusion Suite is named the Cheryl and Jesse Tyson Diversity and Inclusion Suite.

J.F.L.J.: Archon Tyson, I've enjoyed our time together today. Do you have any closing comments?

J.J.T.: I grew up with the #7 as a lucky number, so I often share with students and younger professionals seven things that guide me:

1. I never lose curiosity about what I don't know; it keeps me in a constant learning mode.
2. Whatever I do, I do it because it matters to me.
3. Being good is not good enough, I try to be a masterpiece and a work in progress.
4. Enterprise leadership requires me to stay in a constant learning mode, the greater the responsibility, the more I need to learn.
5. I understand that I can't run my best race carrying excess baggage, so I must find out what I need to give up to go up.
6. I know the value of a moment because I may only get a moment to make an impression.
7. In the end, it's about demonstrating that I belong at the table because I am either at the table or on the menu, and those on the menu are passed over.



INTRODUCING THE NEW GRAND OFFICERS OF SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY

As Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the nation's first African American Greek-letter organization, continues its tradition of leadership and excellence, we proudly introduce the newly elected and selected Grand Officers who will guide our fraternity into the future. These Archons – Grand Sire Archon-Elect Jesse J. Tyson, Grand Grammateus Darrell B. Searcy, Grand Thesauristes Derrick A. Roman, Grand Grapter Jerlando F. L. Jackson, Grand Rhetoricos Stefan M. Bradley and Grand Agogos Abraham J. Turner – each bring a wealth of experience, a commitment to civic and community service, and a deep dedication to the principles of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. Their collective leadership promises to further the Fraternity's mission and influence in significant ways.

Grand Sire Archon-Elect Jesse J. Tyson

Archon Jesse J. Tyson, representing Epsilon Omicron Boulé in North Houston, Texas, stands as a paragon of leadership in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors. His career spans more than four decades, during which he established himself as a

visionary leader at ExxonMobil, one of the world's largest corporations. At ExxonMobil, Archon Tyson held several critical roles, including president of ExxonMobil InterAmericas, where he managed operations across Latin America with a focus on retail fuels and government relations. His strategic vision was further demonstrated during his tenure as global aviation director, where he oversaw the company's aviation business worldwide.

Beyond his corporate accomplishments, Archon Tyson has been a transformative figure in the nonprofit sector. After retiring from ExxonMobil, he took on the role of president and CEO at the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA), where he led the organization to new heights, expanding its membership and influence across the United States. Under his leadership, the NBMBA became a driving force for the professional development of African Americans in business.

Archon Tyson's commitment to education and community service is equally impressive. He has served as a trustee at Lane College, his alma mater,

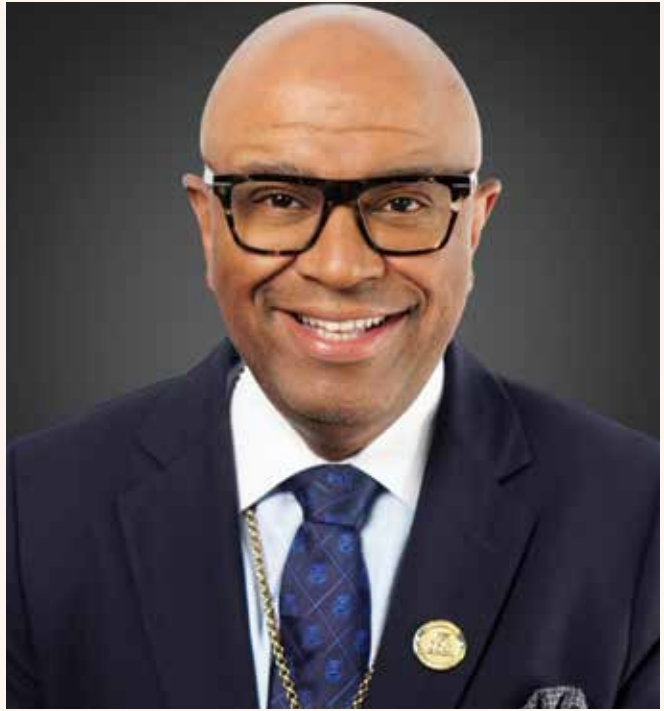


GRAND SIRE ARCHON—ELECT JESSE J. TYSON

as well as at Benedict College, demonstrating his dedication to nurturing future generations of leaders. His philanthropic efforts have been recognized with numerous awards, including the Ohio State University College of Business Global Diversity Award and the 100 Black Men of America Lifetime Achievement Service Award. Within Sigma Pi Phi, Archon Tyson's leadership is well-established. He has served in various capacities, including as Western Region Grammateus and Sire Archon. His contributions to the Fraternity are marked by a deep commitment to service, excellence and the advancement of our shared mission.

Grand Grammateus Darrell B. Searcy

Archon Darrell B. Searcy, hailing from Epsilon Lambda Boulé, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida, is a distinguished entrepreneur and executive leader with more than twenty-five years of experience. As the founder and CEO of Chandler Campbelle & Daschle (CCD), a DBE-certified management consulting firm, Archon Searcy has positioned his company as a leader in the defense, aviation and transportation sectors. Under his leadership, CCD has grown to employ 265 professionals across twenty-seven states, providing innovative solutions in areas such as airport



GRAND GRAMMATEUS DARRELL B. SEARCY

concession operations, Department of Defense program management and transportation logistics.

Archon Searcy's professional success is matched by his deep commitment to civic and community service. He has served on the boards of several key organizations in South Florida, including the United Way of Palm Beach County, where he played a pivotal role in advancing the organization's mission to improve lives and strengthen communities. He was also appointed by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners to serve on the Palm Beach County Educational Facilities Authority and the Office of Small Business Assistance. His dedication to education is further evidenced by his work as an adjunct faculty member at Palm Beach State College and as an instructor at the Florida Atlantic University Institute of Government.

Within Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Archon Searcy has demonstrated exceptional leadership at both the Grand and regional levels. He has held numerous positions, including serving as the 21st Southeast Region Sire Archon and chairing several key committees. His efforts have significantly contributed to the Fraternity's growth and the implementation of innovative initiatives, such as the inaugural Southeast Region Leadership Conference and the Boulé Economic Empowerment Summit.



GRAND THESAURISTES DERRICK A. ROMAN

Archon Searcy's leadership is characterized by a forward-thinking approach, a commitment to excellence and a deep dedication to the Fraternity's values and mission.

Grand Thesauristes Derrick A. Roman

Archon Derrick A. Roman, a member of Iota Boulé in Detroit, Michigan, brings an unparalleled level of expertise in finance and governance to his role as Grand Thesauristes. A retired partner from PwC, one of the world's leading accounting and consulting firms, Archon Roman made history as the first African American to be admitted into the partnership ranks of the "Big Four" accounting firms in Pennsylvania. His career at PwC is marked by his work with some of the most complex, global and public enterprises, where he provided expert guidance on financial accounting, risk management and corporate governance.

Archon Roman's professional accomplishments extend beyond his work at PwC. He has been a key player in the corporate governance space, serving on the boards of several multibillion-dollar publicly traded companies, including WEX Inc. and CommScope Holdings. His expertise in areas such as cyber risk management, ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) strategy, and corporate transformations has made him a valuable asset to



GRAND GRAPTER JERLANDO F. L. JACKSON

these organizations. Archon Roman's contributions to corporate America have been recognized by numerous accolades, including being named to *Savoy* magazine's 2021 Most Influential Black Corporate Directors.

In addition to his professional achievements, Archon Roman is deeply committed to civic and community service. He has held leadership roles in several organizations, including the National Constitution Center, the Skillman Foundation and the Police Athletic League of Philadelphia. Within Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Archon Roman has been a driving force for financial innovation and governance. He has served as Thesauristes and Grammateus of Iota Boulé, where he introduced electronic payments and other financial innovations. His leadership on the Central Region Audit Committee has also been instrumental in improving the Fraternity's financial practices. Archon Roman's service to Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity is marked by his unwavering commitment to financial excellence and his dedication to the Fraternity's mission.

Grand Grapter Jerlando F. L. Jackson

Archon Jerlando F. L. Jackson, of Iota Boulé in Detroit, Michigan, is a distinguished scholar and leader in the field of education. As the ninth dean



GRAND RHETORICOS STEFAN M. BRADLEY

of the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Education, Archon Jackson oversees one of the nation's top-ranked education programs. His research focuses on organizational disparities, particularly in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields, where he has made significant contributions to understanding and addressing issues of diversity and inclusion. Archon Jackson's work has been instrumental in shaping national discourse on these critical issues.

Since assuming the deanship at MSU, Archon Jackson has led the College of Education through a period of significant growth and innovation. He has strengthened interdisciplinary collaborations across the university, particularly with the College of Natural Science and the College of Engineering, to advance new initiatives in virtual education and STEM education. Under his leadership, the MSU College of Education has continued to set the standard for excellence in education, with five programs ranked #1 nationally.

Archon Jackson's contributions to Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity are equally impressive. He has served on the Grand Executive Committee for six years, where his leadership has been pivotal in advancing the Fraternity's mission. As Grand Grapther, he has brought his academic and administrative expertise to *THE BOULÉ JOURNAL*, ensuring that it continues



GRAND AGOGOS ABRAHAM J. TURNER

to be a leading voice for the Fraternity. Archon Jackson has also chaired the Grand Social Action Committee and led initiatives aimed at broadening the participation of underrepresented groups in education and the sciences. His work within Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity reflects his deep commitment to scholarship, leadership and service.

Grand Rhetoricos Stefan M. Bradley

Archon Stefan M. Bradley is a renowned scholar and historian whose work has significantly impacted the understanding of African American student activism and its influence on higher education. As a professor and academic leader, Archon Bradley has authored works such as *Harlem vs. Columbia University* and *Upending the Ivory Tower*, which explore the vital role that Black students have played in pushing for social justice and reform in some of the nation's most prestigious institutions. His research has provided critical insights into the ways in which these students challenged systemic racism and advocated for change, making Archon Bradley a leading voice in the fields of history and African American studies.

Beyond his scholarly contributions, Archon Bradley is a respected public intellectual and a sought-after speaker who regularly engages with audiences on issues of race, education and social justice. His

commentary has been featured in major media outlets, where he provides context and analysis on contemporary issues affecting African American communities and higher education. Archon Bradley's ability to connect historical events with current social dynamics makes his voice an invaluable asset in today's discourse on race and equality.

Grand Agogos Abraham J. Turner

Archon Abraham J. Turner brings an impressive military background to his new role. A retired major general in the United States Army, Archon Turner's career is marked by his leadership and strategic acumen, particularly in his role as commanding general of the United States Army Training Center at Fort Jackson. Over the course of his military career, Archon Turner was responsible for overseeing large-scale operations and training programs, where he demonstrated exceptional skills in leadership, logistics and organizational management. His post-military career continued to reflect his commitment to public service, notably as the executive director of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, where he applied his leadership skills to support the state's workforce development.

Archon Turner's dedication to service is deeply rooted in his values of discipline, integrity and

excellence, which he now brings to his role as Grand Agogos. In this position, he will be responsible for ensuring the smooth and orderly conduct of the Fraternity's rituals and ceremonies, a task that aligns well with his background in disciplined leadership. His military experience equips him to maintain the high standards of protocol and decorum that are central to the Fraternity's traditions. Archon Turner's leadership will undoubtedly contribute to the Fraternity's commitment to excellence and its mission to empower its members through service and leadership.

Conclusion

The newly elected and selected Grand Officers of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity embody the highest ideals of leadership, service and excellence. Archons Jesse J. Tyson, Darrell B. Searcy, Derrick A. Roman, Jerlando F. L. Jackson, Stefan M. Bradley and Abraham J. Turner each bring a unique blend of professional expertise, civic dedication and a deep commitment to the values of our Fraternity. As they assume their new roles, we look forward to their leadership and the continued success of our Grand Boulé. Their collective vision and dedication will undoubtedly guide Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity to new heights in the years to come.





LEADING THE CHARGE: MEET THE 2024–26 COMMITTEE CHAIRS OF SIGMA PI PHI

As Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity embarks on the 2024–26 biennium, the newly appointed Grand Boulé committee chairs will lead with a shared commitment to the theme, “Seize the Future!” This theme reflects the Fraternity’s dedication to strengthening fraternal bonds by enhancing culture, morale and organizational effectiveness. During the transition meeting held on July 17 and 18, these leaders were introduced, and their committees’ missions were outlined, emphasizing transparency, alignment with Grand Sire Archon Loren Douglass’s vision and a collaborative approach to achieving the Fraternity’s objectives.

To facilitate operational effectiveness and accountability, Grand Sire Archon Douglass created an infrastructure to support committee chairs: Champion Archons and Operating Archons. Champion Archons actively support the administration’s thematic objectives through advocacy, raising awareness and related actions. Champion Archons are Archon Ray McGuire of Zeta Boulé for the Wealth Creation theme, Archon Harry Johnson of Nu Boulé for the Fraternal Bonds theme, and Archon Marc Morial of Zeta Boulé for the Community Impact theme. Operating Archons are an ad hoc group of Archons who assist the Grand Sire Archon in overseeing the day-to-day operation of the Grand Boulé committees, so that they are efficient, effective and aligned with strategic goals. Operating Archons are Archon Harold Bulter, Jr. of Epsilon Zeta Boulé for the Wealth Creation theme, Archon Arthur Dean of Epsilon Zeta Boulé for the Community Impact

theme, Archon Barrye Price of Epsilon Zeta Boulé for the Policy Influence theme and Archon William Ward of Epsilon Zeta Boulé for the Fraternal Bonds theme.

Leading the charge for the Economic Empowerment Committee are Archons Michael Keeley of Gamma Epsilon and Keith Levy of Epsilon Xi. This committee is focused on coordinating national Black Economic Empowerment Summits and launching initiatives like the Black Banking initiative. Their goal is to create investment opportunities accessible to Archons, empowering them and their families through wealth-building strategies.

The Coordination and Strategy Committee, chaired by Archon Chris Crawford of Zeta Beta, is responsible for strategic coalition building, executing market-based tactics and long-range planning. This committee aims to leverage the Fraternity’s influence through effective positioning and collaboration.

Archon Wayne Riley of Zeta leads the Health and Wellness Committee, which is dedicated to developing and launching programs that promote the mental and physical health of Archons, Archousai and their families. The committee will focus on addressing critical public health and mental health issues within the Fraternity.

The Archon Development Committee is chaired by Archon William L. Brewer II of Alpha Chi. This committee focuses on improving the knowledge base of Archons through online education, training and region-delivered seminars to foster continuous learning and leadership development.

Archon Andrew J. Topps IV of Epsilon Rho leads the Induction Life Cycle Improvement Committee, which will drive Archon quality enhancement through candidate selection and induction improvements.

The Education Committee is chaired by Archon Ivory Toldson of Epsilon. The Education Committee is dedicated to evaluating, measuring and improving the Fraternity's education-focused programs.

Past Grand Sire Archon Wesley A. Coleman of Xi is chair of the Council of Past Grand Sire Archons. The Council of Past Grand Sire Archons reviews matters upon the request of the Grand Sire Archon and furnishes him with a report of its findings, including recommendations.

The Investments Committee is chaired by Archon Shaun M. Davis of Alpha Rho. The Investments Committee manages our financial assets to secure and grow our endowments. Through strategic investment decisions, it supports the long-term sustainability of our organization.

Archon Marques A. Elliott of Gamma Alpha is chair of the Operations Excellence Committee, which is focused on implementing best practices to improve efficiency and effectiveness across all Fraternity functions.

The Protective Services committee is co-chaired by Archons Kevin L. Robinson of Gamma Mu and Clarence Williams of Epsilon Lambda. The Protective Services Committee is committed to ensuring the safety, security and well-being of all members, guests and assets during Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity events.

Archon Alfred L. Spencer, Jr., of Beta Eta is chair of the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee is dedicated to ensuring a fair, transparent and efficient election process for Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Under the leadership of Archon Rod Henley of Xi, the Best Practices Committee will collect, evaluate and disseminate best practices across the Fraternity. This committee's mission is to elevate the performance of all member boudés by recommending actions for underperforming member boudés and promoting operational excellence.

Archon Ed Dandridge of Zeta chairs the Engagement and Communications Committee, tasked with transforming both internal and external communications within the Fraternity. The committee aims to enhance service bureau performance, track metrics effectively and ensure that Archons are well-informed and engaged.

Archon Pluria Marshall, Jr., of Xi leads the Boudé Resources Committee, which is tasked with developing and launching creative partnerships to support legacy programs, the Grand Boudé and self-help initiatives. The committee will focus on building long-term funding sources for the Fraternity.

The Rapid Response Committee, chaired by Archon Aloysius Nelson of Gamma Tau, is designed to provide swift and effective support to member boudés in times of crisis. The committee ensures that the Fraternity can mobilize quickly to address urgent matters and provide necessary assistance.

The Arts and Culture Committee, led by Archon Bernard Jackson of Beta Zeta, seeks to enhance the Fraternity's influence in the arts by supporting jazz, visual arts, theater and elite travel experiences. The committee will promote and celebrate cultural achievements within the Fraternity.

Archon Jon R. Gray of Theta chairs the Grievances and Complaints Committee, which is committed to upholding justice and fairness by addressing member grievances and complaints. This committee ensures due process and maintains trust and integrity within Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

The Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Archon Brian McNeil of Beta Zeta, is responsible for leading the Fraternity's strategic initiatives by developing and monitoring long-term plans. The committee ensures that Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity remains focused and aligned with its mission and goals.

Archons Eric Kelly of Epsilon Beta as chair and Spencer C. Disher III of Beta Delta as vice chair head the Technology Committee, which ensures that the Fraternity stays at the forefront of digital innovation. This committee is focused on integrating cutting-edge technologies to enhance operational efficiency and improve the member experience.

The Audit Committee, chaired by Archon Marvel Turner of Beta Gamma, oversees the financial transparency and accountability of the Fraternity. This committee is crucial in rebuilding trust and ensuring that Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity's finances are managed with the highest standards.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee, led by Archon Jeff Webster of Epsilon Omicron, reviews and proposes amendments to the constitution and bylaws of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. This committee ensures that the Fraternity's governance documents are up-to-date and reflective of its evolving needs.

Archon Hilliard Terry of Alpha Gamma chairs the Finance Committee, which is responsible for managing and overseeing the Fraternity's financial planning and budgeting processes. The committee ensures that Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity's resources are allocated efficiently and effectively.

The Public Policy Committee, chaired by Archons Marlon Kimpson of Gamma Lambda and Walter Davis of Beta Delta, advocates for policies that align with the values and goals of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. This committee works to influence public policy in

ways that benefit the Fraternity's members and the broader community.

The History and Archives Committee, chaired by Archon Maurice Hobson of Phi, is dedicated to preserving the rich history of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity by managing archives and historical records. The committee ensures that the Fraternity's legacy is documented and accessible for future generations.

Archon Alvin Ragland of Gamma Sigma leads the Time and Place Committee, which coordinates the scheduling and locations of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity events, ensuring they are well-organized and accessible to all members.

The Social Action Committee, chaired by Archon Leonard James III of Epsilon Omicron, drives the

Fraternity's social justice and advocacy efforts. This committee mobilizes members to take action on critical social issues, reflecting Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity's commitment to equity and justice.

Lastly, the Young Adult Career Symposium Committee, chaired by Archon DeAndré Parks of Gamma Zeta, organizes career development programs for young adults. The committee provides guidance, mentorship and networking opportunities to help young professionals succeed.

This diverse and dedicated group of committee chairs is poised to lead Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity into a future of growth, excellence and impact, aligning with the Fraternity's mission and strategic vision for the 2024–26 biennium.

CHAMPION ARCHONS 2024–26



ARCHON HARRY E. JOHNSON
FRATERNAL BONDS
NU BOULÉ



ARCHON RAYMOND MCGUIRE
WEALTH CREATION
ZETA BOULÉ



ARCHON MARC MORIAL
COMMUNITY IMPACT
ZETA BOULÉ

OPERATING ARCHONS 2024–26



ARCHON HAROLD E. BUTLER, JR.
WEALTH CREATION
EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ



ARCHON ARTHUR T. DEAN
COMMUNITY IMPACT
EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ



ARCHON BARRYE L. PRICE
POLICY INFLUENCE
EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ



ARCHON WILLIAM E. WARD
FRATERNAL BONDS
EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2024-26



ARCHON WILLIAM L. BREWER II
ARCHON DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
ALPHA CHI BOULÉ



ARCHON WESLEY A. COLEMAN
COUNCIL OF PAST GRAND SIRE
ARCHONS
XI BOULÉ



ARCHON CHRIS CRAWFORD
COORDINATION AND
STRATEGY COMMITTEE
ZETA BETA BOULÉ



ARCHON ED DANDRIDGE
ENGAGEMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE
ZETA BOULÉ



ARCHON SHAUN M. DAVIS
INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE
ALPHA RHO BOULÉ



ARCHON WALTER L. DAVIS
PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
BETA DELTA BOULÉ



ARCHON SPENCER C. DISHER III
VICE CHAIR, TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE
BETA DELTA BOULÉ



ARCHON MARQUES A. ELLIOTT
OPERATIONS EXCELLENCE
COMMITTEE
GAMMA ALPHA BOULÉ



ARCHON JON R. GRAY
GRIEVANCES AND
COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE
THETA BOULÉ



ARCHON RODERICK T. HENLEY, SR.
BEST PRACTICES
COMMITTEE
XI BOULÉ



ARCHON MAURICE J. HOBSON
HISTORY AND ARCHIVES
COMMITTEE
PHI BOULÉ



ARCHON BERNARD H. JACKSON III
ARTS AND CULTURE
COMMITTEE
BETA ZETA BOULÉ



ARCHON LEONARD JAMES III
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE
EPSILON OMICRON BOULÉ



ARCHON MICHAEL G. KEELEY
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
COMMITTEE
GAMMA EPSILON BOULÉ



ARCHON ERIC L. KELLY
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
EPSILON BETA BOULÉ



ARCHON MARLON KIMPSON
PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
GAMMA LAMBDA BOULÉ



ARCHON KEITH A. LEVY
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
COMMITTEE
EPSILON XI BOULÉ



**ARCHON PLURIA W.
MARSHALL, JR.**
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
XI BOULÉ



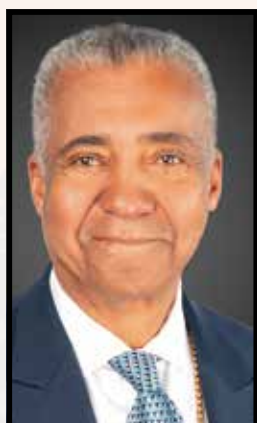
ARCHON BRIAN K. McNEIL
STRATEGIC PLANNING
COMMITTEE
BETA ZETA BOULÉ



ARCHON ALOYSIUS A. NELSON
RAPID RESPONSE
COMMITTEE
GAMMA TAU BOULÉ



ARCHON DeANDRÉ PARKS
YOUNG ADULT CAREER
SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE
GAMMA ZETA BOULÉ



ARCHON ALVIN G. RAGLAND
TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE
GAMMA SIGMA BOULÉ



ARCHON WAYNE J. RILEY
HEALTH AND WELLNESS
COMMITTEE
ZETA BOULÉ



ARCHON ALFRED L. SPENCER, JR.
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
BETA ETA BOULÉ



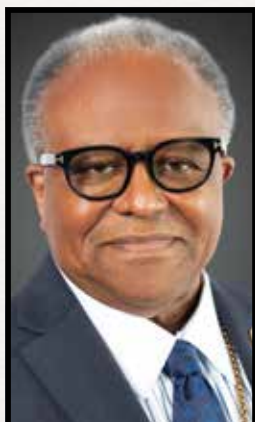
ARCHON HILLIARD C. TERRY III
FINANCE COMMITTEE
ALPHA GAMMA BOULÉ



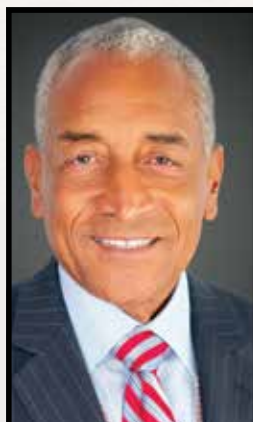
ARCHON IVORY A. TOLDSON
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
EPSILON BOULÉ



ARCHON ANDREW J. TOPPS IV
INDUCTION LIFE CYCLE
IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE
EPSILON RHO BOULÉ



ARCHON MARVEL A. TURNER, SR.
AUDIT COMMITTEE
BETA GAMMA BOULÉ



ARCHON JEFF G. WEBSTER
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
COMMITTEE
EPSILON OMICRON BOULÉ



**ARCHON CLARENCE D.
WILLIAMS III**
PROTECTIVE SERVICES
COMMITTEE
EPSILON LAMBDA BOULÉ

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

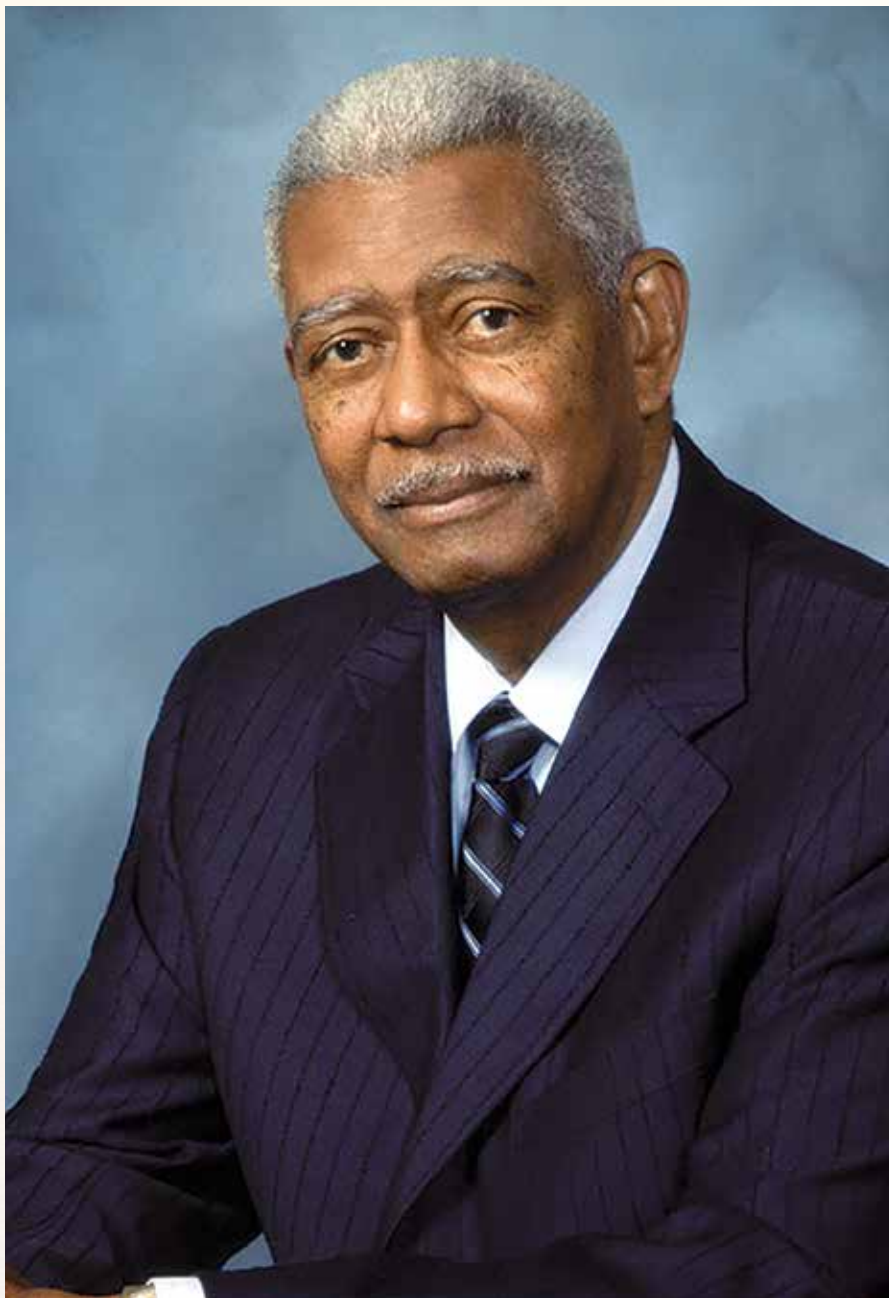
Given by Archon Otis Moss, Jr., at the 57th Grand Boulé Memorial Service on June 16, 2024

Thank you from the depths of my heart, our distinguished educator, nationally and internationally, Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi. Thank you to all the Archons and the Archousai, and special thanks to the members of Tau Boulé. Abiding appreciation and overflowing love to Archousa Edwina. Almost fifty-eight years you have been guiding me, teaching me, and loving me. Thanks to each of you. And, again, we thank God for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Will you quietly bow your head in a moment of memory, silence, thanksgiving and appreciation for all those on this roll call today and those who will be added to this roll call in the days and years to come?

Let me die working, still tackling plans, unfinished tasks, undone. Diligently, may my race be run. No laggard steps, no fumbling, no surrendering. Let me die working. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight. Oh, Lord, my strength and my redeemer, my rock, and my salvation. Amen.

Some years ago, I had the privilege of sharing a seminar with Archon Robert Michael Franklin, Jr., under the leadership of the late Howard Thurman. And we would listen to his recorded messages and then discuss them. And when we reached one particular recording with bowed heads, we opened our eyes and noticed tears flowing from the eyes of Dr. Thurman. No one could say



a word, but we felt that moment. And then Dr. Thurman said to us, "I have reached that stage in life when every time I speak, something says to me, this could be your last message." And, at 89, I have reached that moment with great gratitude, surrounded by

prophets and teachers, presidents like Archon Franklin. Amen.

There is a verse in the Gospel of John, I'll give a portion of it. When Jesus was standing before Pilate, deserted, wounded and about to be lynched, Pilate tried to reduce the moment to an experience of

frivolity and disrespect. And he looked at Jesus and said, "Are you a king?" And Jesus picked up what was supposed to be an insult and translated it into an eternal lesson. And he said to Pilate in the Gospel of John, "To this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world." He lifted what was supposed to be an insult into an everlasting lesson, proclamation and declaration. "To this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to truth."

And may you think about – for a few minutes, don't take those minutes too seriously – a purpose worth living and dying for through unconditional love. A purpose worth living for and dying for through unconditional love.

Some decades ago, Maxwell Anderson, writing a dramatic presentation on Joan of Arc, put these words on the lips of Saint Joan of Lorraine: "Every man gives his life for what he believes. Every woman gives her life for what she believes. Some people believe in little or nothing, so they give their lives for little or nothing. But to surrender who you are and live without belief is more terrible than dying. More terrible than dying young." Every individual ought to find a purpose in life worth living for and worth dying for, but don't stop there, under the conditions of unconditional love.

One writer summed it up far better than I can when he said, "I saw the conquerors riding by with cruel lips and faces, one musing on kingdoms sacked and burned. Thou rode the vicious Genghis Khan, and Alexander like a god who tried to well the world in one, and Caesar with his laurel wreaths, and like a thing from hell, the Hun. And leading like a star, the van, inscrutable Napoleon went, dreaming of empire and alone. But they all faded from the earth like fleeting shadows from a glass, and conquering down the centuries came Christ – I paraphrase – without a sword riding a donkey."

I don't know about you, but I would rather walk with Jesus on a donkey than to chase some folk to Mar-a-Lago. We are called to find a purpose in life worth living for and dying for under the power of unconditional love.

Now let me give you a few examples of what I'm trying to say, and I will take my seat.

About three and a half months after the mantle of leadership had been placed on the shoulders and on the heart and soul of Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., Archon King's father was concerned about his physical life and safety. So he called a meeting at his home in Atlanta and invited his close friends and the top African

American leadership in Atlanta to come to his home, and they sat in the living room for the purpose of convincing – this was in February

"To this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world."

1956 – Archon King to leave Montgomery because of the dangers, toils and snares.

Interestingly enough, Coretta Scott King's father had made a trip to Montgomery to take her out of Montgomery and back home to Marion. Strangely enough, his home had been bombed in the middle of the night when Coretta was a teenager, and they barely escaped with the clothes on their back. And he was going to take her to safety in Marion. And King, Sr., was going to take his son to safety in Georgia, not far from Stone Mountain, where the Klan was headquartered.

And in his living room that night, as they went around the room, there were at least three Archons in the meeting: Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., Archon Benjamin Elijah Mays and Archon T. M. Alexander, Sr. And as they went around the room, finally, Archon King stood up and said, "I would rather spend ten years in jail than turn my back on the people of Montgomery, Alabama, now." And at that moment, Archon Mays stood up and said, "Martin King is right. He must go back." And Daddy King said, "Well, if you're going back anyhow, I'm going back with you." What Archon King communicated was, "I have received an assignment worth living for and worth dying for under the commitment of unconditional love." That is our calling. That is our purpose.

Now somebody would say, "Yes, but I'm not a prophet. I have not come to that level of moral commitment of a Martin Luther King, Jr. How does that apply to me?" Well, let me give you another example.

When I was a young pastor in Cincinnati, Ohio, I had the responsibility of visiting the hospital for one of our elder members. I shall never forget her. Her name was Leola McNair – Sister Leola McNair. Really, I didn't

want to go, but as a young pastor still in my twenties, I knew I had to go. I walked in the room, and one reason I didn't want to go was that she was in her seventies, living alone, and I knew she was scheduled for an amputation. And I kept wondering, "What can I say to Sister McNair?" And I walked in the room, and she smiled and said, "I'm glad to see you, Brother Pastor. I want to tell you something. Since I talked with you last, I discovered that not only do I have to have one leg amputated, but both legs must be amputated." And then I knew I didn't have anything to say to her. And then she smiled and said, "You know, I have just been here in the hospital thinking about all of the wonderful things I'm going to do with my hands as soon as I get home from the hospital." I thought that was almost too much. And then she said, "Since I was a child, 8 or 9 years old, I learned to make garments and to stitch and sew with my hands and bake. And I think when I – as soon as I get back home, I'm going to be sewing and stitching and baking." And she looked at me and said, "I think I'll bake you a cake."

She made it home. Our church structure was not handicap-friendly, so the deacons would pick her up on Sunday morning and go down the alley on the south side of the church and bring her in at the back door in her wheelchair and negotiate up the stairs. And occasionally, we would put a microphone in her hand, and she would lead one of those common meter hymns: "I love the Lord, He heard my cry and pitied every groan. Long as I live and trouble rise, I'll hasten to His throne."

When Sister Leola McNair transitioned from time into eternity, it was my responsibility to give her eulogy, and I used as a subject "From Wheelchair to Chariot." And what I was trying to communicate was she converted her wheelchair into a chariot while yet living and kept a smile on her face and a commitment in her heart. And if anyone could ask her, "Why are you doing all of this?" Her spirit testified, "To this end was I born. And for this cause came I into the world."

Somebody will say, "Well, you have given a historic example of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Saint Leola McNair. I don't think that applies to me." Well, let me give you another example.

I shall never forget going to the hospital as a pastor in Atlanta to visit a 9-year-old student, Anthony, who was literally dying of leukemia. And I noticed something as I entered young Anthony's room. On the nightstand beside his bed were notepads and a stack of books. I said, "Anthony, tell me about all of this

material on your nightstand." He said, "Pastor Moss, I don't want to get behind in my schoolwork." In less than six months, young Anthony was dead. But for the rest of my journey, I can still hear him saying with strength, enthusiasm, "I don't want to get behind in my schoolwork." And I could feel the urgency and the power of his commitment to learning. "For this cause came I into the world and to this end was our goal." That is the kind of commitment we are called to give, whatever the place, whatever the space, because in our time and in our space, by God's grace, we can make a difference if we have a commitment to something worth living for and worth dying for under the power and force and prophetic calling of unconditional love.

Let me give you one other example of what I'm trying to say. During the Vietnam War, Gwen and I were living again in Atlanta. We participated in a citywide march against the war in Vietnam. We marched in downtown Atlanta, and we concluded the march at the state capitol, where I, along with other students, had been arrested some years earlier. It was a remarkable moment because a gentleman joined us in the march and gave remarks at the end of the march on the grounds of the state capital, Atlanta. I could not take my eyes off this gentleman because I noticed he was in a wheelchair. But as I got closer, I noticed not only was he in a wheelchair, but he had no legs. And not only was he in a wheelchair with no legs, but he had only one arm. I spoke to him, shook his hand. He gave a speech – not long. He was secretary of state. His name was Max Cleland. He lost both legs in Vietnam and one arm, and yet he was participating with us that day against the war in Vietnam. And some time later, I received a book autographed by Max Cleland. And the title of the book is "Strong at My Broken Places." He borrowed the title from Hemingway, who said "Life breaks all of us, but some grow strong at their broken places."

What Cleland seems to me to have been saying was this: "Even though I have been broken in the most severe ways, I can still be strong, and I can still serve." That is the power of purpose combined with the force of unconditional love.

And that, my brothers and sisters, is what we are called to live by and to die by. We are called to find a purpose worth living for and worth dying for, with the strength to endure all trials, and with love as our guide. As we remember those who have gone before us, may we also commit ourselves to living with such a purpose. Amen.

The 8th Young Adult Career Symposium: A Milestone in the Legacy of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity



By Archon Christian M. Gonzalez, Chair of the Grand Young Adult Career Symposium Committee, Epsilon Tau Boulé

The 57th Grand Boulé in San Diego, California, held from June 13 to June 16, 2024, marked a milestone and transformative moment in the evolution of the Young Adult Career Symposium (YACS). This eighth iteration of YACS surpassed all previous records in attendance.

Since its inception in 2008, the Young Adult Career Symposium has been a beacon of professional development, networking and empowerment for the children and grandchildren of Archons and Archousai. With more than 1,150 participants to-date who have made significant strides in various fields, YACS has become an invaluable pillar of the Fraternity's mission to uplift and guide the next generation of leaders.

The 8th YACS welcomed nearly 180 young adults, aged 22–34. The attendees, all individuals from around the nation with diverse academic and professional backgrounds, came together for a transformative experience that blended professional growth with cultural enrichment.

The success of this event was made possible through the efforts of the YACS Committee, led by Archon

Christian M. Gonzalez. More than \$200,000 in monetary and in-kind support was raised from a wide array of prestigious sponsors, including Lexus, AltFinance, Cigna Healthcare, Edward Jones, East Chop Capital, PNC Bank, The Nature Conservancy, WME, Los Angeles Chargers, Liberty Bank, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, Port of San Diego, PEPSICO, and Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers. This level of support ensured that the 8th YACS would be an unparalleled success.

Special acknowledgment is owed to Archousa Vivian Carpenter and the late Archon Jon Barfield of Alpha Pi Boulé, whose generous \$15,000 donation facilitated a significant contribution from Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity to three vital charitable organizations: the Urban League of San Diego County, the Neighborhood House Association and the County of San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce. These donations underscored the Grand Boulé's commitment to community empowerment and social responsibility.

The 8th YACS was designed to provide a comprehensive and enriching experience for all participants. The

symposium commenced on June 13, with a Welcome Reception that paid tribute to HBCU leadership, recognizing Archon Darrell K. Williams, president of Hampton University, and Past Grand Sire Archon Gregory J. Vincent, former president of Talladega College. The evening was further enlivened by a performance from renowned saxophonist Rodney Taylor.

Over the course of the symposium, participants engaged in a series of seven content-rich sessions, each designed to address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Black professionals today. These sessions included:

- Building Bridges: Mastering the Art of Alumni and Professional Networking
- Developing Your Personal Brand and Boosting Your Career
- Black Professionals in Emerging and Global Industries
- Career Ascension: Strategies for Success at Every Stage
- We Gon' Be Alright: Navigating Black Mental Health in the Workplace
- Building Black Prosperity: Strategies for Financial Empowerment and Generational Wealth
- Dating in the Digital Age

The symposium also featured the YACS Keynote Luncheon, honoring Archon Vivian Carpenter and Archon Jon Barfield, with a keynote address by Archon Walter T. Bond, motivational speaker and coach. The luncheon, paired with a performance by Rodney Taylor, was a highlight of the event, inspiring participants with messages of resilience, leadership and empowerment.

In addition to the formal sessions, the 8th YACS included several cultural and networking activities that enriched the overall experience. The Grand Boulé

Welcome Reception aboard the *U.S.S. Midway* offered a unique backdrop for participants to connect with Archons, Archousai and other young professionals, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.

Saturday, June 15, marked another significant day in the symposium's agenda, beginning with the Grand Boulé Opening Ceremony and the inaugural Past Grand Sire Archon Cornell Leverette Moore Luncheon. This luncheon, dedicated to honoring the visionary leadership of Past Grand Sire Archon Moore, featured a dynamic motivational address by Archon Kevin D. Wright and recognized the YACS Committee and supporters whose contributions were instrumental in the event's success.

The day continued with the YACS Community Service Project: Banking On Our Legacy Economic Empowerment Summit at San Diego City College. This event, which featured international motivational speaker and coach Archon Ramsey Jay, Jr., and a host of distinguished presenters, offered financial education workshops, mentoring sessions and a networking fair that empowered participants to take control of their financial futures.

The symposium concluded with the YACS Farewell Reception, Dinner, and Dance, a sensational evening that included delectable cuisine, a photo booth featuring virtual iconography from Beyoncé's Renaissance World Tour, and an entertaining karaoke booth, thanks to the support of Lexus. This final event served as a joyful celebration of the connections made, the knowledge gained, and the shared commitment to continued growth and success.

The symposium's success is a testament to the unwavering dedication of the YACS Committee, subcommittee members, supporters, the generosity of our sponsors, and the commitment of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity to nurturing the next generation of Black leaders.



MANFORD BYRD, JR. EDUCATIONAL FUND LUNCHEON DRAWS CROWD



IMMEDIATE PAST GRAND SIRE ARCHON DWAYNE M. MURRAY, PAST GRAND SIRE ARCHON CHARLES TEAMER, ARCHONS JAMES E. CLYBURN AND BOBBY SCOTT, PAST GRAND SIRE ARCHON ANTHONY HALL, AND GRAND CHAPTER JERLANDO F. L. JACKSON

By Past Grand Sire Archons Dwayne M. Murray and Rodney J. Reed

One of the inspirational events of the 57th Grand Boulé was the Manford Byrd, Jr. Luncheon attended by an overflowing number of Archons. Held on Saturday, June 15, 2024, it featured comments by Archon Bobby Scott, chairman of the Byrd, Jr. Fund; Past Grand Sire Archon Dwayne M. Murray; Archon Bradley Byrd, son of Archon Manford Byrd, Jr.; and a keynote address by former Congressional Democratic Majority Whip Archon James E. Clyburn. His well-received keynote address emphasized the importance of voting as he historically shared an instance in which one vote made a difference in the outcome of legislation that had a major negative political effect, particularly on citizens of color. His powerful keynote address was a testament to his leadership as an iconic American politician, one who has received thirty-nine honorary degrees and numerous other awards including the Lyndon B. Johnson Liberty and Justice for All Award; the Harry

S. Truman Foundation's Good Neighbor Award; the NAACP's highest honor, the Spingarn Medal; and in 2004, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Serving as master of ceremonies on this occasion was Immediate Past Grand Sire Archon Dwayne M. Murray who conceived of and championed the existence of the Manford Byrd, Jr. Educational Fund to primarily support the Fraternity's Boulé Scholars Program and the Young Adult Career Symposium, which is held immediately preceding our Grand Boulé.

Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi provided welcome remarks and encouraged everyone to donate to the Byrd Educational Fund. He reiterated the quote of Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., that he used in his 2022 Boulé Foundation Annual Report letter: "Life's persistent and most urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Grand Sire Archon Garibaldi emphasized that an investment



ARCHONS PACK THE GRAND BALLROOM TO ATTEND THE MANFORD BYRD, JR. EDUCATIONAL FUND LUNCHEON.

in education is the best way to assure a prosperous future for our next generation.

The fund is named in honor of Omega Boulé Archon Manford Byrd, Jr., who served from 1980 to 2005 as Grand Thesauristes while simultaneously serving as treasurer of the Boulé Foundation. Retiring from these positions in 2005 he was named Treasurer Emeritus of the Boulé Foundation.

Past Grand Thesauristes and Boulé Foundation Treasurer Emeritus Byrd was not only an outstanding officer within the Grand Boulé and the Boulé Foundation but was an outstanding K-12 educator and served as superintendent of the Chicago Public School system. Throughout his distinguished career in public K-12 education, his recognition of the importance of education in building our communities and in providing the foundation for individual opportunities and success was well-established and remained a core value throughout his life. In

recognition of his distinguished career, the Manford Byrd, Jr. Educational Fund was established to support two of our Fraternity's significant educational programs.

Since its inception, the fund has received more than 500 donations, including those made during the Manford Byrd, Jr. Luncheon held during the 57th Grand Boulé. These included a significant contribution of \$77,500 from Archon Alden J. McDonald, Sr., chief executive officer of Liberty Bank and Trust Co.; \$36,000 from the Byrd family which includes three Archons; \$25,000 from Archon Roy Roberts; more than \$7,000 from Alpha Alpha Boulé; and \$10,000 from The Links, Inc. Numerous Archons also have made contributions of \$500 to the fund and thus have been designated as Charter Donors.

Tax-deductible donations to the Manford Byrd, Jr. Educational Fund are continuously welcomed and are encouraged.



Established May 15th 2021

Don't Wait for the Right Opportunity,
CREATE IT!

Give Today!

Donations are tax deductible.

MAIL YOUR DONATION TO:

OFFICE OF THE GRAND BOULÉ :260 PEACHTREE STREET, NW SUITE 1604, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SIGMA PI PHI

MEMO YOUR CHECK: "BYRD FUND (INSERT MEMBER BOULÉ)"

LEVELS OF GIVING:

PATRON \$100- \$400

CHARTER MEMBER \$500

YACS \$1,000

BOULÉ SCHOLAR \$2,500

BYRD FELLOW \$5,000

BLACK MALE EXCELLENCE TRAILBLAZER \$10,000

BYRD SOCIETY \$25,000



"Play a critical role in creating pathways for Black males to excel in education."

The Fraternity created the Manford Byrd Jr. Educational Fund to support the educational programs of our regions, member boulés, the Boulé Scholars Program, our Young Adults Career Symposium, fund scholarships and other educational initiatives of the Fraternity.



First Ladies Gather at the 57th Grand Boulé

During the 57th Grand Boulé, the “first ladies” (wives of Grand Sire Archons) gathered for the Archousai Luncheon. Seated are Archousai Michelle Douglass, Lisa Murray, Vernell Reed, Linda Teamer, Ada Cole and Barbara Coleman. Standing are Archousai Glenda Harris, Tracie Payne, Wenda Moore and

Carol Garibaldi. The Archousai contributed to the programs of the Fraternity as speakers and panelists and several are trustees of the Boulé Foundation. Collectively, they have added value to the expansion of the Young Adult Career Symposium, often serving as coconveners with their Archons.



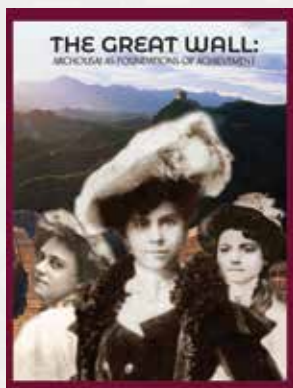
FIRST LADIES AT THE 57TH GRAND BOULÉ DINNER DANCE: ARCHOUSAI CAROL GARIBALDI, BARBARA COLEMAN, ADA COLE, LISA MURRAY, MICHELLE DOUGLASS, VERNELL REED, LINDA TEAMER AND WENDA MOORE.



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILCZYNSKI

THE MAGNUM OPUS OF THE 57TH GRAND BOULÉ

By Archon LeRome Richmond, Delta Upsilon Boulé, Southeast Region Sire Archon-Elect



At the 48th Grand Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and at the behest of then-Grand Sire Archon Charles Teamer (2004–06), the Grand Executive Committee established the Grand History and Archive Committee. Grand Sire Teamer identified Archon Rodney Reed of Alpha Gamma Boulé (future Grand Sire Archon, 2010–12) to serve as chair of the newly minted ad-hoc committee. While Archon Reed and Past Grand Sire Archon Huel Perkins of Alpha Xi Boulé (1992–94) were charged with identifying an author to compose the next edition of Sigma Pi Phi's illustriously broad-based history, Chairman Reed called upon Grand Grapier Khephra Burns (Alpha Sigma) and Archon Lawrence Pijaux, Jr. (Beta Kappa), to collaborate in chronicling and archiving an oral account of Boulé history by interviewing each of the Fraternity's surviving Past Grand Officers and current Grand Officers. The video chronicles would live in perpetuity and be shared with future generations of Archons and Archousai.

Archons Burns and Pijaux fastidiously initiated their research and preparations to interview all surviving Past Grand Officers with the intent to share these historic recordings during forthcoming Grand and Regional Boulés.

Subsequently, the inaugural Grand Boulé History Exhibit occurred in 2012 during the 51st Grand Boulé in Boca Raton, Florida, and has since manifested into an enriching hidden gem. The exhibition has served as a consistent gathering spot for Archons and Archousai to congregate amidst the Grand Boulé and hold court, thus affording all the opportunity to celebrate the golden history of our esteemed organization. The presentation of Boulé history has grown into a more spectacular production with each passing biennium, and the 57th Grand Boulé was no exception. This exhibit entitled, *The Great Wall: Archousai As Foundations of Achievement*, examined the lives and cultural impact of the Archousai of Sigma Pi Phi, placing them on center stage.

On Friday morning, June 14, 2024, Archons and Archousai began to descend upon San Diego, California, for the 57th Grand Boulé bountifully. With more than a year's worth of planning, research and anticipation, The Boulé Journal Team (Archon Khephra Burns, Cynthia Weidner, and Carol Mittelsdorf) was well prepared to receive the masses and to welcome our Boulé family to view and enjoy their labor of love honoring the Archousai.

When approaching the exhibit hall's entrance, one could not help but notice the marquee outside the door. It contained a regal photo of Archousa Grace Nail Johnson (wife of Archon James Weldon Johnson), Archousa Edith Wormley Minton (wife of Founder Henry McKee Minton) and Archousa Lela Ewing Warrick (wife of Founder Richard Jon Warrick,



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILCZYNSKI

Jr.), dressed in their Sunday best in the foreground with an image of the Great Wall of China displayed in the background. The header above the photo read *Timeless, Endless and Indestructible in Their Own Names: A History Exhibit Honoring the Archousai of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity*. It was perfectly apropos.

The interior of the exhibition hall was beautifully adorned and well-appointed. Upon entering, Archons and Archousai were greeted by the dulcet tone of Archousa Vanzetta Penn McPherson's exquisite narration of *The Half That Hasn't Been Told: A Celebration of Archousai in History*. The exhibit featured twenty-seven Archousai on long, flowing individual banners draped on both the west and east walls, with a soft blue radiant light between banners, creating an awe-inspiring corridor of Archousai history. Each banner contained a synopsis of the highlighted Archousa's achievements and their historical place. In addition, on the west wall, one could find images of our Founders' beloved Archousai: Edith Wormley Minton, Rachel Walls Abele, Elizabeth A. Newman Jackson, Lela Ewing Warrick and Marie Hopewell Hinson.

Upon entering the hall and on your immediate left, the south wall presented a sequence of large banners illuminating many of the organizations most familiar to Black society that our Archousai either founded, served as presidents, or were active members at large. These organizations included the National



Association of Colored Women and National Council of Negro Women, Phi Beta Kappa, the National Urban League, the NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta and The Links, Inc.

The north wall contained a grand collage of Archousai photos taken since the early 1900s, continuing through some of our most recent organizational gatherings. Curated images were from Boulé summer socials, Christmas Is for the Archousai events, Grand and Regional Boulés, and numerous other social outings.

In the center corridor of the History Exhibit, six free-standing 8-foot display modules, positioned to invite a natural, organic flow through the exhibit space, awed Archons and Archousai with the sheer magnitude of Archousai accomplishment. The light cast on their relationships to one another and to many who passed through the exhibit brought the history home to us. Each two-sided display featured multiple Archousai with a brief biographical summary celebrating each Archousa. As an aside, the fabric banners featuring our Archousai were placed in a silent auction, allowing Archons and Archousai to bid on them throughout the weekend, with all proceeds going directly to support the Boulé Foundation, making it mutually beneficial for all.

With an uninterrupted flow throughout the weekend, Archons, Archousai, children, grandchildren and even some Manchester Grand Hyatt staff members

THE GREAT WALL:

ARCHOUSAI AS FOUNDATIONS OF ACHIEVEMENT

SILENT AUCTION



(who had heard about the extraordinary exhibit) gathered in the exhibition hall to partake in the illustrious history of our loving Archousai. The 57th Grand Boulé History Exhibit offered a warm and inviting gathering spot that encouraged all to share in the discussion of our heritage. At any given moment, numerous people were amassed in small groups throughout the room, discussing the vast achievements of the Archousai, who knew who, and accounts of personal brushes with the women of power and influence chronicled there.

Organizationally, may we extol the work put forth by those who dedicated their time, talent and treasure to bring to fruition this phenomenal history exhibit, *The Great Wall: Archousai As Foundations of Achievement*. It was indeed the pièce de résistance of the 57th Grand Boulé. The exhibition underscores that Christmas is not the only time in which we celebrate our Archousai, but moreover that our beloved Archousai are and have always been an integral part of the grand history of Sigma Pi Phi, the richness of our Black culture and are undeniably a significant part of our Boulé family.

For the past decade, Archon Khephra Burns has devoted uncounted hours between each Grand Boulé to the history exhibit, without fanfare, as a personal gift to the Boulé. He has conceived, researched and oftentimes provided the narration for the exhibit that we have enjoyed. He is one of the most sagacious Archons within the fold of Boulé and is often referred



PHOTO: ANTHONY WILCZYNSKI



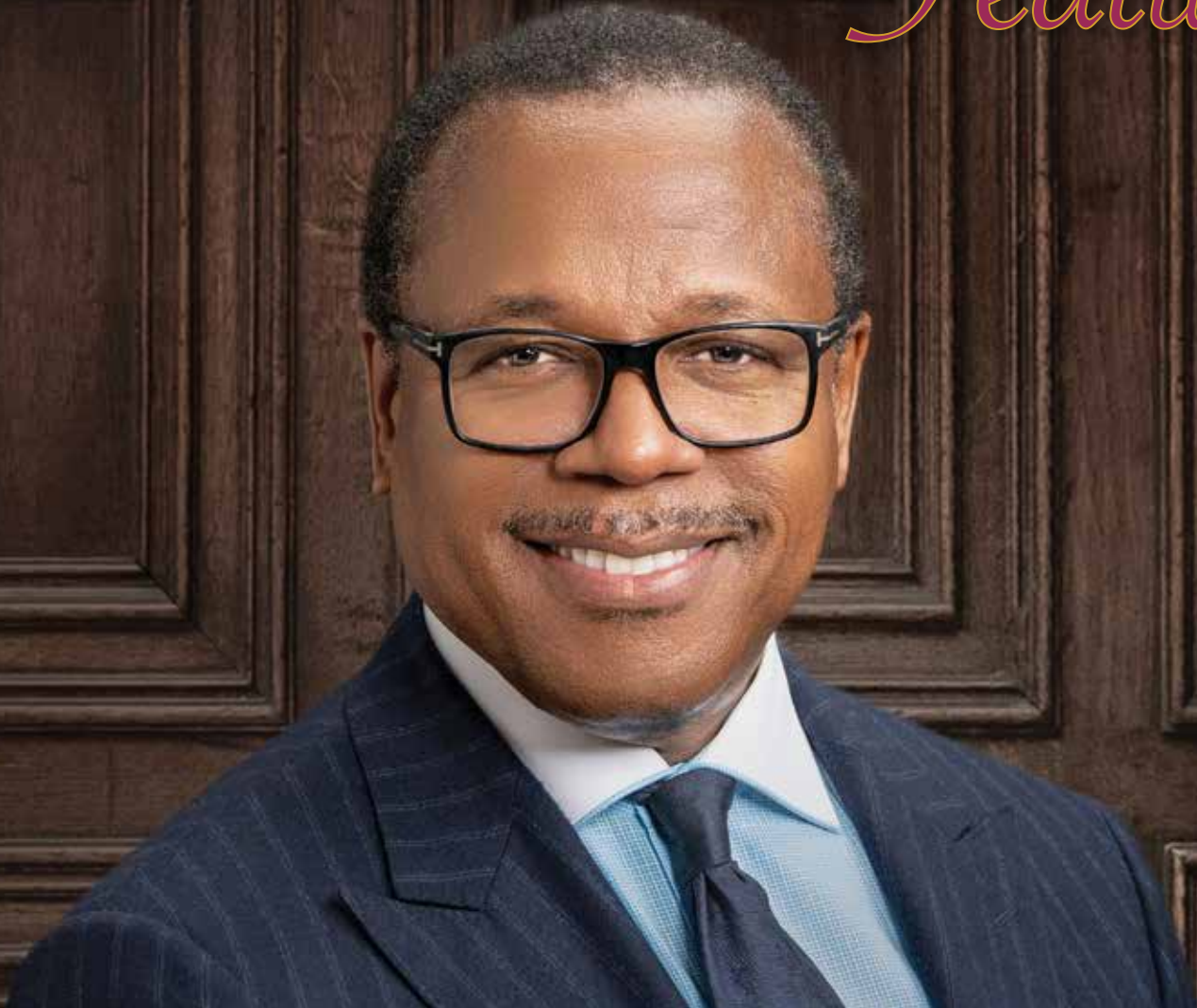
PHOTO: ANTHONY WILCZYNSKI

to by Archons – far more seasoned than I – as the epitome of an Archon's Archon.

Archousa Vanzetta Penn McPherson (Phi Boulé) graciously scripted and narrated the exhibition. Her linguistic eloquence, wit and mental dexterity can frequently be found within the pages of *THE BOULÉ JOURNAL*. And although I cannot image who would, if one were to question the sobriety of these accolades or the gravity of talent pulling others into her orbit, a casual perusal of her *Mind Over Matter* column in the Journal will quickly convert skeptics to believers. Read any of the series of Archousa McPherson's historical essays and see for yourself the truth is incontrovertible.

Cynthia Weidner and Carol Mittelsdorf of Fred Weidner & Daughter Printers astound all who have occasion to interact with them, but especially the Grapters, with their commitment to excellence and breadth of knowledge of the history of our esteemed Sigma Pi Phi, which I dare say is unrivaled by anyone outside our mystic circle and quite possibly by some of us within our innermost sanctuary (knowledge, I should add, acquired over the course of Fred Weidner & Daughter's forty-five-year relationship with the Fraternity). Weidner provided editorial and content management, whilst Mittelsdorf curated and designed the entire exhibition celebrating the most beloved aspect of the Boulé, our Archousai: our spouses, sisters, mothers and, in many family lineages, our grandmothers.

Bravo on a job well done!



GRAND SIRE ARCHON LOREN R. DOUGLASS

THE BOULÉ BEYOND: A CASE FOR EVOLUTIONARY CHANGE

By Grand Sire Archon Loren R. Douglass

Society has changed dramatically since the Fraternity was founded in 1904. Although government sanctioned segregation no longer exists in America, the country remains divided in important ways. This fact may, in part, explain why the Fraternity has endured for 120 years as the need that motivated the Fraternity's founding has stubbornly persisted for well over a century.

The Fraternity has seen its way through World Wars I and II, the Great Depression, the promise of prosperity of the New Deal and the turbulence of the Civil Rights Era. The Boulé remained grounded during the heady

days of the Apollo 11 lunar landing and never wavered during Watergate and the Vietnam War-induced disillusionment in government that affected the country for a generation. We remained confident in ourselves during the apparent loss of American hegemony as evidenced by the Arab oil embargo of the 1970s, and Archons served honorably as we've always done during America's emergence as the unipolar hyperpower during the dazzling liberation of Kuwait. We also mourned with the rest of the world during the shocking 9/11 attacks on New York City's World Trade Center.

As Americans, we were affected by all these past events and were profoundly shaped by their aftermaths. It can be argued that the election of Barack Obama was one of the most consequential events of American history. At the time, America was brimming with optimism as if it felt it had finally solved what Archon W.E.B. Du Bois presciently wrote in his famous book *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903), “The problem of the twentieth century...the color line.” In hindsight, it seems that President Obama’s election may have unexpectedly set off a chain of events, most notably the undermining of long-established constitutional rights and protections that have since shaken the pillars of the United States of America to its very foundations.

Today, Black Americans find themselves in unfortunately challenging similar circumstances parallel to those of post-Civil War Reconstruction Era. What we, as the talented tenth, do now could have a profound impact on how much history reflects the future.

In more recent generations, Archons and Archousai have started families later in life as more career opportunities have become available to women from which they were once excluded. Managers, professionals and tenure track faculty have all taken longer routes to career progress than in past generations for one reason or another. Many dual-career families must juggle the demands of two careers while raising a family. The professions have found themselves evolving substantially as technology, changing business models and industry dynamics have made it harder and caused it to take longer to reap the same rewards as in the past. Globalization, rapid technological changes and deregulation created fundamental changes in the world’s economies, resulting in the changing nature of work and our individual relationships to it.

As the concept of retirement has evolved, Archons are working longer into their traditional retirement years and fortunately living healthier, more productive lives much later in life than in the past. All these demographic changes have driven the need for a Boulé that responds to the changed personal and professional needs of Archons in all stages of life. With twenty-first-century technology, corporate downsizings, globalization, mergers and acquisitions, grid-locked tenure tracks, and other macroeconomic and demographic trends, there has been great interest in self-determination through entrepreneurship. Disruptions caused by the pandemic have created a sense of urgency as it exposed vulnerabilities in the economic safety net of Black Americans at all levels. Likewise, Archons are looking to invest what little precious time they have into value-added pursuits that help them address their most pressing needs and those of

their families. Archons will “vote with their feet” if it’s perceived that there is nothing to be gained by being involved with Boulé activities.

During the campaign, my team conducted an online survey and learned that Archons wanted five things:

- Tighter bonds through fellowship, tradition and values regardless of location
- Assertive, bold leadership in everything we do
- Innovation through technology, wherever possible
- Wealth creation for each other and the Boulé Foundation
- A greater stake in each other’s success through active networking and business collaboration

It is timely to account for these preferences as we contemplate the Boulé’s future if the Fraternity wants to remain relevant and competitive for an Archon’s time and attention. I heard many of the same themes as I traveled the country, so there was no obvious correlation by region, by profession or by stage of life. These themes proved universal and resonated across all five regions.

With current membership at more than 5,600 Archons across five regions and with two international member boulés (London, UK, and Nassau, Bahamas), we’ve grown larger and have become more complex given that our business processes must now accommodate other laws, currencies and business practices. We now have member boulés in Europe and in the Caribbean that have drawn in Archons who, though reared in countries other than the United States, have similar exclusionary life experiences as American Blacks. The Fraternity became more complex as the needs of the regions and member boulés became an even higher priority during the pandemic, needs that were addressed through enhanced engagement, multichannel communications and virtual collaboration capabilities. Working across boundaries – geographical, regional and local – became the norm, and the Fraternity has organically divided labor and achieved synergies through cost-sharing, sponsorship opportunities and other forms of leveraging each other.

Each region has a distinct culture, prominent industries, leading institutions and professional landscapes which feed the wonderful professional diversity that we find in the Boulé. What works for one region may not work for another, so a one size fits all approach to conceiving, organizing and executing events is suboptimal. The need has developed for a more flexible environment that accommodates the larger size, diverse needs and cultures of today’s organization. Regional

collaboration was largely born from the need to leverage the collective energies and share resources but with the flexibility to “do their own thing.” It’s a well-known fact of organizational development that as organizations grow, they may need to change their structures, processes or culture to effectively manage the increased scale and complexity of operations and the demands placed upon them.

THE SMART USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Innovation in the Boulé is one of the desired attributes that Archons identified when surveyed. Specifically, Archons are interested in innovation through smart application of technology. Being able to locate professional expertise within the Boulé and having a mobile phone app of our directory for ease of communications are among the types of capabilities identified as wanted by Archons. There is no reason for Boulé innovation to begin and end with technology applications: We can adapt our organization to accommodate the new realities of a globalized society and postpandemic economy. Expanding our reach through strategic partnerships and coalitions will help optimize our resources and extend our networks as described in my previous BOULÉ JOURNAL article entitled “Strategic Coalitions: Extending Our Reach.”

Unleashing the creativity and enterprising spirit of the Boulé by connecting each other through technology, as referred to my networking article “Let’s Make a Deal: Creating Archon Wealth Through Innovative Collaboration” can spur innovations with new modes of collaboration that may make location and other constraining factors irrelevant. Change can spur innovation if faced head-on. The conditions are present, Archons want it, we have the means to do it, then why not do it? When? How about right now? With significant growth has come increased operational complexity. More member boulés generate more data that need to be managed and processes that need to be coordinated and harmonized.

As the Boulé is decentralized by its very nature and is organized in a hub-and-spoke structure, our information systems are more critical than ever. The increasing complexity and cost of operations have created the need to rationalize costs and streamline processes. Our long overdue investment in technology and our current state of broken and disconnected business processes make critical tasks like maintaining an up-to-date accurate master directory an extremely difficult task. Recent changes in the Office of the Grand Boulé have set us in the right direction as we modernize the Fraternity for today’s needs and for future demands.

With the hiring of Archon Bennett Gaines as executive director, we are well on our way to addressing some of our most pressing operating challenges. He has brought decades of corporate and professional experience and knows how to scale operations and improve productivity by streamlining processes and eliminating redundancies. Our ability to be virtually connected, efficiently share information and collaborate regardless of location is related to efficacies of our technology backbone. Without a solid technology infrastructure, creating spaces for intensive networking, on-demand connections and functioning collaboration channels would simply be too costly and complicated to execute. Many of the tools that can facilitate our new capabilities are readily available and off the shelf. That said, the Fraternity must engage in significant process analysis and optimization before implementing technology solutions. Failure to do so simply speeds up broken processes or simply makes them easier to break down. Likewise, if we want to modernize our technology infrastructure, some level of organizational change must occur.

SOLUTION-ORIENTED LEADERSHIP

Assertive and bold leadership has been part of our culture from the Fraternity’s founding. Since 1915, the Fraternity has recognized its need to be involved in shaping policy issues that directly affect Black people and our communities. For more than one hundred years it has experimented with various iterations of a central body whose objective is to harness the collective energy and expertise within for this very purpose.

Starting in 1915 with the Public Welfare Committee, to the National Policy and Action Committee in 1946, to the Public Policy Planning Committee, the precursor of today’s Public Policy Committee, the Fraternity has evolved to meet the moment. It was Past Grand Sire Archon–Elect Eddie Williams, in the late 1990s, who made the persuasive case for the Fraternity to be more directly and consequentially involved in the policymaking process in a nonpartisan and solution-oriented manner. It was Archon Williams who provided the original framework and vision for our work on behalf of Black America. Given this well-established history, it is neither new nor unprecedented that the Fraternity actively engages elected leaders and policymakers on its own terms. Likewise, Archons need not be concerned that the Fraternity is veering off course when it does so. We’ve been doing it for more than a century.

Recent policy setbacks in areas like affirmative action, voting rights and other policy evolutions are motivating the vigorous drive towards creating more opportuni-

ties for self-determination. This effort requires us to build networks and establish coalitions that extend our reach beyond our existing purview. Accruing influence through collaborations will broaden and deepen our impact in those priority areas that we choose. Highly ranked organizations, according to the SCAN strategic partner selection paradigm to which I originally referred in a past BOULÉ JOURNAL article (“Globalizing the Boulé and Why it Matters”), will need an established channel with which to coordinate if we are to make consistent progress in the coming years.

Unfortunately, without the ability to establish and build long-term relationships given our relatively short office tenures, our strategic initiatives risk perpetually stalling in startup mode as administrations come and go. Establishing relationship continuity will go a long way toward strengthening our ability to conceive, develop and execute medium to long-range plans with organizations with congruent objectives and cultures. Additionally, having the ability to maintain consistent focus will enable execution over extended time periods and not be subject to the shifting priorities of changing administrations.

In tandem with helping to shape public policy and impact in their communities, Archons have expressed a great desire to have what was described as “extrinsic” and “intrinsic” connections with other Archons. In addition to the intimate personal connection through tighter fraternal bonds forged while “getting to know the best of one another,” Archons also want the means

to build business and networking relationships that fulfill the “collective action” part of our credo. Succinctly stated, Archons wish to do business together (for instance, wealth creation) along with the emotional affirmation that comes with our sacred fellowship. Having surveyed and spoken with Archons across all five regions, I believe that delivering on these preferences would drive greater Archon satisfaction and contribute to Archon retention. Either enhancing or clarifying the value proposition for membership in Sigma Pi Phi would surely help promote more Archon engagement in Boulé activities. The good news is that we do not need wholesale change. With the right tools, the Fraternity can evolve to accommodate these emerging needs and wants.

THE BOULÉ PILLARS

At each stage of the Boulé’s evolution, the organization has erected a pillar upon which our values and priorities are manifest. The Fraternity was started as a sacred fellowship with the enduring purpose of providing a professional and social refuge for men of like minds and tastes. The Boulé Foundation was established as the Fraternity turned outward to project its gifts for the benefit of our communities. Our social responsibility is in part greatly enabled by the existence of the Foundation and with the brilliant stewardship of Past Grand Sire Archon Anthony Hall and the Boulé Foundation board of trustees.



FIGURE 1: THE WAY FORWARD

The Boulé 1904 PAC has been the vehicle through which the Boulé has channeled its efforts to influence the policies and processes that impact our communities and our priorities. As Boulé PAC chairman, I am working extremely hard to extend the reach of our bipartisan committee to create relationships and pathways in the corridors of power where we have either limited or no presence. In my estimation, there is one more milestone in our evolution for us to reach, and that is an efficient and impactful way for Archons to engage in collective action.

For us to “Seize the Future,” we must organize for the future, using modern methods and techniques and utilizing the tools available to us. As the “dream and glory of our ancestors,” we have an unprecedented opportunity to advance the agenda by harnessing the creative energies and unleashing them for innovation and dynamism of which our esteemed fraternity is capable.

Adding another pillar completes the foundation and gives everyone a lane in which to connect. In fact, it changes the way we look at the Fraternity itself. If one wants the social benefits of fraternity, there’s a lane for you. If policy impact is your thing, the PAC offers an avenue for your engagement. Same for the Boulé Foundation as it relates to one’s commitment to community engagement. Should an Archon want to get involved with one’s area of interest, there is an avenue for him. There is no organized venue in the Fraternity “for collective action” that is part of the second half of the credo. This is an opportunity for creating an entity that provides a structure that can organize, fund and deploy resources in an efficient and cost-effective manner. During the campaign, my team surveyed Archons, nationally, and found strong demand for an avenue offering professional development, networking and wealth creation.

With this additional pillar, Archons who desire these attributes will see and feel the value proposition for which they have sought and thus will remain active. Those who have gone inactive due to frustration of feeling unfulfilled may be reclaimed.

The fourth pillar will create a framework for the Fraternity to efficiently collaborate with other organizations with similar goals and objectives. Given that the changes in policy and macroeconomic factors such as rapid technological change, globalization and deregulation have so profoundly changed life in the United States, self-determination is now more important than ever. Having the capability to efficiently deploy resources towards priorities that extend our capabilities and networks in pursuit of economic and social empowerment, the fourth pillar provides the platform to do so with purpose and flexibility. In a world of “it’s not what you know, it’s who you know,” extending the

Boulé’s reach via the fourth pillar is a natural evolution. In fact, it’s a physical embodiment of our founder’s values and priorities in the same fashion as the other three pillars. The fourth pillar is the organic outgrowth of the expressed wants and desires of Archons for the ability to work together, do business together and bring down barriers impeding mobility to “the next level.”

IT’S TIME TO SEIZE THE FUTURE!

Since 1904, Sigma Pi Phi has been the paragon of resilience. We’ve adapted to the tectonic changes in the world around us while staying true to the traditions and values upon which we were founded. Standing at the precipice of a new era and having traversed nearly one quarter of the twenty-first century, our challenge is not only one of adaptation, but also one of leadership. We must adapt so that we can lead in the manner that will be required of us in the coming decades.

My campaign theme of “Seize the Future!” is reflective of the pent-up energy and enthusiasm in Archons in all regions, and in all generations, professions, parties and points of view to get going on leading from the front as we confront some of the biggest issues facing us in the twenty-first century. Many things are already happening as Archons and Archousai self-start and take the initiative and lead in their respective regions, cities and member boulés. It’s time to organize, build and unleash that energy and creativity on a global scale in unprecedented ways.

Past Grand Sire Archon Harvey Russell said in his inaugural address at the 1978 Grand Boulé, “As we have a collective duty to each other and to all those who have gone before us, to the traditions and history of Sigma Pi Phi, we also have a clear duty to be effective not only as individuals, but as an organization – an organization that is clearly in a position to affect change instead of react to it.” Past Grand Sire Archon Russell led us boldly during his tenure, and his words and actions defined the Boulé’s agenda during the 1980s. His leadership led to the chartering of the first international member boulé (Beta Theta, Liberia) and the establishment the Sigma Pi Phi Foundation, the precursor to the Boulé Foundation and the second pillar of the Fraternity. Past Grand Sire Archon Russell sensed the moment and seized it.

In the spring 2024 BOULÉ JOURNAL, my article ended by stating, “Let the innovation begin!” Given all that is happening in the Fraternity, the recent successes of the Boulé Economic Empowerment Summits, and the reawakening of the spirit of the Founders and their original intent, it’s safe to say the innovation has already begun.

FOR A TIME SUCH AS THIS: LEVERAGING BOULÉ POWER, PURPOSE AND PROGRAM TO TRANSFORM AMERICA THROUGH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

BY ARCHON MAURICE HOBSON, PHI BOULÉ, CHAIR, GRAND HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Esther 4: 14 – And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for a time such as this?



ARCHON MAURICE HOBSON

The recent developments in American politics have warranted us to consider the salience of the American experiment, where many pundits and scholars question whether or not the United States can survive the 2024 presidential election. President Biden's inability to recall facts at the June 27, 2024, Atlanta presidential faceoff with former President Trump fueled this fire, and many assumed that he lacked the mental acuity desired to be president. Cries for him to step aside reached a crescendo, and for a moment it seemed as if the whole world had turned on an elder statesman whom many saw as one who stabilized the nation's image after the failed coup d'état of January 6, 2021. Furthermore, former president and thirty-four-count convicted felon Donald Trump was no better. Whereas his shortcomings were in a sense a mental acuity of a different kind – filled with bogus claims and fictive narratives. Shortly after the presidential debate, an assassination attempt on former President Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, caught Americans off guard, and while Donald Trump has consistently stoked demagoguery and fear through violent rhetoric, it backfired. No matter how you affiliate politically, for a time such as this, American democracy is in the balance.

Nevertheless, there is a larger context that we must consider when detailing democracy. The recent banning of books and attacks on teaching African American and other forms of nuanced and marginalized histories speak to a new wave of old anti-Black racism that has taken root in this country. Americans are always strongest when history is understood, and American democracy's tenets of citizenship and voting are this nation's saving grace. These tenets are under attack, and this moment reveals the urgency for reflection and critical thinking on the relevance of social justice and responsibility to the everyday experiences

of Black folk navigating racism and sexism and their effectiveness in fostering platforms on which we may thrive and gain full opportunities for self-agency.

While evil lurks in the shadows wishing to roll back our civil liberties and human rights, there are those of us who plan to fight and with all our might. Founded on May 15, 1904, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity is the oldest continuously Greek-letter postgraduate fraternity founded by and for distinguished Black professional men of African descent worldwide. One purpose of the Fraternity is “to enhance and support professional careers and social relationships while concurrently stealthily influencing and facilitating the improving and raising the quality of life for the larger Black communities as those from which they mostly came and existed professionally.”

This call-to-action thought piece, centered solely on the most inclusive notion of American democracy, aims to give the historical and political context to the 2024 presidential election with hopes of quickening the spirit of Archons and Archousai through a calculated platform that leverages Boulé power, purpose and programs to transform Black communities through political and economic empowerment. From a historical perspective, it will connect the events of the late 1970s and early 1980s to the current plight of Black America. Furthermore, it will then provide avenues for Archons and Archousai to serve as agents of democracy, safeguard American civil rights and focus on the possibilities that lie ahead.

THE THREAT

In 2016, when Donald Trump took office as the forty-fifth U.S. president, America and the world witnessed rollbacks in domestic and foreign policies that resulted in a tattered image similar to the nation’s reputation after the Vietnam conflict. On the world’s stage, Trump’s tenuous relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and his affinity for dictators Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Putin were problematic. Yet, on the domestic scene, his failure to realize that this nation’s potential is strengthened by the Constitution was troubling, to say the least. American presidents swear an oath to protect the Constitution before God and country as it is the source of all government powers and provides important limitations on the government to protect fundamental rights of American citizens.

President Trump orchestrated a series of events that ran afoul of the Constitution. As the supreme law empowered with the sovereign authority of the

people by the founders and the consent of the legislatures of the states, it is a delicate design of checks and balances, electoral responsibility and legal accountability. Under the authoritarian-minded Trump presidency, this design failed significantly and positioned particularly extreme and virulent threats. His practice was to skirt the Senate confirmation process by designating perpetual “acting” appointees, whereas judicial enforcement processes give teeth to the Constitution’s emoluments clauses, congressional oversight powers and the Hatch Act. His abuse of emergency declarations and executive orders to grasp legislative powers without congressional approval, such as his use of defense department authorizations to partially build a wall on the southern U.S. border, though it challenges the meaning of the United States motto, E Pluribus Unum, and walks right up to the line, is still a matter of legal interpretation. No president should be able to do that.

However, his efforts and antics of voter suppression, where he weaponized the U.S. Postal Service to slow down the delivery of mail-in ballots, during a worldwide pandemic, violated not only the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, but it also discounted the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which politically franchised masses of Black voters. From 1965 to 1980, Black citizens enjoyed a moment of political empowerment and electoral politics. With this, a Black electorate asserted its interests and might only to have its voice silenced with the rise of President Ronald Reagan, who vowed to “Make America Great Again.”

THE BLACK NEW SOUTH

For context, Archon W.E.B. Du Bois delivered a speech before the Southern Negro Youth Congress in Columbia, South Carolina, just after World War II in 1946. A precursor to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the SNYC comprised Black youth from across the South. In this address, Archon Du Bois opined: “The future of American Negroes is in the South. Here, three hundred and twenty-seven years ago, they began to enter what is now the United States of America; here they have made their greatest contribution to American culture; and here they have suffered the damnation of slavery, the frustration of Reconstruction, and the lynching of Emancipation.” Du Bois told the young people that the fight for civil rights would take place in the South, in Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Archon Du Bois’s words were prophetic.

[Author’s note: The Black New South is a school of thought that focuses on the experiences of Black people in a post-1965 South, challenging trends often overlooked by scholars and pundits. A major component of the Black New South deals with how civil rights legislation was galvanized following white terror in Birmingham and Selma, respectively, to advance Black citizenship and voting.]

After a highly contested 2020 presidential election, Joseph Biden was elected as president. President Biden executed a ground game that I call the Black New South – a new direction in African American historical-social scientific studies – as a latest iteration of Black resistance. His execution of the Black New South ground game was duly noted, where Latinx voters delivered western states including Arizona and California. But his path to victory rode the Black New South wave by delivering not only Georgia of the Deep South but also the great migration destination cities like Milwaukee, Detroit and Philadelphia in the Midwest and Northeast, to which Blacks had migrated for better opportunities in previous generations.

WHILE EVIL LURKS IN THE SHADOWS WISHING TO ROLL BACK OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS, THERE ARE THOSE OF US WHO PLAN TO FIGHT AND WITH ALL OUR MIGHT. IF WE BELIEVE IN AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, WE SHOULD NOTE WE ARE BEARING WITNESS TO THE ROLLBACKS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND MUST PERFORM POLITICALLY.

To hammer home this point, the September 2020 Special Edition of *THE BOULÉ JOURNAL*, which focused on voting in the wake of the death of Archon John Lewis, and civil rights legends Rev. Joseph Lowery and C.T. Vivian, Archon Khephra Burns employed a message that stated, “We can’t afford ‘not’ to vote” followed by a chart juxtaposing Donald Trump’s 2016 margin of victory and the number of Blacks who did not vote in areas with significant political influence in statewide and national elections. The Biden presidential win demonstrated the collective popular political sentiment and meanings of democracy to Black people.

NEW PITFALLS AND POSSIBILITIES

The events that culminated in 2020 set off a chain of efforts toward diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). This DEI frenzy was short-lived because of a vestige of Trump’s administration, the appointments of ultraconservative justices to the Supreme Court of

the United States that signaled a hard-right–swinging pendulum. This conservative Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade* and race-based affirmative action programs in higher education under the Biden administration. Indeed, this perverse use of power set the stage for states’ rights shenanigans mirroring the late 1970s and early 1980s. In the spring of 2024, legislators in more than thirty states introduced or passed legislation to restrict or regulate diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in their legislative session.

To add insult to injury, Trump voiced his support for Project 2025 in the summer of 2024. Billed in the media as a “policy ‘wish list’ for the next Republican president, Project 2025 vastly expands presidential powers and imposes an ultraconservative social vision on the United States” for future Republican administrations. Most recently, he distanced himself from this rhetoric. Noted is that not all these conservative policies are party-based.

After President Biden’s performance was met with boos and hisses during the June 2024 presidential debate in Atlanta, he announced his decision to not seek reelection due to concerns over his age and mental acuity. President Biden, an American hero, demonstrated his resolve by putting the nation’s best interest over his legacy. Historians will be kind to him for

this gesture. Yet with Biden’s endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris as his successor, Harris officially launched her campaign on July 21, 2024, and secured the Democratic nomination by early August. She is a former district attorney, California attorney general, U.S. senator from California and vice president, and her presidential campaign asserts that she will continue protecting American freedoms, delivering justice and expanding opportunities for every citizen.

A Howard University and University of California-San Francisco School of Law alumna, Harris, as President Biden’s trusted partner, has enhanced the American economy, strengthened the nation’s infrastructure, strengthened the Affordable Care Act, expanded health care for veterans, enacted gun-safety reform to reduce violent crime and passed the largest investment toward challenging climate crisis. Harris chose Minnesota governor, veteran, educator and coach Tim Walz as her running mate, positioning

herself as the first woman of color to lead a major party's presidential ticket.

Vice President Harris's ascendancy to the Democratic nominee is reminiscent of the biblical character Esther, a fair maiden whose courage and faith gave her people a fighting chance, as she and her people were enslaved and under threat from a genocidal-leaning prime minister. Does this seem familiar to you?

THE CALL TO ACTION

If we believe in American democracy, we should note we are bearing witness to the rollbacks of civil liberties and must perform politically. If local member boulés will partner with specific local resources – universities, churches and other initiatives – to fully understand demographic shifts of our local areas; coordinate with other local efforts such as policy advocates, organizational development and training, and funding to increase voter turnout; and host voter registration drives, we can leverage our influence within the political and economic sectors as a coordinated attack against voter suppression. This, in turn, will champion American democracy.

Furthermore, we can refresh our understanding of history and consider the Boulé civil rights tour: visiting the battlegrounds at the heart and soul of American democracy. Here Archons and Archousai can visit many of the important sites in the American South (Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi) where civil rights history was made. The Fraternity is planning guided tours by recognized experts to illuminate the history in ways not written in textbooks. The Boulé also plans to convene informally with influencers in the area in support of our local boulés' efforts to shape their state and local agendas.

The United States of America needs a new story – one that reflects its true ideals. We have a tremendous opportunity to make history by electing a democratic leaning and capable leader as the nation's first woman president. While this nation has a sordid history of discrimination against people of color, women and the poor, we, Archons and Archousai, have a chance to live up to our mission "to enhance and support professional careers and social relationships while concurrently stealthily influencing and facilitating the improving and raising the quality of life for the larger Black communities as those from which they mostly came and existed professionally."

REFERENCES

Maurice Hobson, "Behold the Black New South: How Black America Saved American Democracy Through the Prism of the 2020 Election," featured editorial, *The Signal – The Office Organ of the Southeastern Region, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity* (The Boulé), December 2020.

"A Guide to the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity Archives, 1908–1980: Scope and Content Note," processed by Beth M. House, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity Collection, Special Collections and Archives, Fisk University, Nashville.

Maurice J. Hobson, *The Legend of the Black Mecca: Politics and Class in the Making of Modern Atlanta*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017, 126.

Edward J. Larson, "Trump isn't the first president to abuse the Constitution, but he's gone so far we need a reckoning," *USA Today*, 18 September 2020.

W.E.B. Du Bois, "Behold the Land," an address given to the closing session of the Southern Youth Legislature of the Southern Negro Youth Congress in Columbia, South Carolina, October 1946; <https://www.crmvet.org/info/dubois1.htm>.

Khephra Burns, *THE BOULÉ JOURNAL*, Vol. 84, Special Edition, September 2020, p. 1.

Char Adams and Nigel Chiwaya, "Which States Have Introduced Anti-DEI Bills?" *NBC News*, March 2, 2024; <https://www.nbcnews.com/data-graphics/anti-dei-bills-states-republican-lawmakers-map-rcna140756>, accessed April 23, 2024.

Mike Wendling, "Project 2025: A Wish List for a Trump Presidency, Explained," *BBC New*, August 16, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c977njnvq2do>.

Meet Vice President Kamala Harris, kamalaharris.com/meet-kamala-harris, accessed August 18, 2024.



By Archon Anthony E. Gay, Grapier, Alpha Boulé

MAYOR CHERELLE PARKER (CENTER) WITH ALPHA ARCHONS

The year 2024 marks the 120th anniversary of the founding of Sigma Pi Phi, which took place in Philadelphia on May 15, 1904. In recognition of this august occasion, the Boulé's very first member boulé, Alpha Boulé, now led by Sire Archon Patrick M. Oates, organized and hosted a magnificent celebration of our founders and fraternity. The ceremonies, remembrances and festivities commenced on Thursday, May 2, 2024, and concluded on Sunday, May 5. What follows is the story of this four-day series of events, honoring our past and continuing our traditions.

Philadelphia City Council Issues a Proclamation. On the morning of May 2, 2024, the Archons of Alpha Boulé gathered in the ornate chambers of the Philadelphia City Council to receive a proclamation from the legislative chamber. Sponsored by Councilmember Nina Ahmad, the council's resolution stated that it was "Honoring the Founding of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., on the Occasion of its 120th Anniversary."

Councilmember Ahmad presented the resolution to Alpha Boulé Sire Archon Patrick Oates and offered remarks commemorating this momentous occasion. Sire Archon Oates accepted the document on behalf

of Sigma Pi Phi, acknowledging the honor and thanking members of the council.

The city council president, Kenyatta Johnson, took to the podium. With sincere gratitude, he spoke of the impact that members of Alpha Boulé have had on his career and his assent to leadership and as role models exhibiting the heights to which he could aspire. He specifically acknowledged the contributions of Emeritus Archon W. Wilson Goode, Sr., the first African American mayor of the city of Philadelphia; Archon W. Wilson Goode, Jr., a former member of the city council; and Archon Raymond Pace Alexander, the first African American elected to serve as a member of the council.

Following the ceremony, the Archons were warmly received by Mayor Cherelle Parker, the first woman elected to lead the city and the hundredth mayor of Philadelphia. She congratulated the Archons on Sigma Pi Phi's positive impact on the city and on the Fraternity's distinguished history. She also encouraged the Alpha Archons to continue their constructive influence on, and engagement with, the City of Philadelphia.

Launching the Celebratory Weekend in Grand Style. The official welcome reception for the 120th anniversary weekend took place on the evening of Friday, May 3, at the Rittenhouse Hotel in Philadelphia's stately Rittenhouse Square, bringing together leaders of Sigma Pi Phi, Archons from across the country, business and government dignitaries, and guests from the tristate area and beyond. All came to celebrate the founding and history of our fraternity. Observing the attendees and witnessing the exuberance of the evening, one could see clearly that it was one of the signature events of the weekend, if not the season.

In the cocktail reception room, where panoramic panels depicted the history of Sigma Pi Phi, Archon Oliver St. Clair Franklin delighted the attendees with a discussion of the historical perspective of the accomplishments of our founders.

Guests moved into the elegantly decorated main ballroom to enjoy sumptuous food while a live band played sweet, mellow music. Expressions of "Great to see you, Archon"; "A pleasure to see your Archousa again"; "Glad to meet you"; and "So glad you are here" seasoned the jubilant conversations.

After everyone had time to enjoy the spirit of the evening, Grammateus Joseph B. Hill called for a pause in the conversations and welcomed the guests. He was followed by Sire Archon Oates, who also welcomed guests and then introduced Archon Dontá Wilson of Beta Delta Boulé. Archon Wilson, chief consumer and small business banking officer of Truist Bank, which sponsored the evening's festivities, spoke eloquently, saying that Truist was honored to be part of this historic weekend. He was followed by Travis Rhodes, Truist's Pennsylvania and New Jersey regional president, who again spoke of the bank's sincere pleasure to be a sponsor.

Archons and Archousai and invited guests continued to enjoy one another's company late into the night – a fitting celebration of our fraternity's founders and founding. And the commemorative weekend had just begun.

The 2024 Wreath-Laying Ceremony. Continuing the tradition of remembering our founders, as part of what is now a treasured annual event, Alpha Boulé Archons, joined by Archons from member boulés across the country, gathered on Saturday morning, May 4, to lay wreaths on the resting places of our founders.

This year's ceremony took place at Merion Memorial Park in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, where the graves of Founders Henry McKee Minton, Richard John Warrick, Jr., and Eugene Theodore Hinson are located. The event honored all of our founders, even though Founders Edwin Clarence Howard and Robert Jones Abele are laid to rest at Eden Cemetery in Collingdale, Pennsylvania, and Founder Algernon Brashear Jackson is interred at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Suitland, Maryland.



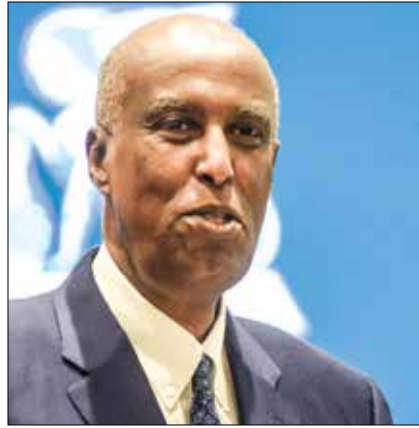
PAST GRAND SIRE ARCHON ANTOINE GARIBALDI AT THE GRAVESITE OF FOUNDER HENRY MCKEE MINTON

Sire Archon Oates opened the ceremony with a statement of the occasion. Emeritus Archon W. Wilson Goode, Sr., offered the invocation, and inspirational remarks were given by Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi, followed by Sire Archon A. Scott Bolden of Epsilon Boulé.

The wreath-laying ceremony was officiated by Archon Gregory T. Burrell, who, along with Sire Archon Oates, initiated this tradition many years ago. Although the morning's events began on a more



ARCHON KEITH LEAPHART



SAID IBRAHIM, DEAN OF THE SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT KEVIN CAROLINA

solemn note than those of the preceding days, it was no less a celebration. Indeed, it was a salute to our founders, their enduring significance and the legacy they've created.

Remembrance and Fellowship Lunch at the Alma Mater of Two of Our Founders. The 120th anniversary weekend events moved to Thomas Jefferson University's Alumni Hall on Saturday afternoon, May 4. The location was fitting, as Founders Algernon Brashear Jackson and Henry McKee Minton were both graduates of what was known in their day as Jefferson Medical College.

Founder Jackson was the first African American graduate of Jefferson Medical College, part of the class of 1901, and Founder Minton was not far behind him, graduating in the class of 1906, joined by only two other African Americans that year. It is always worth remembering that these two men were trailblazers at a time when there were severely limited educational and professional opportunities for Blacks in America.

Welcome remarks were given by Sire Archon Oates, Grand Sire Archon Garibaldi and Keith Leaphart, who is Jefferson University's enterprise executive vice president and chief health equity and community impact officer. In addition to welcoming Archons and Archousai to his professional home, Leaphart spoke of the impact that Founders Jackson and Minton had on this university and its students, adding that both men are a continuing inspiration for him and other African American males.

Leaphart was followed later in the program by Said Ibrahim, dean of Thomas Jefferson University's Sidney Kimmel Medical College and president of Jefferson University Physicians. Ibrahim spoke of his journey on the way to becoming the twenty-fifth dean of the medical college – growing up on the Somalian-Ethiopian border, becoming a star player on Somalia's national basketball team and, later, coming to the United States as a Division I college player. He spoke of his progress, through



MAYOR CHERELLE PARKER WITH EMERITUS ARCHON WILSON GOODE, SR.





PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CEREMONY. FIRST ROW: PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENYATTA JOHNSON, SIRE ARCHON PATRICK OATES, EMERITUS ARCHON BERNARD ANDERSON, COUNCILWOMAN NINA AHMAD AND EMERITUS ARCHON W. WILSON GOODE, SR. SECOND ROW: ARCHON WINSTON LOWE, SIRE ARCHON-ELECT LEROY NUNERY II, ARCHON SAM PATTERSON, COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON AND ARCHON LEON W. TUCKER.

a focus on education, from humble beginnings to a distinguished academic career and a profession as a medical doctor and educator. He further spoke of his goal of promoting diversity in the medical profession, noting that in order to address health equity, “we have to diversify the people who provide care.”

A perfect example of Ibrahim’s goal and his work arrived later in the program when Sidney Kimmel Medical College student Kevin Carolina took the podium. An inspirational young man and, possibly, a future Archon, Carolina is the college’s most recent Jackson-Minton Scholarship recipient. In heartfelt remarks, he spoke of the honor of receiving the Jackson-Minton Scholarship and of being able to carry on the legacy of Founders Jackson and Minton. He also spoke of Sigma Pi Phi’s commitment to excellence and its dedication to increasing the number of Black men at Sidney Kimmel Medical College. He finished by noting the ways in which the Jackson-Minton Scholarship and the stories of our founders inspired him, adding that he hopes these things will inspire prospective underrepresented students to choose Jefferson University.

Archon Orlando Kirton, chair of the department of surgery at Jefferson’s Abington Hospital, offered closing remarks, speaking of the events of the day, the continuing legacy of all our founders and the promise that the medical profession holds for such Jackson-Minton scholars as Kevin Carolina. If Founders Jackson and Minton could be with us today, they would be proud of

the ways in which the Archons have passed the torch of their vision for more than a century.

Induction Ceremony. Continuing to bind men of like qualities, tastes and attainments into close sacred union, the culmination of Alpha Boulé’s remarkable celebration of the 120th anniversary of the founding of Sigma Pi Phi began with the induction of eight candidates into the distinguished fellowship of our fraternity and our member boulé.

Archons, Emeriti Archons and candidates assembled on Sunday, May 5, at the Westin Hotel in the heart of downtown Philadelphia to participate in our traditions of membership. Each candidate had previously undergone a rigorous selection process, and they were further tested at the induction ceremony according to our fraternity’s rituals. At the end of these tests, the candidates were found worthy of joining the “close sacred union” of Sigma Pi Phi.

The new Archons of Alpha Boulé are:

- Jeffrey Haggray, executive director of American Baptist Home Mission Societies and chief executive officer of Judson Press
- Prosper Karangwa, vice president of player personnel, Philadelphia 76ers
- Keith Leaphart, enterprise executive vice president and chief health equity and community impact officer, Jefferson University
- Kiernan Seth, biopharmaceutical executive and most recently chief commercial officer of Lexicon Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



ARCHON OLIVER ST. CLAIR FRANKLIN AND GRAND SIRE ARCHON ANTOINE GARIBALDI AT THE WELCOME RECEPTION



ARCHON JERRY JOHNSON AND ARCHOUSA RAYE JOHNSON AT THE WELCOME RECEPTION



ARCHONS WAYNE VARNADORE, VICTOR LEWIS, MICHAEL REED AND MICHAEL GARY AT THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER



ARCHOUSAI AT THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER



ALPHA GRAMMATEUS JOSEPH B. HILL, ALPHA SIRE ARCHON PATRICK OATES, GRAND SIRE ARCHON ANTOINE GARIBALDI AND BETA DELTA ARCHON DONTÁ WILSON AT THE WELCOME RECEPTION



ARCHOUSA JACKIE SMALLEY AND ARCHON BERNARD SMALLEY AT THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER

- Sozi Tulante, general counsel, Form Energy, and former Philadelphia city solicitor
- Mark Kelly Tyler, pastor, Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Philadelphia
- Cord J. Whitaker, associate professor, department of English and creative writing, Wellesley College
- Wayne W. Williams, associate professor, Temple University, Fox School of Business

At the close of the induction ceremony, the officers and Archons of Alpha Boulé welcomed these distin-

guished gentlemen into the Fraternity. One hundred and twenty years ago, Founder Henry McKee Minton stated that the purpose of Sigma Pi Phi was to “bind men of like qualities, tastes and attainments into close, sacred, fraternal union, that they may know the best of one another.” As these new Archons, and their Archousai, join the Fraternity, we look forward to getting to know the best of one another.

Closing Chapter of a Remarkable Four Days. Alpha Boulé’s four-day celebration concluded with a gala anniversary celebration and dinner. Newly minted Archons exited their induction ceremony alongside



NEW ALPHA ARCHONS (SEATED) AND SPONSORS (STANDING): PROSPER KARANGWA AND SIRE ARCHON—ELECT LEROY NUNERY II, KIERNAN SETH AND SIRE ARCHON PATRICK OATES, KEITH LEAPHART AND JERRY JOHNSON; CORD J. WHITAKER AND MALCOLM RILEY, MARK KELLY TYLER AND GREGORY BURRELL, JEFFREY HAGGRAY AND REGINALD ROYSTER, SOZI TULANTE AND CHARLES HAYDEN, AND WAYNE W. WILLIAMS AND KEITH RICHARDSON.

long-standing Archons, and all joined their Archousai for a lavish cocktail reception outside of the Westin Hotel's main ballroom.

After enjoying libations, hors d'oeuvres and warm conversation, the celebration moved into the ballroom, where tables set with candles and flowers awaited the attendees. Following the opening prayer, Archons and Archousai dined on a sumptuous meal, and conversations at each table buzzed with remembrances of the preceding days and excitement in welcoming the new Archons and their Archousai. One of the many highlights of the evening followed the meal, when the new Archons were invited to the podium by Sire Archon Oates to introduce themselves and their Archousai to the entire body.

As the evening's celebration came to an end, Sire Archon Oates invited all who had a part in this grand weekend to stand in turn for applause – giving virtually every Archon an opportunity to take a bow. It was an inspiring example of fraternity and the true spirit of Alpha Boulé and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

The final example of this fraternal bond among Archons was a toast led by Sire Archon—Elect Leroy Nunery to Sire Archon Oates, who had done so much to plan and execute this celebration. With that expression of brotherhood, the 120th anniversary celebration and dinner, a celebration in itself and a fitting close to a remarkable weekend, adjourned.



ARCHONS GATHER AT THE GRAVESITE OF FOUNDER HENRY McKEE MINTON FOR THE WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY.

The Founding & Enduring



ARCHON GIDEON ADEGBILE, ARCHON THOMAS KELLEY, ARCHON JOSEPH GORDON, THESAURISTES DAVID STENSON, ARCHON EDMUND MOORE, ARCHON GEORGE FOREST, ARCHON MICHAEL BROWN, GRAND SIRE ARCHON ANTOINE GARIBALDI, SIRE ARCHON XAVIER JOHNSON, CENTRAL REGION SIRE ARCHON CALVIN HEARD, SIRE ARCHON-ELECT ALONZO PATTERSON, GRAPTER ROGER RUCKER, RHETORICOS JAMES MARTIN, AGOGOS ANDRE HARRIS, ARCHON EMMETT ORR, ARCHON MICHAEL CARTER AND ARCHON MICHAEL WRIGHT

By Archon John M. Williams, Beta Rho Boulé, Central Region Grapter

In the tapestry of history, some moments resonate beyond their time, shaping the future with their significance. The 1920s were marked by the aftermath of World War I, economic uncertainty and social upheaval, creating a tumultuous political landscape across America. Yet amid these challenges, Dayton emerged as a beacon of innovation and resilience, providing fertile ground for the seeds of a member boulé of Sigma Pi Phi to take root amidst the prevailing uncertainties and challenges of the time.

"I have for the past eight years known of the Boulé and count many of you as my friends. For many years I have hoped for the organization among us. Like the mountain, it did not come, so, in the words of Mohammed, 'I go to the mountain.' " These are the words of B. Andrew Rose to Grand Grammateus Allen A. Wesley and other Archons who forged the path of establishing Sigma Boulé.

On April 19, 1924, Sigma Boulé in Dayton was formally set apart under the guidance of Grand Sire Archon William C. McNeill, Grand Grammateus Wesley, and Lambda Boulé in Columbus, marking a pivotal moment in the Fraternity's history. The twelve charter members were Archons A.L. Biggs, L.H. Cox, George F. David, James A. Dunn, B.H. Green, J.A. Gregg, Sherman S. Jordan, A.H. Maloney, F. A. McGinnis, Richard E. Peteford, B. Andrew Rose and W.O. Stokes, according to Archon Charles H. Wesley

in *History of Sigma Pi Phi: First of the Negro-American Greek-Letter Fraternities*. "These [A]rchons were welcomed by Grand Grapter Davis with the words sent by letter, felicitating them 'upon the happy realization of your admittance into the circle into which only the sons of the most high kings may come – the royalty of ideals, standards, the royalty of reflected brotherhood, the royalty of mental and intellectual achievement.' "

On April 26–28, 2024, Archons from Ohio, Wisconsin, Georgia, Indiana and Michigan gathered to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of Sigma Boulé. This milestone event was a testament to the enduring influence and achievements of Sigma Boulé over the past century. The weekend commenced on Friday with a salute to funk, celebrating Dayton's influence on funk music worldwide and featuring the Dayton Funk All-Stars.

The Sigma Archousai and other Archousai in attendance enjoyed breakfast and fellowship on Saturday. In the afternoon, the Archons gathered and enjoyed Sticks and Fellowship by "getting to know the best of one another" with cigars and libations. An elegant evening facilitated by Sire Archon Xavier L. Johnson capped off the day. The program started with a welcome from Sigma Archon George E. Forest, followed by prayer by Sigma Archon James L. Martin. After dinner, the program resumed with a statement

Influence of Sigma Boulé



of occasion by Archon Gideon S.A. Adegbile (the eldest Sigma Archon). Sire Archon Johnson gave remarks and introduced honored guests, including two great-granddaughters of charter Archon W.O. Stokes: Archousa Linda Smith and Celeste Stokes. Special guest Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi of Iota Boulé gave comments and spoke about Sigma Boulé's impact on the Fraternity. He noted that Sigma Boulé hosted the Nineteenth Grand Boulé on August 11, 1948, on Central State University's campus, where Archon W.E.B. Du Bois offered the memorial address, "The Talented Tenth."

Central Region Sire Archon and Sigma Boulé member Calvin D. Heard gave remarks and spoke about Sigma Boulé's impact in Dayton. In addition, Region Sire Archon Heard recognized the Central Region executive committee and committee chairs in attendance. Special commendations were made to the Sigma Boulé hundredth anniversary committee: Sire Archon-Elect Alonzo Patterson III, chair, and Archons Clinton J. Brown, Michael Brown, George E. Forest, Calvin D. Heard, Xavier Johnson and Alonzo Patterson III.

On Sunday Archons, Archousai, family and friends worshiped at the historic Bethel Missionary Baptist Church where Sire Archon Johnson serves as its twelfth pastor.

Notable Accomplishments of Sigma Boulé

The impact of Sigma Boulé extends far beyond its founding. It has played a pivotal role in the establishment of several other boulés, including Psi Boulé,

Louisville, Kentucky (1939); Alpha Delta Boulé, Cincinnati (1948); Alpha Zeta Boulé, Tallahassee, Florida (1951); and Alpha Eta Boulé, Indianapolis (1953). These achievements stand as a testament to the Fraternity's enduring influence and legacy.

Notable Sigma Boulé Archons

Grand Officers:

Archon B. Andrew Rose, Grand Thesauristes (1948–49) and Grand Grammateus (1949–53)
Archon Charles H. Wesley, historian and author of the first history book, *History of Sigma Pi Phi: First of the Negro-American Greek-Letter Fraternities*
George F. David, Grand Grapier (1931–63)
Archon F.A. McGinnis, Grand Rhetoricos (1960–62)
Archon Russel L. Carter, Grand Rhetoricos (1964–66) and member of the Grand Constitution Committee

Central Region Officers:

James H. McGee Central Region Sire Archon (1987–89)
Harry Johns, Central Region Sire Archon (1999–2001)
Melvin Johnson, Central Region Sire Archon (2005–07)
Calvin D. Heard, Central Region Sire Archon (2023–present)
Paul Stallworth, Central Region Grammateus Emeritus, serving as Central Region Grammateus for twenty-five years

QUESTIONS ABOUT AGE AND MEMBERSHIP IN OUR FRATERNITY

By Archons Marques Alan Elliott, Gamma Alpha Boulé, and Rich E. Smith, Epsilon Beta Boulé



ARCHON MARQUES ALAN ELLIOTT

Most Archons can agree that this beloved fraternity continues to grapple with several questions:

- Does our fraternity represent social action missions or social activities?
- Should the dress code be relaxed, or should traditional attire only be permitted in business meetings?
- Should fraternity endeavors be known to the public or should we maintain a more private existence?

One of the most consequential questions that we have been actively grappling with is whether to bring younger men into our fraternity and, if so, how to validate and analyze their achievements as significant enough to warrant membership. Archons recognize that many of these questions may be correlative: The answer to one likely affects the answer to the others. This often elicits strong feelings from Archons and raises a series of accompanying questions like whether change is necessary if nothing is broken. Do Archons need a specific tenure of success before consideration for membership?



ARCHON RICH E. SMITH

Will younger men appreciate the culture of the Boulé? Will younger men bring unfavorable changes to our customs and traditions? Do early career men have certain obligations that might prevent active participation in fraternal happenings? Do Archons want to mimic what sometimes happens in collegiate fraternities where generational differences often cause conflict to the point that one demographic group or the other acquiesces to inactivity?

Before addressing these questions, some historical context is important. In 1904 Founder Henry McKee Minton, at the age of 33, envisioned a Greek-letter organization whose members would be selected based on intellect, congeniality, culture and great fellowship. He recognized like-minded men in the other Founders: 31-year-old Eugene T. Hinson, 29-year-old Robert Jones Abele, 26-year-old Algernon Brashear Jackson, 24-year-old Richard John Warrick, and 58-year-old Edwin Clarence Howard. These Archons, along with others, over the years expanded Sigma Pi Phi into different areas of the country, finding additional men of similar beliefs, education and age who would carry out the mission of our fraternal order.

Now, more than 120 years later, our fraternity membership has grown from an average age of 35 to one of 63. Considering that our founders were well educated, intellectual, and in their respective twenties and thirties, it is curious how Archons have grown away from the idea that younger men merit membership and adopted the thought that an increase in age correlates to an increase in life and professional intellect and savviness.

There are several compelling advantages to seeking younger men for membership:

- 1. Cross-generational Mentorship.** Older members can pass on the wisdom of their experience and include younger members in their well-established networks while younger members can contribute their youthful energy and fresh outlook and introduce emerging ideas and knowledge to older members.
- 2. Professional Development of Younger Members.** We can likely all agree that the timeline for success in our community is very often longer than in other communities because of the difference in advantages between communities. Our more experienced and successful members can actively support the professional development of younger members and deliver much needed mentorship and advocacy so our younger membership can ascend the ladder of success more quickly and more surefootedly than the previous generation.
- 3. Entrepreneurial Incubation and Access.** Mentorship, advocacy and access to resources and capital are critical for the success of entrepreneurial ventures. The knowledge and resource pool that exists within our body is immense. As our membership ages, we eventually lose those resources unless they are passed on to others who can benefit from them. By engaging our younger members for this purpose, we pass on our professional legacy.

Young and Old: The Power of Association

Imagine the value of having generational diversity among the founders. For example, the younger men had access to a man such as Archon Edwin Howard, twenty to thirty years their senior, to provide a unique perspective. Was it the investment of mentorship at the turn of the twentieth century that encouraged young Black professionals to challenge each other and form this “Talented Tenth?” Could it have been the spreading of business knowledge through fellowship much like the B.E.E. program of today that boosted the Black professional community? Was it

the drive and ambition of these young, successful Archons who incorporated fellowship and word-of-mouth communication to establish a base of worthy intellectual Black men from coast to coast?

Whatever it was, Archons cannot ignore the power of association that allows younger men who remain teachable, impressionable and moldable – men who are still proverbial sponges in their learning experiences – to learn from older men.

There are also many benefits to the older members. Younger men often bring a fresh perspective to sometimes threadbare customs. Which of our member *boulés* would not benefit from the technological savvy that the new generations bring? Many of our member *boulés* are unable to fully leverage their potential due to burnout and lack of energy. Newer, younger members simply bring renewed energy, allowing the member *boulé* to expand exponentially its reach in the community. Younger members provide a unique opportunity for member *boulés* to build robust leadership succession plans. Bringing in younger members, providing leadership experiences and grooming them for additional responsibility are all noble pursuits and enable balance within our fraternal community. Generational diversity promotes innovation and enhances problem-solving through the different experiences of the members.

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity over the past decade has encouraged member *boulés* to induct younger Archons. Even with such encouragement, the reality is that Sigma Pi Phi has an average age of 63. What could be the reason for this, aside from apathy and inherent disagreement on the value? Perhaps most 63-year-olds are not in the same public circles as 25-to-35-year-old professionals. It is likely that as inductions took place over time, they began to reflect men of the same age as those already serving our organization. This may be a reason for the drastic age shift. Nevertheless, time and change are inevitable, thus growing and changing our cultural environment for future expectations will always be necessary.

Time to Look in the Mirror

With that information unchanged, is it time to ask the question that makes us all look in the mirror? What cultural, technological and educational changes have happened in the past 120 years that have caused Archons to create a barrier to inducting young successful Black men of like minds, intellect, culture and brotherhood? What are Archons doing to correct and allow this demographic of Black male professionals to be included in our circles and possibly our fraternity? Simply put, what solutions are Archons suggesting to the inevitable growth and development of our august fraternity?

In the Pacific Region, under the leadership of Past Pacific Regional Sire Archon Michael Keeley and current Regional Sire Archon Kanahl Kendrick, Archons within the strategic planning committees made the development and cultivation of lists of membership candidates 55 years of age and younger by each member boudé a goal under the growth-and-expansion pillar of our Strategic Plan. Granted, age 55 was somewhat arbitrary, but Archons can agree that with an average age of 63, those younger than 55 would reduce the average age of membership over time.

One member boudé stood out in this area: Gamma Alpha of Tucson was recognized for having 52 percent of its members younger than 55, the highest in the region. At the end of the biennium, half the member boudés reported having developed a prospect list featuring men 55 or younger. While the committees brought awareness and focus to the need to include younger men in our inductions, the work in this key area continues. In addition, our Pacific Region Sire Archon–Elect Roderick Henley has stressed the importance of membership committees that look to make our member boudés grow in the right direction by leveraging new ways to analyze our intake processes. To understand and strategize our future, Archons need to understand the strategies of the past and present.

In the first few decades of our fraternity, there were noticeable trends within the professions of our Archons. Most Archons were doctors, lawyers, professors and dentists. The professional changes in Black America over the last 120 years point to an interesting trend in the growth and development of Sigma Pi Phi. For example, the federal government instituted affirmative action policies under the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and an executive order in 1965. The Black corporate ladder was created. Young professional Black men in the 1960s and 1970s became able to create a culture of corporate growth and success. More business entrepreneurs and corporate businessmen were inducted, which was a change from the profile of doctors, lawyers, professors and dentists that was created early in our fraternity.

Facing an Occupational Shift

In the current technology age, Sigma Pi Phi is faced with yet another significant occupational shift. Numerous high-earning professions now revolve around technological innovation and young men with STEM degrees or with technology startup ambitions have benefited significantly. Specifically, their earning potential has increased, and their career options have expanded. In fact, the average age of a successful startup founder is 45. These men tend to be much younger than the average age of our membership. These men also often experience rapid career growth.

This is common practice now. Shouldn't these men be considered for fraternity membership?

During a chat with Archon Leamon Crooms III of Alpha Pi Boudé, a framework was proposed that might serve as a solution for how to seek membership that doesn't devalue youth. The framework is a 2x2 matrix that organizes potential Archons based on "Perceived Potential" and "Realized Achievement" rather than age.

Identifying and recruiting high-achieving high-potential candidates is our historic approach that has led to a bias for older members. However, we could also focus on candidates identified in the High Potential and Low Realized Achievement quadrant. In fact, one could argue that most of our founders were in this quadrant when they founded our fraternity so many years ago. Are Archons as a fraternity not allowing those young Black men into the fraternity who have the potential and achievement to grow with the correct leadership?

Revisiting Induction Criteria

As Archons start to see the potential in our young Black leaders and bring them into the fold, the age conundrum of Archon membership needs to be revisited and continuously questioned. If the Boudé falls into the cycles of the past, have Archons learned from our history? Are member boudés considering younger members who mirror the drive, ambition and potential of our founders? Are these individuals that match our founders even considered for induction? Based on the induction criteria today, it would be expected that most Archons would overlook men who match or even exceed the energy and potential of our founders. Has Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity grown into an organization that would make our founders proud? Does our fraternity still uphold brotherhood, or has this become a fraternity for the elite, rich, wealthy and accomplished? Would our founders imagine the aforementioned criteria? Although our fraternity has traditions, qualifications and expectations that should never be questioned within this brotherhood, questioning growth, development and ideas dealing with updated expectations on potential and credentials should continually change with time.

If Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity is to continue to grow, then we will undoubtedly have to find and recruit younger Archons, a process that should be familiar to us given our fraternal and cultural history that marched, innovated and achieved with mostly young leaders. Connecting with high-potential and younger candidates could provide us with an opportunity to mentor our next generation of Archons and extend our mission to be not only "Getting to know the best in one another," but also "Bringing out the best in one another."



ARCHONS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND WILLIAM A. LAWSON (FAR RIGHT)

WILLIAM A. LAWSON: HONORING AN ICON FOR A LEGACY OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERSHIP

By Archon Jamie G. House, Grapier, Nu Boulé, with assistance from the Houston Defender and Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church

Houston, Texas, and Nu Boulé are mourning the loss of Archon William “Bill” Alexander Lawson, a towering figure in the Civil Rights Movement and longtime pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. Archon Lawson passed away on May 14, 2024, at the age of 95, leaving behind a truly remarkable legacy. Affectionately known as Houston’s pastor, he arrived in the city in the mid-1950s to serve as the director of the Baptist Student Union and professor at Texas Southern University (TSU). It was there that his journey as a civil rights leader and community pillar began to take shape.

The Man, the Ministry, the Mission

Archon Lawson quickly became a central figure in Houston’s fight for desegregation and racial equality. He raised funds to bail out students unjustly arrested for participating in lunch counter sit-ins protesting segregation. His leadership and activism also brought him into close collaboration with Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., who noticed his work in Houston and asked him to join the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Atlanta. Because Wheeler Avenue was brand new, Lawson said he would not leave the young church and its small congregation. The Reverend Jesse Jackson says that “Reverend Bill Lawson was the only person to turn Dr. King down.” Instead, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church became the headquarters for the SCLC in Texas for more than thirty years.

In 1963 Lawson and a group of Black and white leaders from around Houston secretly met on the seventeenth floor of the Rice Hotel, cutting deals to protect their economy, hoping to save face and relegate segregation to history. On May 23 White Only signs came down across Houston, department stores welcomed Black customers without hassle, and hotels, restaurants and restrooms were no longer separated by race. In a stunning move, the overnight decision was never announced publicly and did not even have media coverage.

Archon Lawson played a pivotal role in quelling the 1967 so-called TSU Riot, in which Houston police officers swarmed the campus, arresting 489 students and opening fire on a dormitory. When Mayor Louie Welch called Lawson’s home after the riot asking of his whereabouts, his wife Audrey said, “He’s in your jail!” Lawson and the students were quickly released, and their arrest records expunged.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s Lawson remained at the forefront of the city’s civil rights struggles, organizing efforts to integrate Houston and later campaigning against an initiative aimed at ending affirmative action. “Reverend Lawson was an iconic spiritual leader who was the moral conscience for justice in our city,” said First Metropolitan Church Bishop John D. Ogletree, Jr. “Every advancement of oppressed and marginalized people in Houston can be traced back to him. I will cherish his legacy.”



ARCHON WILLIAM A. LAWSON AND ARCHOUSA AUDREY ANN LAWSON

Beyond his work in the civil rights arena, Lawson was a beloved spiritual leader and a calming voice during turbulent times. He often provided guidance, inspiration and prayer during moments of distress, including the racial reckoning that followed the death of George Floyd in 2020.

A Pastoral Legacy

At the heart of Archon Lawson's legacy sits his work founding the iconic Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in 1962 in Houston's historic Third Ward, starting with only thirteen members in a small white church. The Texas transplant by way of Kansas City literally built Wheeler Avenue out of his work at Texas Southern University. But he was clear to let the world know that the tenor and character of Wheeler was inspired by the fire that burned in the heart of his wife and partner, Audrey, who obtained her college degree from Tennessee State University in social work and shared his vision for community service.

"She said, 'Honey, you cannot have a church with just preaching and singing. You're going to have to reach out into the neighborhood and somehow be involved with the problems of people in the neighborhoods,' " he said. "So, I thought of this new church as being a church that was going to be both religion and social movement." And what better place to locate this new church than a stone's throw from TSU. Lawson's ministerial impact stretched far beyond Wheeler's walls. He became known as the father of Houston's civil rights movement because he offered support and leadership to the fourteen TSU students who struck the first blow of protest by denouncing segregation with their sit-in at the Almeda Road Weingarten's grocery lunch

counter on March 4, 1960. After the students were taken into custody, he and Audrey set out to acquire the necessary funds to post their bail.

There was hardly a justice- and equality-related issue between Lawson's ministry founding in the early 1960s and his passing that he was not intimately involved with. And when Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., visited Houston and no churches would open their doors to him, it was Lawson who welcomed him and provided him with a speaking venue. Archon King's last visit to Houston was orchestrated by Archon Lawson to raise money for Operation Breadbasket. Lawson hosted a concert by Harry Belafonte, Aretha Franklin and Dr. King at the Houston Coliseum. A smoke bomb sent the crowd running.

Despite Lawson's retirement from the pastorate in 2004 and his recent passing, his impact continues to permeate Houston via the countless pastors he counseled. During his tenure, scores of those whom he mentored announced their calling and were ordained to the clergy. He also ordained women; a move rejected by many other Black preachers. Some say the measure of a great pastor is the "sons and daughters" they bring into Christ's service.

Lawson's beloved successor and senior pastor, Archon Marcus D. Cosby, has held the reigns of the church over the last twenty years and remained connected to Lawson like a son. In 2021 the two men and the entire congregation, consisting of a thriving membership of more than 14,000 members, celebrated a new 80,000-square-foot cathedral and Christian Educational Complex on the same site as the previous church, but three times larger.

Addressing the media after Archon Lawson's passing, Archon Cosby expressed his gratitude. "We celebrate our founder's life. We're grateful for the impact he has had not just here at Wheeler Avenue, but in Houston, and even across this nation and around the world," he said during a press conference at the church.

"Reverend Lawson loved Houston, and he was significantly concerned about the underclasses, about those who were the impoverished, that is, disenfranchised. And he was blessed to hold a position of honor that allowed him to build bridges between those who were haves and those who were have-nots," he said. "He was able to stand and be a catalyst for those who needed to know that they had a voice in this community and that they had a seat at the table."

Archon Cosby reflected on Lawson's mission to leave the world better than he found it. "The civil rights anthem that was part of Lawson's mantra went a little like this: 'If I can help somebody as I pass along, if I can cheer somebody with a word or song, if I can show somebody that he or she is traveling wrong, then my living will not be in vain,' " he said. "Today I'm grateful to announce that the living of Pastor William Alexander Lawson will not be in vain."



ARCHON WILLIAM A. LAWSON SITTING BESIDE A LOCAL TRANSIT BUS

A Legacy of Service

Reverend Lawson arrived in Houston bright-eyed and ready to make a difference. The then-27-year-old man had his eyes set on service. He began as the director of the Baptist Student Union at Texas Southern University and then took on the role of chaplain, where he was able to offer influence amid a student community.

He helped start Shape Center, a self-help organization, in 1969 as a summer program. Today that organization is celebrating fifty-five years of social action that has made an impact on thousands of families. Under Reverend Lawson's leadership, Wheeler Avenue committed to services for the poor and underserved, including Meals on Wheels, the Central City Comprehensive Community Center established by Archousa Lawson, and Missions & Mercy (now known as Matthew 25), which provides money and services for thousands of people in need.

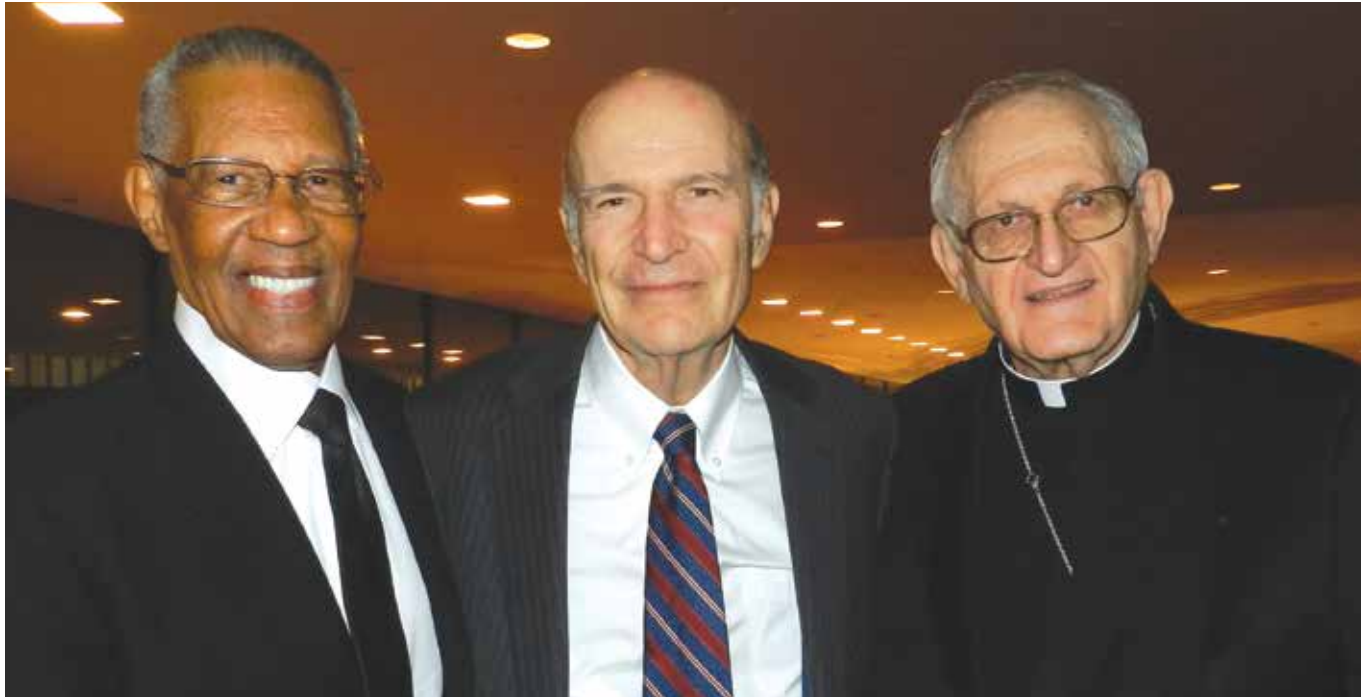
Consistently, the church featured programs for young people like Boy's Rites of Passage and Transformation for Girls. Archousa Lawson launched girl scouting at William Avenue, a character development program she had worked with in St. Louis. Facing racism from the Boy Scouts organization, the church cre-

ated Boy Scout Troop 242, which has produced more than 250 Eagle Scouts, one of the nation's most productive scouting programs. Archon Lawson received the 1991 Silver Beaver Award for his sponsorship.

A Legacy Rooted in Education

Archon Lawson attended Tennessee A&I State University in Nashville, earning a bachelor of arts in sociology. Upon graduation, he returned to Kansas City to attend Central Baptist Theological Seminary, earning his bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees. He received honorary doctorates from Howard Payne College, the University of Houston and Texas Southern University.

As a prominent and leading figure in Houston's fight for educational equity, he became a vigorous voice advocating for desegregation in Houston's schools and public spaces. In 1965 he and other African American leaders asked African American students to boycott schools to force Houston Independent School District (HISD) to accelerate its integration schedule. Five days later, only 10 percent of Wheatley High School students attended classes, so HISD was quickly enjoined by the courts to speed up the integration process.



THE THREE AMIGOS: ARCHON WILLIAM A. LAWSON, RABBI SAM KARFF AND ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH FIORENZA

During a one-on-one interview with the *Houston Defender* in 2018, Lawson shared his thoughts on the importance of Black children's learning their history.

"It is vital that in this time we do something by making sure that Black children learn who they are and can have some sense of self-worth," he said. "That's difficult to come by when Black children are being pushed off into mostly white cultures."

Former TSU president James Douglas remembers when he first met Lawson during his freshman year at TSU in 1962. At the time Houston was dealing with the turmoil of school segregation, and Lawson pushed for public school integration. Douglas said that college students had helped shape the Civil Rights Movement.

"Reverend Lawson had the pulse of the students. He got many of us to work with him on protesting segregation in the Houston Independent School District," said Douglas. "I never saw him yell or get angry; he had a calm demeanor. That is what impressed the students. It was the perfect energy needed to fight for the cause." His advocacy wasn't limited to protests. He believed in building lasting change through education and established the first Afro-American studies program at the University of Houston and taught classes on sociology and the Black church.

Archon Cosby, during his press conference at the church, said, "Reverend Lawson made sure that the students at Texas Southern University would have the opportunity to march for, to protest for, to sit in for the rights that were created in them by God, who instilled those rights in all of our lives, and all of us in this community are blessed and are better because Pastor Lawson worked here, whether we know it or not."

In February 2022 TSU hosted its first Black History Month convocation, honoring Lawson's contributions and humble beginnings on campus. At the memorial luncheon, the university announced the creation of the \$100,000 William A. Lawson Leadership Institute endowment scholarship and honored him with the dedication of a historic marker at the site of the Tiger Walk and renamed it Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church Way.

Houston's Rice University has also honored Archon Lawson with a grove in his name, established in 2021, in the central campus quadrangle. Rice's Kinder Institute for Urban Research awarded him the 2020 Klineberg Award for his decades of community service. "Reverend Lawson leaves a legacy that resonates through generations, shaping the fabric of justice in Houston and beyond," said Rice University president Archon Reginald DesRoches in an official statement. "His leadership and unwavering vision have left an indelible mark on our community by uniting disparate voices and fostering progress for the greater good. May future generations be reminded of his enduring impact as a beacon in the Civil Rights Movement every time they walk through the William A. Lawson Grove (a live oak-shaded walkway and community space) named in his honor on the Rice campus."

During a visit to the grove for the first time, Lawson said, "People decades from now, maybe even hundreds of years from now, will see this marker and they will remember, and I'm grateful for that. If there's anything that I'd like for my legacy to be, it is for the different cultures of humankind to get to know each other, to respect each other and, if possible, to love each other."

Following his retirement from Wheeler Avenue after forty-two years of service as senior pastor, the church found a new way for him to continue his mission. In 1996 it established the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity (WALIPP).

Through WALIPP, Archon Lawson played a key role in establishing The Lawson Academy, a single-gender charter school for boys in Houston's Third Ward and has also established a school for girls and constructed affordable housing for seniors. It continues to provide a vital voice for Houston's underserved communities.

A Legacy of Spiritual Partnership: The Three Amigos

It could be the start of a joke – “A rabbi, an archbishop and a Baptist preacher walk into a room...” But this trio of religious heavyweights were completely serious about their dedication to fighting poverty, racism and inequality in Houston. When homelessness in Houston became an epidemic in the 1980s, Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza, Rabbi Sam Karff and Archon Lawson literally took to the streets. They spent nights under the bridges where many without a place to stay would seek shelter, and the three talked to them about their needs.

Then they encouraged people of all faiths to do something extraordinary in their own churches, synagogues and mosques. They held special offerings for a month in their own congregations all over the city to focus on fighting homelessness. Through that campaign for the homeless, they showed that religious groups could come together to accomplish a common goal, instead of being divided by denomination. The money raised, hundreds of thousands of dollars, went directly to organizations that work with the homeless.

They were nicknamed the Three Amigos, and all later retired from their pulpits. But while many choose to rest in retirement, these three friends now had the time and dedication to take on new community challenges. They met with elected officials and business leaders to offer counsel about issues of importance to the community. They recognized they were much stronger together than as individuals – for instance, when they took on the issue of having a public defender in Harris County, Texas, to help indigent defendants who could not afford a lawyer. When they showed up at the County Commissioners Court with dozens of other clergymen, the measure was passed easily by the bipartisan court.

In 1995 Archon Lawson was a founder, along with Rabbi Karff and Archbishop Fiorenza, of the Anti-Defamation League's Coalition of Mutual Respect. A lighted memorial of the Three Amigos is displayed at Interfaith Ministry's Plaza of Respect.



ARCHON WILLIAM A. LAWSON

Job Well Done Pastor, Rest in Peace

In honor and recognition of its founding pastor's birthday on June 28, the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church created \$1,000,000 in endowed scholarships. The scholarships will continue Archon Lawson's commitment to education and equality.

Five universities (Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University, Rice University, Tennessee State University and University of Houston) will each receive \$200,000 in endowed scholarships.

Archon Lawson's impact on Houston and its residents cannot be overstated. He was married to Archousa Audrey Ann Lawson for almost sixty-two years, and together they touched countless lives through their unwavering commitment to justice, equality and community service. A man of integrity, a gentle spirit with a huge passion for equity and fair play, his love for mankind was reflected in his service: educating children, standing up for justice, taking care of the homeless and fighting for quality health care for older citizens. His personal touch was comforting to the soul, yet uniquely uplifting. He blessed us through his thought-provoking sermons and meetings that offered wise counsel. His legacy as a trailblazer, leader and beloved pastor will forever be etched in the city's history and the hearts of its residents. May he rest in peace after a job well done.

Portions of this article appeared in the Houston Defender on May 16, 2024, and in the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church program honoring his life.

PUSHING BACK ON STATE-IMPOSED DEI BANS

By Archons James H. Johnson, Jr., Wendell M. Davis and Tyrone R. Baines, Alpha Tau Boulé



ARCHON JAMES H. JOHNSON, JR.



ARCHON WENDELL M. DAVIS



ARCHON TYRONE R. BAINES

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) has emerged as a major culture-war issue less than four years after the tragic murder of George Floyd prompted a national conversation regarding racial and structural inequities in American society. The DEI pushback is strong and widespread, especially in public higher education.

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education* DEI Legislation Tracker, twenty-eight states have enacted or are contemplating enacting legislation that bans or prohibits public colleges and universities from:

- Considering race, sex, ethnicity and national origin in admissions or employment.
- Establishing offices and spending money on DEI programs.
- Using DEI statements in hiring and promotion.
- Requiring employees to participate in DEI programs.

In states where such laws have been enacted, public universities have been forced to close DEI offices and either layoff or redeploy staff. In Texas, for example, a DEI ban reportedly has led to “more than one hundred job cuts at state universities,” including fifty professionals relieved of their duties because of the elimination of DEI offices and programs at the University of Texas at Austin.

In some states, anti-DEI legislation has been used to target specific demographic groups. The University of Texas at Austin has also imposed restrictions on particular employee affinity groups (those related to race, color, ethnicity, gender identity or sexual orientation), stipulating that such groups “can no longer meet during paid work hours, use any university resources or have departments pay members’ dues.” And ignoring the well-documented contributions of foreign graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to creativity and innovation, a new Florida law prohibits the state’s public universities from recruiting and employing graduate students to work on research projects from “seven countries of concern” (China, Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, Iran and Russia).

In other states, legislative bodies contemplate forcing university departments to require that faculty post on a public-facing website not only their course syllabuses and assigned reading materials but also their curriculum vitae. This kind of “Big Brother is watching” tactic is designed to cleanse university curricula of any content remotely connected to DEI.

As higher-education institutions face a major enrollment cliff and businesses struggle to recruit and retain talent, we think these state-level policies – and growing anti-DEI public sentiment more generally – are taking our nation down the wrong path and may

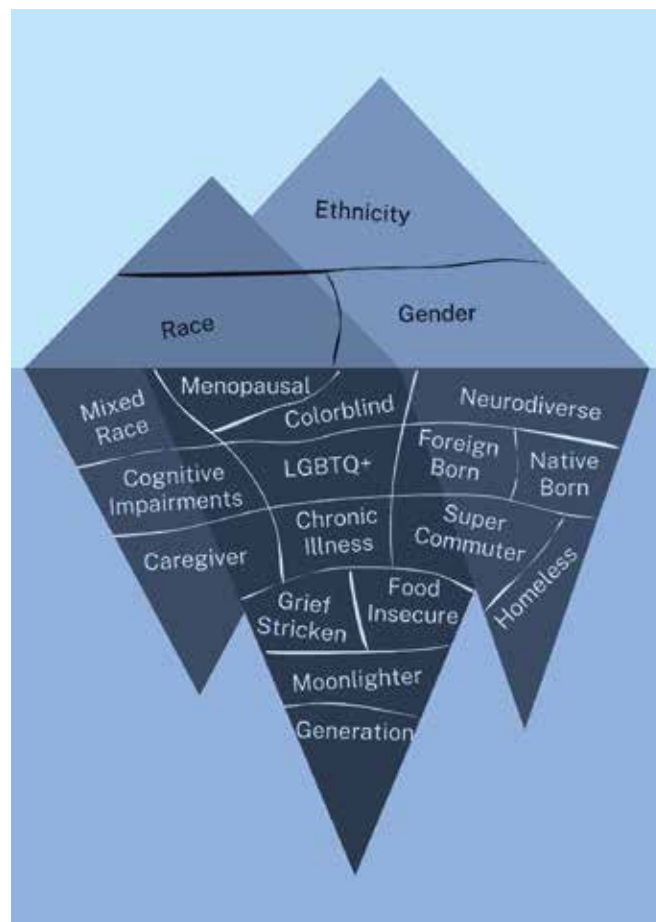
well spell disaster for U.S. competitiveness in the long run. If we as a nation aspire to win the war for talent; maintain a competitive edge in creativity and innovation; and remain attractive as a place to live, work, play and do business, we must embrace diversity as a strategic demographic imperative.

To combat the pushback against DEI, we recommend higher-education leaders pursue a five-fold strategy rather than trying to skirt DEI bans, as some public universities reportedly have tried to do:

First, public universities must persuasively make the demographic case for maintaining a focus on DEI in higher education. People of color are driving population growth and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future – not only nationally but also, as we have demonstrated elsewhere, in the anti-DEI states. A higher proportion of Latino and Black women are of childbearing age, and immigrants are disproportionately people of color. In addition, the combined effects of declining births among white women, deaths of despair among prime working-age white males, and because white Americans are disproportionately older with a higher risk of death, the white population is declining. Viewed from this demographic perspective, in a highly competitive global marketplace, embracing rather than opposing diversity is a form of enlightened self-interest for public universities, states imposing DEI bans and the nation.

Second, in pushing back on the political DEI pushback, public university leaders must insist on inserting the *B* for belonging in “DEI” political discourse and explain that DEIB – diversity, equity, inclusion *and* belonging – is about creating an institutional culture and climate that embraces the identities of *all higher education constituencies* – administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumni. Carefully crafted and properly implemented DEIB policies, practices and programming will enhance institutional reputational equity through the creation of “diverse intellectual incubators of thought” capable of producing pathbreaking innovations that address some of the world’s most difficult and perplexing problems.

Third, given the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent decisions on affirmative action and state-level DEI bans, public universities must master people analytics and leverage iceberg demographics in student recruitment, admissions, matriculation and graduation as well as in faculty and staff hiring and retention. Students, faculty and staff are far more diverse today not only in terms of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation but also family structure, living arrangements and financial well-being – and they often face more complex challenges than prior generations of university students and employees. Additionally, in some instances, COVID-19 may have exacerbated existing challenges and added new ones, including residential dislocations due to the accelerated cost



THE ICEBERG DEMOGRAPHIC SCHEMA. SOURCE: JOHNSON & ALEXANDER, 2024.

of housing, loss of wages that supported family and education pursuits, additional caregiving responsibilities due to COVID-related casualties in families, and cognitive impairments that make learning and working difficult, if not impossible, without the appropriate accommodations.

The concept of iceberg demographics derives from the physical characteristics of a freshwater iceberg. Only about 10 percent of an iceberg is visible above the water line. The balance (90 percent) is submerged below the surface. In pushing back on the DEI pushback, public universities must embrace an analogous iceberg model of demographic diversity in both recruiting and retention of students, faculty and staff. That is, higher education leaders must look beyond the visible attributes of demographic identity, such as race, ethnicity and gender, and strategically leverage other inherited and acquired traits and experiences that exist in the student body and the higher education workforce.

Like a freshwater iceberg, as the graphic illustrates, some of these attributes are not readily apparent but, if comprehended and accommodated effectively, can be successful pathways to student recruitment, matriculation and timely graduation. Embracing iceberg demographics also can create a strong sense of

belonging for university employees, reducing high staff turnover, which has plagued many universities post-COVID-19. In addition, focusing on these less visible diversity traits forces us to recognize and appreciate the overwhelming commonalities present in the nation's populace and empowers us to embrace the ties that bind us while dispensing of the "isms," stereotypes and phobias that drive us apart.

Fourth, public universities must incentivize and reward interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research purposefully designed to rigorously test the veracity of boundary spanning and often competing scientific, ideological and political theories, hypotheses and perspectives on pressing societal issues, including those undergirding the DEI pushback. Numerous examples already exist in higher education. We offer one here.

Funded by major foundations and intentionally designed to address "diversity of thought" on the causes and consequences of growing inequality in American cities in the 1990s, the Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality (MCSUI) is an excellent education and training model, worthy of emulation by public higher education institutions in today's highly polarized geo-political environment. In addition to groundbreaking research published in scholarly books, peer-reviewed journals and major media outlets, MCSUI's appended undergraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral research and training programs produced a new generation of "thought diversity" scholars who now serve as senior academic and administrative leaders in higher education and major research think tanks spanning the political and ideological spectrum.

Fifth, public universities must reinvent their curricula and reimagine instruction by adopting a courageous conversation model of student engagement in the academic enterprise – an approach that allows students to wrestle with the various competing perspectives on issues of critical import to our society and world. In response to the push for political neutrality in public higher education, such an approach is employed in select course offerings in UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School.

A modified version of the fishbowl method of in-class conversation, the reinvented instructional approach, creates a "brave" space for students to engage in *courageous conversations* – to openly share diverse thoughts and opinions as well as vigorously debate sensitive and controversial issues where diverse and divergent opinions and interpretations may exist. The goal is not to indoctrinate or advocate for any specific stance or viewpoint; rather, the aim is to facilitate honest, respectful and transparent dialogue so that students are fully aware of the veracity of diverse viewpoints – strengths, weaknesses, pros, cons – that undergird politically sensitive issues and topics.

Course evaluations and online surveys of student experiences strongly suggest that the courageous conversation model, properly infused throughout the university curriculum, is also an excellent way to prepare the next generation of "thought diversity" leaders. A version of the courageous conversation approach, we believe, should be offered as mandatory professional development for public university administrators, faculty, staff and student group leaders. Doing so will ensure that DEIB is inculcated into public universities' DNA. It will also ensure that key university stakeholders and constituencies – administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumni with varied and diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives – feel that they have not only been invited to the party but also that the deejay is playing their kind of music!

As public universities, institutions of higher education more generally and state decision makers encounter increasing political pushback on DEI, we encourage them to operate from a demographically informed perspective and push back on the DEI pushback. Make the demographic case, prioritize belonging, leverage iceberg demographics, reward interdisciplinary research and hold courageous conversations. These efforts will do much more for future prosperity than will shortsighted bans and political censorship.

Archon James H. Johnson is the William Rand Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship and director of the Urban Investment Strategies Center in the Kenan Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He holds degrees from North Carolina Central University, the University of Wisconsin at Madison and Michigan State University.

Archon Wendell M. Davis is a retired local government and higher-education executive, having served as both a CEO and CFO. In 2021 he was inducted into the Bull City Hall of Fame by the Durham Chamber of Commerce and honored by the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People for power and resilience and his ability to reconcile business interests and social responsibility. The founder and managing principal of Sixty-Revolutions, LLC, a best-practices, business-development and technology consulting firm, he is a graduate of NCCU, the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and Southeastern University.

Archon Tyrone Baines is a retired program director for youth and education at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and a retired NCCU vice chancellor and professor. He is a member of the National Academy of Public Administration.

BLACK LEADERS RELEASE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STIGMA

By Archon Jeffery S. Perry, Delta Alpha Boulé

On the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding college admissions, affirmative action – along with its more contemporary cousin, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) – has been front and center in the national discourse. While there has been vigorous debate about the pros and cons of affirmative action, it is widely recognized that white women have benefited the most from its application. However, since its inception, Black people have been the primary face of affirmative action, particularly by those who view it negatively, oppose such policies, believe that it lowers standards, and think it is antimeritocracy. These views are often projected onto Black leaders who have achieved high levels of position, power and influence in enterprises and society at large. So what do Black leaders do when faced with such scrutiny? The most effective ones rise above the noise, continue their excellence, and release the affirmative action stigma held by others.

While DEI is a broader concept, affirmative action is admittedly a more narrow and antiquated term that has reentered the national lexicon. But what exactly is affirmative action? *Britannica* offers a concise articulation of affirmative action from a historical perspective: “Affirmative action was initiated by the administration of President Lyndon Johnson (1963–69) to improve opportunities for African Americans while civil rights legislation was dismantling the legal basis for discrimination. The federal government began to institute affirmative action policies under the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and an executive order in 1965. Subsequently, affirmative action was broadened to cover women, Native Americans, Hispanics and other minorities and was extended to colleges and universities and state and federal agencies.”

From the beginning, the goal of affirmative action was never to lower standards, but to expand the consideration of who was eligible for opportunities across society. While affirmative action originally focused on African Americans, it has expanded to include many other aspects of diversity. Most notably, according to multiple studies and research, white women have arguably benefited the most from affirmative action policies over the years. White women have leapfrogged white men on college campuses and have risen in cor-



ARCHON JEFFERY S. PERRY

porations at twice the rate of people of color. Even so, when opposition to affirmative action is expressed, it primarily focuses on race and ethnicity, with Black faces at the top of the list.

While uncomfortable for some people to acknowledge, the psychology of implicit bias often assumes that white leaders are qualified and deserving, while Black leaders are less qualified and only achieve when given preferences. It is often the dichotomy of the *benefit of the doubt* for white leaders and *the doubt* for Black leaders.

While African Americans have made significant progress in many aspects of society, they remain underrepresented in many fields. Here are just a few examples:

- Only 5.7 percent of U.S. medical doctors are Black.
- Only 2.2 percent of U.S. airline pilots are Black.
- Only 1.6 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs are Black.

Given their general underrepresentation, when Black leaders achieve, it is likely that they are not only qualified, but in many cases they are also more credentialed than their white peers, all while enduring other obstacles and barriers.



What should Black leaders do when their achievements are doubted? Some fall into the trap of declaring how their success is not due to affirmative action or any diversity effort, but simply based on merit. People should not have to justify their existence, and such declarations miss the point along several dimensions:

- With or without affirmative action, some people may question their fitness.
- Such statements undermine the diversity efforts that expand opportunities for others.
- This feeds the false narrative that previous opportunities, promotions or advancements by others were all exclusively merit-based.

However, the most effective Black leaders rise above the noise and continue their excellence. While they know the noise exists, they do not view themselves as victims, nor do they project guilt onto others. They remain focused instead. Leadership is challenging enough without wasting brain space internalizing the

implicit bias of others. To be clear, diverse leadership is not a zero-sum game, where some win and others lose. Countless studies show the impact and greater performance of diverse leadership and teams, all for the benefit of everyone across enterprises and society at large. So when Black leaders excel in their roles, drive significant value in their organizations, serve as mentors and role models to uplift the next generation, give back to the community, and create generational wealth for their families, all of society benefits.

There is arguably no better example of this perspective than Colin Powell, U.S. secretary of state and chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. Throughout his career, Secretary Powell acknowledged how he was prepared for and benefited from society's being more open to diverse leadership, while tuning out the detractors along the way. He once said, "I did not feel inferior, and I was not going to let anybody make me believe I was. I was not going to allow someone else's feelings about me to become my feelings about myself." Stigma released.

Archon Jeffery S. Perry is the founder and CEO of Lead Mandates, LLC.

LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE: NAVIGATING CHANGE AND INSPIRING GROWTH IN SIGMA PI PHI

By Archon John M. Williams, Beta Rho Boulé, Central Region Grapier

The 57th Grand Boulé was a transformative moment in the proud 120-year legacy of our esteemed fraternity. The significant transition of our Grand Boulé Officers marks not just a change in leadership, but a momentous occasion that will shape the future of our fraternity. Reminiscent of the biblical leadership transition from Moses to Joshua, marking the Israelites' journey into the Promised Land, just as divine wisdom guided that change, we embrace this transition, understanding that change, though sometimes challenging, is ultimately beneficial.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing leaders and pledge our full support to the new Grand Boulé Officers. Special thanks go to Past Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi, Past Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote, Past Grand Thesauristes Michael Bruno and Past Grand Grapier Khephra Burns for their dedicated service. As we look forward to this new chapter, let us reaffirm the core principles that underpin our organization's success.

Archon Charles H. Wesley, in the *History of Sigma Pi Phi: First of the Negro-American Greek-Letter Fraternities, Volume I*, eloquently documented the first Grand Boulé. On September 2, 1908, delegates adopted our constitution's preamble, which still resonates today. "... that they may know the best of one another, and that each in this life may to the full ability aid the other, and by concerted action bring about those things that seem best for all that cannot be accomplished by individual effort."

Archon Wesley's reflection is a powerful reminder that the founding principles of Sigma Pi Phi articulated in our original preamble are not mere words but the enduring beliefs of our founders that have guided us for over a century.

Leadership: Guiding Principles for Success

Leadership within the Boulé is both a profound privilege and a solemn responsibility. Officers are tasked with navigating diverse perspectives skillfully, fostering brotherhood and managing our fraternity's affairs. This role demands continuous learning, adaptability and a profound understanding of human dynamics. When delving into the study of leadership, the fundamental concepts and foundations are timeless; the language may change for the sake of literature, but the essence of leadership remains. In *Think Again*, Adam Grant characterizes leadership as "championing a cul-

ture of intellectual humility, challenging assumptions, and embracing a mindset of continuous learning." As Archons, we are not just leaders but the living embodiment of these principles. We must continue to embody the spirit of lifelong learning, echoing the biblical wisdom in Proverbs 1:5, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning, and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels."

In *Extreme Ownership*, Jocko Willink and Leif Babin emphasize the importance of "full responsibility for our actions and outcomes." As Archons, we embrace accountability, leading by example, and instilling a culture of ownership throughout the Fraternity, heeding the biblical call in Luke 16:10, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much" recognizing that integrity and accountability are the cornerstones of effective leadership.

Effective communication is the cornerstone of leadership. As the prophet Habakkuk wisely stated, "Write the vision and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run who readeth it" (Habakkuk 2:2). Peter Lencioni may have borrowed this concept in writing *The Advantage*, which focuses on the importance of organizational health. Organizational health asserts that leaders must not just communicate but also communicate with clarity, overcommunicate with clarity and reinforce through human systems. Poor communication can result in misunderstandings, mistrust and failures, underscoring the critical importance of this skill.

In *The History of Sigma Pi Phi: First of the African-American Greek-Letter Fraternities, Volume II*, Archon Hobart Sidney Jarrett remarked that the 27th Grand Boulé in 1964 was the "turning point for Sigma Pi Phi." He noted that Grand Sire Archon A.J. Williams was the "right man for the job" because Archon Williams "directed his attention to the basic essence of the Fraternity – to its objectives and its philosophies." At the same convention, Archon Percy Julian offered the Memorial Address entitled "Faultless Prophets," a quotation from Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians, where he asked whether the scholar should live in "solitude or society." Archon Julian asserted that "the scholar must become the voice and the conscience of the people." Archon Jarrett said, "Julian then returned to his larger criticism: Sigma Pi Phi's 'policy of non-identification, as a body...means our non-endorsement and our non-participation.'"

Four years later, at the 29th Grand Boulé in 1968, Archon A. Leon Higginbotham's Memorial Address

asked the Boulé, “What is the time? What action, if any, has taken place since Archon Julian’s famed address?” Finally, on August 16, 1982, at the 36th Grand Boulé, Grand Sire Archon Theodore Jones held Sigma Pi Phi’s first public news conference, marking a paradigm shift in our fraternity.

These actions opened the door to the Fraternity’s public messages, a source of considerable conversation today. Did the Archons of the 60s, 70s and 80s adequately communicate with clarity, overcommunicate with clarity and reinforce how to publicly communicate Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity through the Fraternity’s systems? Today, do we have a clear, concise policy of effectively communicating Sigma Pi Phi’s message to the public that Archons and member boulés understand? This underscores the need for clear, honest, consistent communication to maintain fraternal cohesion and performance.

Teamwork: Harnessing Collective Genius

The strength of our fraternity lies in trust, communication and a unified vision. Lencioni outlines the five dysfunctions of a team: absence of trust, fear of conflict, lack of commitment, avoidance of accountability and inattention to results. Overcoming these dysfunctions is vital for building cohesive, high-performing member boulés and Grand Boulé leadership teams. Adam Grant adds that “psychological safety is vital for effective teamwork.” Teams that feel safe to express dissenting opinions and challenge the status quo are more innovative and adaptive. We can foster this environment by encouraging diverse perspectives and valuing dissent as a pathway to better solutions, reflecting the biblical principle in Proverbs 27:17, “Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

By promoting open communication and mutual respect, we harness the collective genius of our diverse member boulés. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 reminds us, “...two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.”

This is the essence of our beloved Sigma Pi Phi! Belief in our new Grand Boulé Officers and their plan is essential for the Fraternity’s success. As Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., wisely said, “Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

Cultivating Humility and Unity

Tolerance eliminates narrowness and selfishness. Unchecked egos have no place in Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and have no place in our organization. In January 1923 Archon Charles E. Bentley spoke about the age-old question, “What is the meaning and purpose

of fraternal life?” In his speech “Tentative Suggestions That May Make Our Boulé Groups More Effective,” he said we must “regard tolerance and candor as important factors in maintaining a good spirit – tolerance of one another’s shortcomings, differences of opinion, differences of reaction – these linked to free, candid, untrammelled expression would clarify many cloudy situations and go a long way toward creating the elusive thing called ‘spirit.’”

Archon Bentley said he believed that each member should be reminded of these words at each meeting: “Check Your Hammer and Grouch at the Door, All Who Enter Here.”

We must practice humility, ensuring our actions serve the Fraternity’s mission and values rather than personal aggrandizement. Let us model humility, placing the needs of our fellow Archons, member boulés and the Grand Boulé above personal glory. This is echoed in Proverbs 16:18: “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

We welcome our new Grand Boulé Officers and eagerly anticipate their plans for the next biennium. A successful plan is clear, adaptable and aligned with the organization’s goals. Willink and Babin advocate for “simplicity in planning.” Our Grand Boulé Officers should have a clear, concise plan that every Archon understands and can act upon. Flexibility is essential; as Adam Grant suggests, “Let us remain agile and ready to recalibrate our plans in response to changing circumstances.” We embrace the wisdom in James 4:13-15, acknowledging that our plans are subject to divine providence.

Measuring success requires rigor and reflection. We must conduct after-action reviews to learn from our experiences, refine our strategies and enhance performance. 2 Corinthians 13:5 encourages us to examine ourselves and test our faithfulness.

In Archon Martin Luther King, Jr.’s 1956 address, “Desegregation and the Future,” he said “May I stress the need for courageous, intelligent, and dedicated leadership.... Leaders of sound integrity. Leaders not in love with publicity but in love with justice. Leaders not in love with money but in love with humanity. Leaders who can subject their particular egos to the greatness of the cause.”

By embracing continuous learning, accountability, organizational health, teamwork, belief and humility, we chart a course for enduring success, setting a powerful example, and building a legacy that will inspire future generations. Thomas Morell, the English librettist and classical scholar, wisely said, “The first great gift we can bestow on others is a good example.” Archons, we must inspire the Boulé to greatness and build a legacy of excellence that transcends generations, following the vision of Archon Henry Minton, the founder of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Together, let us realize the words in our preamble and achieve unparalleled success.

RECLAIMING BLACK COLLEGES

By Archon Alvin J. Schexnider, Beta Lambda Boulé

As I approach my eighth decade, retrospection comes often and easy. I came of age in southwest Louisiana in the era of colored and white water fountains and total segregation. I attended an all-Black Catholic school from kindergarten to the twelfth grade. In 1963 I graduated from Sacred Heart High School, the same year as the historic March on Washington. I had a burning desire to participate but could not afford it. Starting college had to be deferred until I worked and saved enough to enroll the following year. We have made tremendous racial progress since the 1960s, yet I never expected to see such orchestrated efforts to turn back the clock as we are witnessing today. This is more than an inflection point. Rather, it is a call for action and one in which our Black colleges and universities can play a decisive role as they have in the past.

My career and my life were shaped by the Civil Rights Movement and my years at Grambling College, now Grambling State University. I enrolled at Grambling in September 1964, following Freedom Summer, three months after the murder of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner in Philadelphia, Mississippi. Four years later, in May 1968, I graduated Grambling seven weeks following the assassination of Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee. Coming of age in Lake Charles, Louisiana, meant that I witnessed and experienced racial discrimination in all its forms despite my parents' efforts to shield and protect us. The lynching of Emmett Till in 1955 in particular captured my attention, and the nation's also, but there were hundreds of other incidents throughout the South during that era that never made the evening news. In my hometown I knew of a local Black business man who suddenly disappeared because he had the temerity to start a used car business that openly competed with white businesses. When his body was found in his car in a swamp several years later, the coroner, following a cursory investigation, ruled his death an accident.

Grambling, situated in the piney woods of arch-conservative northern Louisiana was not only a safe haven in a region of the state where segregation was rigidly enforced, it was also a college campus that

fueled a sense of purpose and pride and a commitment to improve individual lives and the lot of Black people everywhere. In 1960 8.1 percent of white Americans held a college degree; for Black Americans, it was 3.5 percent. We knew that we were fortunate and that we had to make the most of what Grambling had to offer, knowing full well that all-white Louisiana Tech four miles away had resources that we could only imagine. In no uncertain terms, Grambling set me on a path that was life-changing, and I have never taken it for granted.

Things have changed dramatically since I graduated Grambling. In the 1960s 90 percent of Blacks attended HBCUs. Today, 90 percent of Blacks enrolled in college attend majority or white colleges and universities. And while it is true that HBCUs "punch above their weight" in producing outstanding graduates despite limited resources, the simple truth is that many of these schools are imperiled and will fold unless more is done to ensure their sustainability.

It is true that Black colleges almost single-handedly created the Black middle class.

Countless times we have heard the oft-stated praise of HBCUs: Black colleges have produced more doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, nurses,

Ph.D.s and entrepreneurs than white colleges and universities. The facts are indisputable and they speak for themselves. It is true that Black colleges almost single-handedly created the Black middle class. Let this fact marinate for a while. Small, under-resourced historically Black colleges and universities, many of which are church-related, laid the groundwork for the success of generations of women and men whose lives and fortunes have been dramatically improved by the simple fact of their existence. Who in their right mind would abandon these iconic institutions?

The primary mission of a college or university is to produce quality graduates who can compete in the global workplace. Black colleges fulfill this requirement and more in ways that are sometimes undervalued. These HBCUs offer a lot more than a college degree. They are repositories of our history, culture, art and politics. Every Black college is unique and has a story to tell, not just about its graduates. They also provide important information and inspirational stories about the women and men, who, against insu-

perable odds, started and nurtured Black colleges into incredible incubators of change and progress.

On nearly every Black college campus one finds invaluable works by African American writers, artists, composers, sculptors and poets. The HBCU libraries and archives contain volumes of articles, books and monographs written by Black authors, as well as original research by Black scholars representing a variety of disciplines and professions.

As we know all too well, desegregation has not been without costs. The loss of Black hospitals, pharmacies, restaurants, hotels and a variety of businesses has been devastating.

Even the Black church has not been spared. In point of fact, the rise of nondenominational mega-churches has not only adversely affected

attendance at Black churches, it has led to declining financial support for HBCUs traditionally affiliated with Baptist, Methodist and Episcopal denominations. As church attendance nationally continues to drop, this trend is likely irreversible.

The simple truth is that despite their inestimable value, many Black colleges are imperiled and in danger of being shuttered. The loss of a substantial number of the one hundred or so HBCUs is too high a price to pay. The most vulnerable ones are small, church-affiliated schools in rural areas, with a small enrollment (typically 1,000 students or less) and a small endowment, and without niche academic programs that attract students. Saving some of these schools, particularly the smaller ones, may be a bridge too far. Some at least deserve a try, and if they are to be saved, we must commit to their sustainability rather than mere survival. I say “we” because if you are reading this it is likely that you have some personal connection, like a family member, perhaps a teacher or a faculty member, who is directly or indirectly tied to a Black college or university.

The difficult situation some Black colleges find themselves in did not start yesterday, indeed it was highly predictable. Nearly four decades ago in 1986, Archon Hugh Gloster, who was at the time president of Morehouse College, went on record with this startling statement: “History has shown that the private [B]lack college experiences a very slow death ... you will have an increasing number of weak private colleges lose accreditation, and they will lose enrollment, and then they will lose financial stability. Now, whether they will die is another question.” Today, we are witnessing Archon Gloster’s prediction unfold.

Every Black college is unique and has a story to tell, not just about its graduates.

Archon Gloster clearly knew from whence he spoke because since he issued that prediction in 1986, five private or independent Black colleges have closed. Regrettably, far too many regularly appear on an accrediting agency’s probation or warning list for issues related to governance, financial or institutional effectiveness. Public HBCUs may enjoy a longer existence because of their principal source of funding. As taxpayer-supported institutions, they reside in someone’s legislative district, which assures some level of existence, even if marginal. Additionally, public HBCUs are likely to enjoy general support from the local business community that

has been enriched by numerous relationships in banking, construction, food services and computing as well as in architectural and

engineering fields. These business relationships have existed for decades and they will not go gently into a good night. Public HBCUs in general may not get the same level of financial support from the state, but they will likely get just enough to survive.

But even survival isn’t assured as many legislatures are faced with tight budgets and an impending enrollment decrease due to an expected decline in the number of high school graduates. Consequently, some southern states are reexamining the wisdom of maintaining white and historically Black colleges and universities sometimes, literally, just across the tracks from each other. The Mississippi legislature is studying the feasibility of closing or merging some of its universities. Jackson State, Alcorn and Mississippi Valley are among those under consideration. The governor of Tennessee recently signed a bill replacing the entire board of Tennessee State University, and in Louisiana, the governor, who already appoints boards, is expected to sign a bill that would allow him to appoint board chairs, thereby giving him complete control of governance.

UNDERFUNDING

The deliberate underfunding of Black colleges since their origin is well-documented, hence there is no need to recount it. Numerous studies and reports have verified chronic underfunding of HBCUs. One in particular by Adam Harris, author of *The State Must Provide*, offers demonstrable historical evidence that adequate funding was never the intent. This acknowledgment should come as no surprise because, as Harris writes: “Higher education is orga-

nized so the institutions with the fewest minority students have the most money, the best services for students and the highest prestige—not merely private colleges but public ones as well. That is not by coincidence, but by design. From its inception, the state higher education system we recognize today was built not on equality, or even an ethos of broad accessibility, but on training a white workforce. Black students were excluded.”

To date, only the state of Maryland has delivered on a settlement to atone for the historic underfunding of that state’s Black colleges and universities. In 2020, fourteen years after a lawsuit had been filed against the state alleging underfunding of its HBCUs, Governor Larry Hogan signed legislation awarding \$577 million dollars to Maryland’s four Black colleges. Although welcomed, it was a day late and a dollar short since an expert witness suggested that \$2.73 billion dollars would be required to begin a process of achieving parity.

The vast majority of Black colleges and universities are located in the South, where a dual system of education remains largely in existence. Maryland is the only state that has addressed underfunding in a significant way.

Taxpayer support of higher education has been declining steadily for decades. Multimillion- and multibillion-dollar campaigns have taken up the slack at some of the major research universities. Only a handful of HBCUs (e.g., Claflin University, Howard University, North Carolina A&T State University) have completed successful multimillion-dollar campaigns.

Following the murder of George Floyd in May 2020, Black colleges received unprecedented attention from the philanthropic community. Mackenzie Scott’s gifts totaling \$560 million dollars to twenty-three HBCUs resulted in increases in their endowments and boosts in scholarship offerings. Similar contributions followed from corporations, foundations and individuals. Four years later this heightened interest in HBCUs seems to have waned.

The need for financial support of Black colleges remains critical. As Adam Harris argues convincingly in *The State Must Provide*, governors and legislators must commit to increased funding of HBCUs. It is also incumbent upon alumni and others who have directly benefited from Black colleges and universities to ensure their long-term sustainability.

LEADERSHIP

The critical importance of adequate funding for Black colleges is unassailable. It must be addressed in no uncertain terms. Money alone is not the answer to what ails HBCUs. Leadership – both in the presidency and on governing boards – is a key determinant of the sustainability of these iconic institutions. This is a huge challenge since the pool of leadership talent appears limited. That is not to say that vacant

presidencies do not draw substantial applications. Rather, in many instances, the applicants’ qualifications do not match institutional needs. A college or university presidency is a challenging,

bone-crushing 24/7 job that may appear glamorous but is exceedingly hard.

Whether public or private, leading a college requires attending to multiple constituencies – students, faculty, staff, alumni, the local community and, if public, the governor and the legislature. Additionally, gone are the days when the president was an academic leader such as Mordecai Johnson, Charles Johnson, Benjamin Mays, Johnetta Cole or Beverly Daniel Tatum. Today, the average president is expected to spend half or more of his or her time raising money or cultivating prospective donors.

In order for a president to spend a substantial amount of time away from the campus a strong management team led by a provost or executive vice president must be in place. Recruiting executive talent to perform these tasks is as difficult as finding a capable chief executive officer. These challenges are magnified at HBCUs, resulting in a decrease in the number of years a president stays in the position. In turn, this results in unstable leadership with direct implications for strategic planning, fundraising and long-term stability.

BOARD GOVERNANCE

The importance of board governance is underscored by the fact that the nature of higher education has changed dramatically in recent decades. Higher education is no longer the exclusive preserve of public and private institutions. Moreover, these changes have added increased pressures on Black colleges and universities, not only in terms of presidential leadership, but from the standpoint of a governing

The simple truth is that despite their inestimable value, many Black colleges are imperiled and in danger of being shuttered.

board's understanding of its evolving role to ensure that the school fulfills its mission and achieve its potential in a rapidly changing global economy.

Let me offer one example. Traditional colleges and universities, public and private, Black and white, are today competing with two-year community or technical colleges, online universities (such as the University of Phoenix, Western Governors University and Capella University), and for-profit universities. Even as some question the value proposition of a four-year college degree, the competition to recruit students remains fierce. Also, community and technical colleges may enjoy favorable legislative support and a competitive advantage in certain states where their mission is closely tied to regional economic development. States typically provide financial incentives to recruit certain industries. It is not accidental that manufacturing plants are located in Tennessee (Volkswagen), Alabama (Mercedes-Benz), South Carolina (BMW) and Georgia (Kia). Black colleges can find themselves in difficult situations if they fail to adapt to these harsh realities.

This is where board governance plays a critical role. Historically, serving on the board of a college or university was an honorific. Appointments to public boards were, and continue to be, politically determined and influenced by a governor, the legislature or sometimes both. The governing boards of private colleges and universities tend to come from within and are often self-perpetuating resulting in members (trustees, regents, curators and visitors) who sometimes serve for decades. Regrettably, some small Black-church-related colleges have closed due to ineffective board governance. A requirement to have a certain number of alumni or trustees who pastor a church that provides financial support may be well-intended yet inadequate to task. These are bad practices for both public and private institutions of higher education as they may lead to the appointment of board members who lack the requisite professional skills and competence to ensure institutional sustainability.

Just as the role requirements for a college or university presidency have changed, so also has the role of a governing board member. When President Barack Obama agreed to support legislation to bail out General Motors Corporation, one requirement was to reconstitute its board of directors, the body

that had allowed matters to spiral to the point of financial exigency in the first place.

In order to remain strong, competitive and viable, HBCUs must have governing boards comprising women and men with specific skills. These include an understanding of finance, marketing and branding, fundraising, information technology, online learning, risk management, and, of course, higher education, which in itself has its own unique and demanding challenges.

High performing boards place a premium on regular board training and development, and they understand the importance of a governance committee that fosters board effectiveness by vetting prospective candidates. A board governance committee also ensures that bylaws are followed, including monitoring attendance, spotlighting the fulfillment of fiduciary duties, submitting an annual conflict of interest statement and updating board bylaws when needed. Just as high performing boards assess the performance of the chief executive, board governance committees should also regularly assess board performance.

The prestige and particularly the remuneration that accompanies service on a corporate board cannot be ignored, and neither should service on the board of a Black college or university. Both are critically important given the singular role of Black colleges and universities in the uplift of African Americans. The primacy of effective board governance in higher education generally, but especially at HBCUs, cannot be overstated.

Leading a college or university cannot be done by the president or chancellor alone. Governing boards must focus on policy and leave administration and management to the chief executive. Governing boards should set expectations, provide the resources to accomplish goals and objectives, and hold the president accountable. Running the institution is not a board member's day job. Rather, the chief executive and the board must work together to fulfill the mission of the institution and ensure its sustainability. When one considers the inordinate sacrifices made and the hurdles that our forebears overcame to create Black colleges and universities, the sacred task before us is clear and undeniable. We owe our ancestors and the schools they started with literally nickels and dimes a debt that we can never repay. And we must never stop trying.

Archon Alvin J. Schexnider taught political science at several research universities before holding executive positions culminating in presidencies at two HBCUs. He is a board governance consultant who has written extensively on its importance. This article is excerpted from his recent book Confessions of a Black Academic: A Memoir.

Supreme Court of the United States

No. 1 ———, October Term, 19 54

Oliver Brown, Mrs. Richard Lawton, Mrs. Sadie Emmanuel et al.,
Appellants,

vs.

Board of Education of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, et al.

A Proclamation on the Seventieth Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*

By Archon Rodney L. Gillespie, Grapier, Beta Eta Boulé

Seventy years ago, the Supreme Court delivered a unanimous decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* that outlawed racial segregation in our nation's public schools, finding that "separate but equal" is "inherently unequal." That landmark decision helped us move closer to realizing the idea that defines who we are as a nation: We are all created equal and deserve to be treated equally throughout our lives. While our society has never fully lived up to that idea, we have never fully walked away from it either – and on this milestone anniversary, we promise we will not walk away from it now.

Most people understand the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision as one of the most definitive cases in education and American history. On May 24, 2024, though, a special panel looked to remind listeners of not only how closely the state of Delaware is linked to that story, but how that relevance still echoes. A number of Delaware's Beta Eta Boulé Archons and Archousai attended.

The decision, eventually stripping the country of its "separate but equal" doctrine across schools, just marked a seventieth anniversary in May 2024. Two cases from Delaware joined that landmark case at the



BETA ETA BOULÉ MEMBERS AT HOCKESSIN COLORED SCHOOL #107C:
ARCHON WILLIAM ALLEN*; ARCHOUSA YVONNE GORDON; ARCHON TONY EDWARDS; ARCHOUSA LANETTE EDWARDS; ARCHOUSA KIM ALLEN*, WHO IS ON THE BOULÉ FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES; AND ARCHONS JOSHUA MARTIN* AND JOHN RIDGEWAY.

U.S. Supreme Court, *Bulah v. Gebhart* and *Gebhart v. Belton*, led by Wilmington powerhouse attorney and civil rights advocate Archon Louis L. Redding. The Hockessin Colored School #107C in Hockessin, Delaware, was at the center of it.

The Hockessin Colored School #107C is historically significant as one of many schools established during the era of racial segregation in the United States. These schools provided education to African American children when they were denied access

*FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF HOCKESSIN COLORED SCHOOL



to white schools due to discriminatory laws and practices. The history of Hockessin Colored School #107C reflects the struggles and resilience of African American communities in the face of segregation and limited resources. Many of these schools were underfunded and lacked basic amenities compared with those at white schools, yet they played a crucial role in educating and nurturing the intellectual growth of African American children.

The Delaware Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion invited several speakers to dive into this intersection. State officials were joined by J.B. Redding, daughter of Archon Louis L. Redding; René Ricks-Stamps, daughter of plaintiff Shirley Bulah; C.J. Seitz, Jr., a justice of the Delaware Supreme Court and

son of late judge Collins J. Seitz; and James “Sonny” Knott, a 94-year-old former student of the very school they sat in. More names lined the list.

“We’re standing on hallowed ground today,” said Ricard Potter, Jr., chief diversity officer within Delaware’s department of human resources. “And hopefully this conversation will be one that enriches individuals who are in attendance, as well as an opportunity for us to have a call for action.”

As societal attitudes and laws changed, many of these segregated schools were either closed or integrated into the broader educational system. Today some of these buildings have been preserved as historical sites, serving as reminders of the struggles for equal rights and opportunities in education.



HOCKESSIN COLORED SCHOOL #107C IN HOCKESSIN, DELAWARE

UNDERSTANDING THE CURRENT HAITIAN CRISIS: **THIS IS A REVOLUTION**

By Archon Frederick McKinney, Beta Tau Boulé

“The problem for Haiti is that God is too far, and the United States is too close,” said Dante Bellegarde, the Haitian representative to the League of Nations. Sunday, April 7, 2024, marked the two hundred and twenty-second anniversary of the death of the great Haitian leader Toussaint l’Ouverture, who died like a pauper in solitary confinement in a cold, damp French prison. This remarkable man led the most successful slave revolution in the history of man.

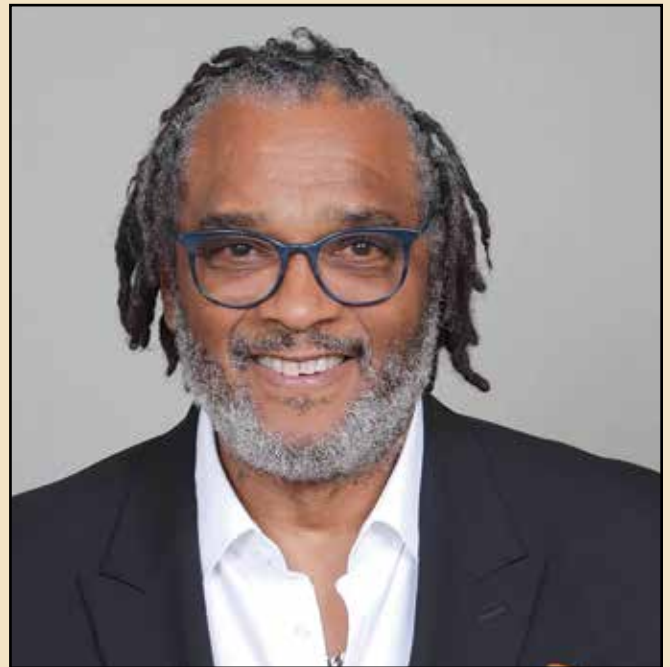
The Haitian Revolution started in 1791, just two years after the French Revolution of 1789, and a short fifteen years after the start of the American Revolution in 1776. The Haitian Revolution influenced the entire Western world for the next century. Most Americans do not know that without Toussaint l’Ouverture’s victory over French, English and Spanish colonizers in Haiti, we might not have an America from sea to shining sea. The loss of Haiti made the Louisiana Territory worthless to the French and available for sale to the Americans in 1803.

Ironically, it is with both great sadness and hope that I watch the current crisis in Haiti and how it harkens back to the great Haitian revolutionary leaders like l’Ouverture, Dutty Boukman, Cecile Fatiman, Jean Jacques Dessalines and Henri Christophe. Today’s problems are firmly rooted in this past.

In 1825 with the looming threat of French reenslavement on the island, Haiti agreed to compensate France for French recognition of the country and to repay the Haitian slaveholders for the loss of their “slave property” after slavery was abolished. Haitian payments to France did not stop until 1947.

In 2003 President Jean Bertrand Aristide demanded that the French repay these funds. In today’s dollars, that debt amounted to \$30 billion. However, the French, the Americans, the Canadians, the Vatican and the Dominicans overthrew Aristide on February 29, 2004. This 2004 coup d’état, or what some have called a kidnapping, was the second time Aristide had been forcibly removed from office after being democratically elected.

In the 1990 Haitian election, Aristide had won 67 percent of the vote. In 2000 he won an astonishing 91 percent of the vote. There is no doubt that Aristide



ARCHON FREDERICK MCKINNEY

and his Lavalas party had the overwhelming support of the Haitian population. But he did not have the support of America, France, Canada, the Vatican and others in the international community who theoretically supported popular democracy but opposed the righting of historical wrongs.

The violence in the streets of Port au Prince today has been labeled by Western media as gang violence and anarchy. The release of political prisoners is a pretext for why “we” need to intervene. The Western narrative is that the violence is random, unnecessary, brutal and uncivilized. The images repeatedly shown are designed to make the public equate the Haitian people with barbarism – unlike us. This makes intervention by the United States and its allies even more justifiable.

The United States–led blockade during the second Aristide administration cut off all economic aid from the World Bank, the IMF and the Inter American Bank. This, combined with France’s refusal to make any reparations for the money owed to the Haitian state, led



to the destruction of the Haitian infrastructure and public services and resulted in the worst poverty in the Western Hemisphere.

On July 7, 2021, twenty-eight Colombian mercenaries, trained, billeted and protected by the Dominican Republic and funded by the United States, assassinated Haitian president Jovenel Moïse. This was the latest example of imperial intrigue that has plagued Haiti since its founding in 1804. And now the United States and France are attempting to pay the Kenyan government to outsource police forces to Haiti for \$200 million to suppress what is nothing less than a revolution. I guess four occupations of Haiti by U.S. Marines is enough.

This is a revolution, not gang violence. The United States and all foreign powers need to stay out of Haiti unless they are prepared to support the interest of the Haitian people, who are overwhelmingly poor. Trickle-down economics does not work in the United States. What leads policymakers in Washington, Rome and Paris to think that this is the appropriate economic and political policy for Haiti? The Haitian people know Western capitals do not have their best interests at heart with their schemes. Most Haitians reject the Western influence that has killed its leaders, committed multiple coups d'état, occupied the country many times and systematically exploited the country.

It is important to note that Aristide, a former Catholic priest, was not a Marxist revolutionary calling for massive confiscation and redistribution of wealth and income. In the words of Aristide, he only wanted what Toussaint l'Ouverture wanted for Haiti: "freedom, democracy and dignity."

I am not Haitian, but I stand with the Haitian people.

Adapted from an article that originally appeared in the CT Insider.

GAMMA BOULÉ INTRODUCES FOUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



On June 1, 2024, Gamma Boulé hosted its annual scholarship event in Baltimore. The purpose of this event is to introduce the entering class of scholar awardees to the Gamma Boulé Scholars Program, offer updates from current and alumni program scholars, provide words of inspiration and guidance from a keynote speaker, and raise money to support the program. The Gamma Boulé Scholars Program introduced the four new 2024 scholarship recipients entering the program.

Ayodele Ayoola graduated from Western School of Technology and Environmental Science located in Catonsville, Maryland. At Western, Ayodele was class president and president of the school's Black Student Association. He will attend Columbia University in the fall to study economics. After completing undergraduate studies, he plans to attend law school and aspires to open a law firm specializing in civil rights, personal injury and malpractice law. Outside of school, Ayodele enjoys reading articles on political issues, reading the Bible and making political predictions for upcoming elections.

Kellen Bell graduated from St. Paul's School for Boys, where he was a member of the honor council and the Crusader Up Mentor Program, and well as a sideline lacrosse reporter for the school's news network. He will attend Tulane University in the fall, majoring in cell and molecular biology on the premed track. Kellen plans to pursue a career in medicine, though he has not yet decided on a specialty. He enjoys reading, working out and watching sports.

James Allen C. Leyba also graduated from St. Paul's School for Boys and participated both onstage and off as a stage manager in various high school theater productions. He was an assistant editor for the school newspaper. Additionally, he sang in the school choir and is a member of the Elijah Cummings Youth Program. This fall he will attend Princeton University with a major in international affairs and a minor in linguistics. He hopes to be a diplomat. Outside of school, he enjoys studying languages, traveling and reading.

Reuben Marshall, Jr., graduated from McDonogh School in Owings Mills. He will attend the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and pursue a degree in mechanical engineering, then hopes to further his studies and obtain a graduate degree and Ph.D. His career aspirations lie in the design and development of biomedical devices, with the eventual goal of starting his own company. He enjoys reading, writing and learning about the history of vehicles and devices.

Archon Freeman Hrabowski III, president emeritus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, serving from 1992 to 2022, was the keynote speaker and offered an inspirational message to the scholars. He emphasized that there's nothing more important than believing in yourself. He also encouraged the scholars to "dream about who you want to become," and never to stop learning and growing – to dream big, for the world is bigger than you think.

Gamma Boulé has historically been committed to financially assisting academically gifted African American young men from the Baltimore area to attend and complete undergraduate degree programs. The Gamma Boulé Scholars Program was established in 2009 and has provided professional mentorship and four-year college scholarships to twenty-nine scholars, totaling more than \$290,000 over the years. Scholarships have been granted annually through the Gamma Boulé Foundation. This year Gamma Archons and Archousai donated slightly more than \$47,000 to support the scholarship program.

*Archon Guy B. Richardson
Gapter, Gamma Boulé*

ALPHA EPSILON FOUNDATION CELEBRATES THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY



THE 2024 CIRCLE OF SCHOLARS AND THEIR MENTORS

The Alpha Epsilon Education Foundation of Alpha Epsilon Boulé, Dallas, celebrated its thirtieth anniversary by showcasing the exemplary achievements of its 2024 Circle of Scholars and honoring the foundation's founders, officers and contributors at a luncheon at Paul Quinn College on June 8, 2024.

This year the foundation received applications for the Circle of Scholars from more than 180 candidates. Three guiding principles govern the scholar selection process: 1) recognize academic excellence; 2) support historically Black colleges and universities; and 3) provide financial support to high-achieving young men from challenging economic backgrounds. Candidates must demonstrate leadership and have a strong commitment to community service.

Out of this impressive group of candidates, the foundation selected thirteen exceptional young Black men from ten different Dallas-area high schools to receive scholarships to support their higher education aspirations. Scholarship funds are raised through contributions made to the foundation by members of Alpha Epsilon Boulé. Eleven scholars will each receive \$8,000 to be disbursed over four years, while two scholars will each receive \$10,000 over the same period. Additionally, scholars Noah Cathey and Maddux Reid were recognized as Boulé Scholars by Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and each will receive a total award of \$20,000. This year the foundation invested approximately \$108,000 in these promising young men. Moreover, each scholar is assigned an Alpha Epsilon Boulé member to serve as his mentor. The mentor's responsibility is to monitor the scholar's academic progress and serve as a trusted adviser through his college years and beyond.

The foundation's dedication to empowering young Black scholars through educational opportunities has garnered significant financial and other support from the Fraternity. Generous donations exceeding \$200,000 were received in the past year, underscoring Alpha Epsilon Boulé's commitment to advancing

the foundation's mission and promoting academic excellence among the next generation. In addition, the foundation has recently transitioned to a public 501(c)(3) organization to allow it to receive grants and corporate funds. This continued support will play a vital role in shaping the educational journeys and future successes of these accomplished academicians.

This year's scholars, their respective high schools and their matriculating universities are as follows:

- John Matthews – Rosie M. Collins Sorrells School of Education and Social Services at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center, Emory University
- Chase Wells – School of Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center, New York University
- Maddux Reid – Parish Episcopal School, Harvard University
- Austin Johnson – Bishop Dunne Catholic School, University of Texas at Austin
- Brayden Brown – Wilmer-Hutchins High School, University of Oklahoma
- Xavier Mathis – South Oak Cliff High School, Southern Methodist University
- Courtland Johnson – Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy, Southern Methodist University
- Kean Oham – School of Health Professions at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center, University of North Texas
- Marcus Shelton – Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy, Texas A&M University
- Noah Cathey – St. Mark's School of Texas, Morehouse College
- Brandon Jackson – South Oak Cliff High School, Utah Tech University
- Lance Adedayo – School of Health Professions at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center, University of Houston
- Chase Bell – Plano East Senior High School, Hampton University

The luncheon's keynote speaker was Archon Byron Sanders, a committed advocate for education, economic development and the creation of equitable communities throughout Dallas. He is the president and CEO of Big Thought, where he works daily to explore innovative ways to narrow the opportunity gap for children. In his message to the scholars, he emphasized the importance of always examining their "why" – that is, why one is pursuing a certain goal or activity. He noted that life has a way of altering even the best-laid plans. However, understanding one's "why" and reflecting on one's response to life's travails can guide one toward a life of fulfillment and success as one defines it. His message, which drew largely from his own compelling personal experience, was heartfelt, intentional, thought-provoking and enthusiastically received.

The foundation's annual World of Difference Award was also presented during the luncheon. This award is bestowed by the chairman of the foundation upon an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to supporting the mission and vision of the foundation. This year the World of Difference Award was renamed for Archons James C. Mitchell and Jimmy V. Scales, Sr. These two Emeriti Archons led the foundation from its inception.

Archon Mitchell, affectionately known as "Mitch," was a true trailblazer. He graduated from Prairie View A&M University with a degree in electrical engineering in 1965. In 1996 Archon Mitchell became the first African American to be elected vice president, corporate, by the board of directors of Texas Instruments, Inc. In this groundbreaking role, he was responsible for identifying and nurturing executive talent while aligning leadership initiatives with the company's strategic objectives.

Archon Mitchell was inducted into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity on December 5, 1999. Since the Alpha Epsilon Education Foundation's inception in 2004, he served as chair of the foundation, playing a pivotal role in establishing the foundation's mentoring program. He spearheaded the matching of mentors with scholars and collaborated closely with school counselors to identify and support deserving scholarship candidates. He also established the World of Difference Award. His vision and dedication left an enduring impact on the lives of countless aspiring students.

Archon Scales has been an innovator throughout his career. He received a bachelor of science in health and physical education with a minor in history from Eastern Central University in 1966, a master of education from the same school in 1969, and a Ph.D. in education and research from the University of Tulsa in 1991. He made history as one of the first two African American football players at East Central University in the 1960s and later became the first African American appointed to Oklahoma's state school board in



PAST SIRE ARCHON ANTONIO MONK RECEIVES THE CENTURY AWARD FOR DONATING AT LEAST \$100,000 TO THE ALPHA EPSILON EDUCATION FOUNDATION.

1984. His notable achievements include serving as the superintendent of Hamilton County Schools in Tennessee from 2006 to 2011.

Archon Scales is a nationally recognized educator and civic leader. He began his career as a teacher, coach and principal at various schools before ascending to roles such as superintendent of the College Station Independent School District and deputy superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District. In 2016 he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from East Central University. He has also been inducted into several halls of fame. Archon Scales's contributions extend beyond academia, as he has also served as a trustee for institutions such as Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Texas College in Tyler, Texas.

Archon Scales played a vital role in the development of the Alpha Epsilon Education Foundation, serving as its chairman as well as in other offices and committees. He has utilized relationships with local high school counselors, leading to scholarships for numerous young men.

At the luncheon Alpha Epsilon Boulé honored both Archons Mitchell and Scales for their exceptional display of unquestionable dependability, unwavering focus, indomitable can-do attitude and unconditional support for the foundation's initiatives. This year's James C. Mitchell and Jimmy V. Scales, Sr., World of Difference Award was given to Archon Al F. Rutherford. Since joining the foundation's board, his dedication, commitment and contributions have reflected the spirit and values of the foundation's distinguished founders. The foundation further gave special recognition to Immediate Past Sire Archon Antonio Monk and Archons Art George, David Stephens, Printice Gary, Ron Kirk and Michael Pegues for their substantial financial donations to the foundation.

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

ALPHA LAMBDA BOULÉ CELEBRATES ITS SCHOLARS PROGRAM



2024 SCHOLARS AND GRADUATES

Savannah's Alpha Lambda Boulé Scholars Program enjoyed a great year under the outstanding leadership of Archon Alfred McGuire. The celebration took place on June 8, 2024, and was hosted by Archon Winston Pittman and his Archousa, the owners of Chatham Parkway Lexus. The showroom was transformed with decorations showcasing the scholars and their achievements, with the luxury cars as the centerpiece, surrounded by academic graduation accessories. The attendees included the scholars, their families and friends, educators, and a host of Alpha Lambda Boulé Archons and Archousai.



ARCHON BOBBY JONES, ARCHOUSA CORINE-ACKERSON JONES, ARCHOUSA ALICE ZIMMERMAN (SEATED) AND ARCHON ZEKE ZIMMERMAN WITH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS STANDING BEHIND THEM

The program for the event was presented by the class of juniors, describing the Boulé Scholars Program, including its purpose, goals and activities. The graduating class members gave heartfelt presentations regarding their experiences in the program and shared their future educational plans. Each has earned scholarships to support studies at SCAD College, Louisiana State University and Kennesaw State University. This is the tenth year of the Alpha Lambda Boulé Scholars Program, and every year since its inception each graduating scholar has received multiple scholarships.

Archon Joseph Silver, former president of Alabama State University and currently president of Silver and Associates, a full-service education consulting firm, gave a stirring challenge to the graduating seniors. He challenged the seniors to maintain a high level of achievement, serve mankind and stay connected with family. This year's seniors were each awarded multiple scholarships. Alpha Lambda presented a scholarship to each graduate, and Archon Winston Pittman and his Archousa presented a scholarship to each graduate on behalf of Pittman Enterprises. The final presentation was an inaugural scholarship honoring Archon Zeke Zimmerman, the first director of the Alpha Lambda Boulé Scholars Program, presented by Archon Bobby Jones and his Archousa.

The program culminated with a final word of encouragement from Sire Archon Jesse Greathouse, and dinner was served to all in attendance.

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

ALPHA MU'S PROJECT BBUILD PARTNERS WITH PROJECT IMPACT, HOSTS CEREMONY OF ERUDITION

On April 27, 2024, Archons of Alpha Mu Boulé and Project BBUILD (Boulé Brothers Uplifting, Influencing, Leading and Developing), its award-winning mentorship program for middle school boys, had a joint meeting with Project Impact, a similar program for high school boys in Augusta. The event was coordinated by Sire Archon Steven Kendrick who is active with both groups. This session was held at the Boys' and Girls' Club at the Hub in central Augusta. The boys were treated to a panel presentation and discussion about male health issues from middle and high school through adulthood.

Presenters were Archons from the health-care professions including dentists and physicians. Participants were Archons Ronald Brown, Sr., and Ronald Brown II, gastroenterologists; Archons Clarence Williams, Maurice Lewis and Curtis Pickard, dentists; Archons Benjamin Rucker and W. Joseph Hilson, internal-medicine specialists; Archon Jud Pickett, family medicine specialist; Archon Mac Andrew Bowman, cardiologist; and Archon Cargill Alleyne, neurosurgeon.

Each discussed pertinent issues and concerns for these young men from their areas of practice. They also discussed aspirational points in their lives that helped guide them in their career choice, recounted their individual journeys, and offered pointers on handling challenges. Their presentations included preventative dental and oral surgical information, heart health, brain health, and psychological health with emphasis on lessening stress, depression and anxiety.

The young men received the information well and made important points from their own perspectives. They asked great questions



and received timely expert counsel from the Archons on the panel. Erudite, directed and useful, it was the first such outreach to the young men of these focus groups; it certainly will not be the last.

Then on May 18, Alpha Mu Archons and Archousai, along with the 2024 participants of Project BBUILD and their guests, gathered at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Augusta on Wheelless Road to celebrate this year's Celebration of Erudition. Project BBUILD works with middle school boys of the Richmond County public school system in academic, civic and social efforts to improve progress to high school. This program has shown consistent improvement in these young men's progress through middle school and ultimately into and through high school, with many going on to college and into successful professional or technical careers. The program has been recognized by the Grand Boulé as one of its outstanding social action efforts.

This year's theme for the celebration was "Young Men Strive to Serve Successfully." The keynote speaker was Jackson Drumgoole II, a distinguished local entrepreneur who is the founder and executive director of the Bridge Builder Communities, Augusta's pioneering venture into tiny home communities for young people aging out of foster care. He spoke patiently

to the boys and all in attendance about identifying their assets and developing them forward to positive deeds and a successful life of commitment and service.

Teachers and supporters of the program were formally recognized for yeoman efforts on behalf of the young men. The 2024 cadre of sixth, seventh and eighth graders and their families were recognized as were past graduates of Project BBUILD, who were graduating from high school this year and going on to college. Each of them received \$1,000. Archon Ronald Brown, Sr., founder of Project BBUILD, honored Archons Charles Lamback and Alfred Reed as well as Archousa Mary Brown, all of whom were instrumental in Project BBUILD's initial and ongoing success. A special posthumous award was given to late Archon Hardi L. Jones, who died in 2022. Archon Jones was an unwavering supporter of the program and was its mathematics tutor par excellence. Archousa Yvonne Jones accepted the award.

The group adjourned for the summer and continued individual efforts with commitments by all to reconvene at the start of the school year in late summer. It was another great year of progress and service for Project BBUILD.

*Archon Mac Andrew Bowman
Grapter, Alpha Mu Boulé*

ALPHA MU BOULÉ AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS ON FOUNDERS DAY

On May 19, 2024, Archons and Archousai of Augusta, Georgia's Alpha Mu Boulé celebrated Founders Day, gathering at the Hub for Community Innovation on Chafee Avenue. This year's theme was "Three Es: Education, Enrichment and Empowerment." The program highlighted the founding of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity on May 15, 1904, in Philadelphia. The attendees also shared the history of Alpha Mu Boulé, which included the separation of the Augusta and Savannah components to become Alpha Mu in Augusta and Alpha Lambda in Savannah on December 11, 1993, with late Grand Sire Archon Huel Perkins and Regional Sire Archon James E. Carter III of Alpha Mu overseeing the separation to form the present day Alpha Mu and Alpha Lambda.

This year's Founders Day speaker, Archon Jared T. Williams, had just been reelected district attorney of the Augusta Judicial Circuit. He shared his history of progress and achievement, highlighting his faith, his family, and the many Archons and Archousai of Alpha Mu who were instrumental in his political progress. He described his progression of innovative service and legal presence in the community,

which has changed the trajectory of those negotiating the legal system in Augusta in a proactive and positive way. After his uplifting message, this year's Drs. Isaiah and Justine Washington Scholarship recipients for 2024 were recognized, with each receiving \$1,000 toward college matriculation. Alpha Mu awards ten scholarships yearly in honor of late Archon and Archousa Isaiah Washington. More than \$100,000 has been given in financial support of area students in recent years. This year's recipients were Quinton Jones, Kennedy Manor, Janie Brown, Marcus Kohn, Raquel Heath, Amelio Lamkin, Jr., Zaire Robinson and Gabriel Garcia.

After remarks by District Attorney Jare Williams and the sharing of the history of the founding of Sigma Pi Phi and of Alpha Mu and Alpha Lambda, the attendees were treated to poetic and musical features by area artists prior to enjoying a sumptuous feast provided by Alpha Mu Archons and Archousai. It was an outstanding event in all respects.

*Archon Mac Andrew Bowman
Gapter, Alpha Mu Boulé*

ALPHA TAU BOULÉ'S DURHAM COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE ENDS YEAR



THE INSTITUTE'S GRADUATING SENIORS PRESENT GIFTS TO ARCHONS CHARLES WATT OF BETA EPSILON BOULÉ (CENTER LEFT), DAVID MORRIS OF ALPHA TAU BOULÉ (CENTER RIGHT) AND DMITRI STOCKTON OF GAMMA SIGMA BOULÉ (FAR RIGHT).

On April 27, 2024, Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé's Durham Collegiate Institute (DCI) met for its final session of the academic year. Archon Dmitri Stockton

of Gamma Sigma Boulé, the former chairman, president and CEO of GE Asset Management, was the featured speaker. He discussed his career in corporate finance, start-

ing in GE's financial management training program, and imparted to the students how important having both mentors and sponsors was to his career success. He eventually became a senior vice president of GE, representing one of the Top 30 Leaders across the company, and he ran GE Capital Global Banking, which had 40,000 people spanning across Europe, Turkey, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin and Central America.

He gave the DCI students insight on what steps they could take now to position themselves for such roles later in their careers. Archon Stockton concluded his talk by highlighting the role that his family played in his success, especially his wife, Archousa Renee Allain-Stockton, and his mother, Peggy Reynolds Watkins.

*Archon Carlton E. Wilson
Gapter, Alpha Tau Boulé*

ALPHA TAU AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS, PRESENTS SANSOM AWARD



ARCHON JAMES SILLS, ARCHOUSA JUNE SANSOM, XAVIER CURTIS-LUNSFORD, JOSHUA SANSOM AND ARCHON DAVID MORRIS



JONATHAN PONDER



BRYCE McDONALD



MYLES LYNN

On June 7, 2024, Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé awarded renewable scholarships to three deserving high school graduates to support their educational pursuits. Jonathan Ponder, a graduate of Riverside High School, received the top \$1,000 scholarship. An AP scholar with honors at Riverside, Jonathan was a member of the symphonic band, the men's tennis team and the National Technical Honor Society. He is enrolled at North Carolina State University, where he is pursuing a degree in computer engineering.

Bryce McDonald, an honors graduate of J.D. Clement Early College High School, was awarded a \$750 scholarship. An Eagle Scout, he participated in the student government association and received the principal's award for being the Best All-Around Graduating Senior. Bryce is attending the Willie A. Deese College of Business and Economics at North Carolina A&T State University and is majoring in accounting.

Myles Lynn, a graduate of Hillside High School, earned a \$500 scholarship. At Hillside, he served as president of Theta Phi Psi, a community service organization, and was a member of the Debate Club, National Honor Society and the junior varsity football team. Myles is pursuing a computer science degree at Morehouse College.

Also on June 7, Archons David Morris and James Sills attended the Durham Nativity School's graduation ceremony and presented the first annual James E. Sansom Distinguished Graduate Award to Xavier Curtis-Lunsford. The award, which is given to a graduating African American male student, honors Archon James E. Sansom, a Past Sire Archon of Alpha Tau, in recognition of his service to the greater Durham community and as a leader in the financial services industry. Archon Sansom is a longtime supporter of the Durham Nativity School, having been on the school's board and volunteered to teach financial literacy to students. Xavier and future recipients will each receive a one-time \$1,000 check to assist with their educational needs.

Alpha Tau provided the initial \$10,000 to seed the first ten years of the award. The M&F Bank, through Archon Sills's efforts as its current president and CEO, committed \$5,000 to fund the award for an additional five years. The Durham Nativity School is launching a campaign to raise \$15,000 so that the award will be perpetual. Representing Archon Sansom, who was unable to attend the event, were his wife, Archousa June Sansom, and his son, Joshua Sansom.

*Archon Carlton E. Wilson
Gapter, Alpha Tau Boulé*

ALPHA PSI BOULÉ SUPPORTS THE BRIDGE TO MOREHOUSE



ALPHA PSI ARCHONS AND BRIDGE TO MOREHOUSE SCHOLARS

Hartford, Connecticut's Alpha Psi Boulé was the lead sponsor at a scholarship event in June 2024 to support and celebrate the success of the Connecticut State Capital Bridge to Morehouse (BTM) program. Archon G. Duncan Harris, CEO of Connecticut State Capital, and David Thomas, president of Morehouse College, signed an articulation agreement in April 2022 between the two institutions that established the transfer agreement. The initial cohort had ten members, six of whom graduated this spring and will be matriculating at Morehouse this fall.

The Alpha Psi Education Foundation contributed \$6,250, donated by Archons, to the event, which provided scholarship dollars to the six scholars. Archon Tokunbo Akinbajo donated another \$2,000 to BTM scholar Nathaniel Gardner, the prefect of the cohort, to cover his book expenses for the year. The BTM program is one of four programs targeted for support by Alpha Psi's social action committee, chaired by Archon Brandon Banks.

The other programs include the Base 11 STEM Academy at Jumoke Academy and the Harrison Fitch Leadership Initiative and the Scholars House, both programs designed to support Black males enrolled at the University of Connecticut. In addition to financial support, Alpha Psi Boulé has committed to providing mentoring and assisting in curriculum development for the programs as well.

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



SCHOLAR NATHANIEL GARDNER AND ARCHON TOKUNBO AKINBAJO

BETA DELTA BOULÉ OFFERS SECOND SHADOW JOB EVENT



In April 2024 the social action committee for Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé held its second annual job shadow experience. This initiative was launched in 2023 to expose students to life as a professional in several different industries and career paths. Students learned about different careers and participated in a full-day information session and were then partnered with a professional in their field of interest to complete a shadow externship at a place of business.

Archons of Beta Delta Boulé organized and provided an exciting opportunity for students from the Charlotte-area high schools. This intense program provided a chance for students to explore various career options and gain firsthand experience through shadowing Archons.

*Archon Sidney W. Levy, Jr.
Grapter, Beta Delta Boulé*

BETA DELTA BOULÉ AWARDS FOUR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



In May 2024 Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé's social action committee awarded the following four students from the Greater Charlotte metropolitan area with \$10,000 scholarships:

Logan Anderson, a 2024 Boulé Scholar and a senior at Mallard Creek High School, has been awarded a scholarship for his outstanding achievements both

in academics and dance. With a remarkable GPA and ranking in the top percent in his class of more than 450 students, Logan has shown exemplary dedication to his studies. He plans to attend North Carolina A&T University to pursue a degree in business administration. Reflecting on his achievement, Logan stated, "This scholarship and the mentoring provided by the



Chambers McCain Foundation will help me achieve my future aspirations.”

Jacob Echevarria, from South Point High School in Belmont, has been recognized for his exceptional academic performance and strong leadership qualities. Jacob has demonstrated his remarkable academic prowess, leadership skills and commitment to excellence. He plans to attend Howard University to pursue a degree in business and curatorial studies, with a passion for art. Jacob, a member of the Young Black Leadership Alliance, expressed gratitude for being selected as a recipient, stating, “I know there are several talented young men who could have received this award. I’m glad they selected me. I will use this award to pursue my career and promise to give back to the next generation.”

Mazeon Jones, a student at Cato Middle College High School, has been awarded a scholarship for his academic achievements and dedication to his community. Mazeon has shown exceptional promise in the field of computer sciences and software engineering. He plans to attend North Carolina A&T Uni-

versity to pursue his passion for technology. Mazeon, a member of the Carolina Youth Coalition, expressed gratitude for the financial assistance, stating, “This scholarship means being able to achieve my lifelong dream of going to college without financial burden.”

Ghoyah Malembi from South Mecklenburg High School has been recognized for his resilience and academic excellence. His impressive GPA and competitive class rank separated him from the pack. Ghoyah has demonstrated exceptional determination in overcoming adversity. Fluent in French and hailing from the Congo, he plans to attend Rice University to study mechanical engineering. Reflecting on his journey, Ghoyah said, “With this scholarship, I’m not just pursuing my passion for engineering; I’m committing to developing and using skills to create solutions that uplift underserved populations. This opportunity fuels my determination to make a meaningful difference where it’s needed most.”

*Archon Sidney W. Levy, Jr.
Gapter, Beta Delta Boulé*

BETA IOTA BOULÉ'S \$1 MILLION PARTNERSHIP WILL ADDRESS BLACK MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES



On March 12, 2024, Beta Iota Boulé in Farmington Valley, Connecticut, announced a partnership through the Beta Iota Boulé Foundation, Inc., its 501(c)(3) foundation, with the state of Connecticut and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. This partnership will address mental health issues and support the mental health of African American teenage boys.

A 2023 White House Roundtable on young Black men's mental health highlighted that nearly 40 percent of Black teens struggle with persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness. In the Greater Hartford community, research has found that Black adults were 1.6 times more likely to report feeling down or depressed as compared with white adults, and African American men are significantly less likely to seek help for depression compared with white men.

The Beta Iota Boulé Foundation was founded in 2018 with the mission, first, to support programs that support the African American community and individuals in the areas of education, youth development, arts and culture, health and human services, recreation, or civics, where a small contribution will have a big impact. Second, it is meant to provide funding primarily for scholarships for African American young men from the Greater Hartford region to

help with the costs of attending a four-year accredited college or university.

Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the Archons of Beta Iota Boulé became more sensitized to, and knowledgeable about, how widely and deeply mental health issues were affecting our children, they decided to dedicate a significant portion of our efforts over the following years to addressing this problem in our community.

The first step in this endeavor was to work with the state of Connecticut to secure \$400,000 in funding to focus on Black teens' mental health issues. Sire Archon Chris Cloud, a leading lobbyist in Connecticut, and fellow Beta Iota Archon Paul Mounds, Jr., then-Connecticut governor Ned Lamont's chief of staff, were instrumental in ensuring that this idea received the exposure and support it needed to be fairly considered. Next, upon receiving the grant from Connecticut, Archon Cloud engaged Beta Iota Archon Jay Williams, president and CEO of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, about the initiative. As Archon Williams's role at the foundation gives him unique insight into charitable initiatives throughout the state, the two Archons began a conversation on how best to deploy the funds and support our young people.

From there, what initially started as two Archons dialoguing about how best to deploy money to support Black children grew into a robust partnership between the Beta Iota Boulé Foundation and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in which the latter has lent its program management talent to help deploy the funds and has contributed its partnership and an extra \$600,000 to form a joint program. The \$1 million partnership will include public relations initiatives, potential partnerships with area hospitals and health-care providers, and grant-making to local organizations focusing on mental health initiatives in the Black community.

Beta Iota Boulé is proud to share this accomplishment with the greater Sigma Pi Phi community and to demonstrate the impact that we can have when working together throughout our fraternity. We are optimistic about the impact that we can have on our youth through this partnership, and we look forward to updating the Sigma Pi Phi community on progress as we proceed.

*Archon Bradford P. Meacham
Grapter, Beta Iota Boulé*

BETA LAMBDA BOULÉ SCHOLARS MAKE YEAR'S FINAL STEM TRIPS



ARCHONS AND SCHOLARS AT THE NASA LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER ENTRANCE

On April 26 and May 10, 2024, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé Scholars Program conducted its final in-school program outings for the 2023–24 academic year. The program arranged two STEM field trips that involved visits to three facilities. For the first, students visited the Lee Hall Water Treatment Plant operated by the city of Newport News, and for the second they visited NASA Langley Research Center in the City of Hampton and Hampton University's Severe Weather Research Center.

The tour of the Lee Hall Water Treatment Plant provided an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at how water is taken from a source reservoir, processed through the treatment plant, and then pumped out to the localities of Newport News, Hampton, Poquoson, York County and parts of James City County for customer consumption. The tour began with a presentation breaking down the different processes that occur, the various chemicals that are used, some of the regulations regarding processing drinking water, the localities that Newport News Water Works serves and the staff members who make it all happen. Afterward the tour moved into the treatment plant, providing the scholars with a unique opportunity to visualize the different processes as the water was being treated and processed in real time. The visit exposed the scholars to important STEM career opportunities that are essential to everyday life but often go unnoticed.

The first visit of the second field trip was to the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton. The center comprises nearly 200 facilities on 764 acres and employs about 3,400 civil servants and contractors. Langley works to make revolutionary improvements to aviation, expand understanding of Earth's atmosphere and develop technology for space exploration. The Langley Research Center features a variety of flight simulators, wind tunnels, labs and computational software.

The NASA staff arranged speed mentoring sessions with African American engineers and scientists who

shared information about their career paths and various research projects they are involved in. Students also visited the Mission Analysis Simulator and Lunar Landing Simulator, where they were allowed to sit in the seat and simulate landing a spacecraft on the moon. Visits to Langley are a staple of the Beta Lambda Boulé Scholar Program because of the depth and breadth of innovative STEM-related projects and careers that the scholars are exposed to.

The second and final visit was to Hampton University's Severe Weather Research Center. Hampton is one of the top historically Black universities in the world. It is world-renowned not only for its academic scholarship but for its efforts to provide the best college student experience in the world. The center is operated by the university's Department of Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

During the tour students learned how the direct broadcast satellite antenna works for receiving real-time satellite data and how those data are used for basic and applied research. Students visited the extensive computer room and watched presentations of large simulations of the severe weather events. The visit culminated with an opportunity for the students to ask questions about the careers, research and practical applications of the work of the Severe Weather Research Center.

All the final field trips to these sites were led by Archons of Sigma Pi Phi. Archon Alan K. Archer is the city manager for Newport News, Archon Clayton P. Turner is the director of the NASA Langley Research Center and Archon Darrell K. Williams is the president of Hampton University. Each Archon helped to ensure that the students had an inspiring, engaging and thought-provoking visit to their respective facilities.

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

BETA SIGMA BOULÉ IS COMMITTED TO ADVANCING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



FIRST ROW, KNEELING: ARCHONS MICHAEL WEEKES, VAN JOHNSON AND FRANK ROBINSON. SECOND ROW, SECOND FROM RIGHT: SIRE ARCHON FRED GEORGE.

Beta Sigma Boule of Springfield, Massachusetts, was a major sponsor of the 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Services HBCU tour. On April 14, 2024, thirty-six scholars embarked on an educational journey to visit seven HBCUs. Beta Sigma Boule remains committed to advancing educational opportunities for

our community's youth. It is proud to continue its historic support as a major sponsor of this remarkable HBCU tour, which is celebrating its fortieth year.

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

BETA TAU BOULÉ HOLDS ANNUAL PROMISING SCHOLARS AWARDS LUNCHEON



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE ZARIA BRADLEY

New Haven, Connecticut's Beta Tau Boule hosted its annual Promising Scholars Fund, Inc. Scholarship Awards luncheon on May 18, 2024, at the Lab at ConnCORP in Hamden. The annual luncheon is a joyous afternoon where Beta Tau Archons celebrate the awardees and their already impressive accomplishments over a wonderful meal. Promising Scholars Fund chairman Archon Carlton Highsmith was the master of ceremonies for the afternoon, and the awardees were introduced by way of their already impressive biographies by Archons Fred McKinney, Martyn Philpot, Alan H. Bowie, Jr., Claude Montgomery, Erik Clemons, Ralph Gatsion, Frederick J. Streets and Paul McCraven.

Promising Scholars Fund, Inc., is the 501(c)(3) organization started by Beta Tau Archons in 1986 to provide scholarships to capable Black New Haven-area students. Beta Tau maintains two categories of scholarships named after two Black Connecticut trailblazers: Edward Alexander Bouchet (first Black

to graduate from Yale College and to earn a Ph.D. from any American university) and Anna Louise James (the first Black woman pharmacist in Connecticut and first to own and operate her own drugstore). This year Beta Tau awarded ten scholarships totaling more than \$50,000 to eight deserving awardees. Each awardee received a medal emblazoned with the face of Edward Alexander Bouchet or Anna Louise James to commemorate the award and gave brief remarks.

This year's awardees were Kayla Williamson, Zara Williamson, Simone Johnson, Joshua Hall, Ahmir Muley, Zaria Bradley, Xavier Jones and Michi Holley. Each of the awardees received an Edward Alexander Bouchet Scholar Award, and Zara and Kayla Williamson also received the Anna Louise James Scholar Award.

Kayla Williamson is a first-year student at Columbia University's Fu Foundation School of Engineering and is pursuing a degree in biomedical engineering with plans to pursue the M.D.-Ph.D. graduate degree. Zara Williamson is a sophomore at Columbia University pursuing a degree in political science and human rights with plans to attend law school after graduating. Simone Johnson, the daughter of Beta Tau Archon Erik Johnson and Archousa Dawn Johnson and a freshman in the honors program at Marist College, is a double major in French and global studies with a concentration in political economy and development. Joshua Hall will attend Hampton University in the fall to pursue a degree in chemical engineering and then law school to become a patent attorney. Ahmir Muley, the son of Archon Dakibu Muley, is a repeat Edward Alexander Bouchet Scholar Award winner who attends Morgan State University and will earn a degree in civil engineering. Zaria Bradley, also an incoming freshman at Hampton University, will choose a major to help her become an attorney. Xavier Jones will attend the University of Connecticut and pursue a degree in engineering. Last, Michi Holley will attend Marist to study journalism.

To date, through Promising Scholars Fund, Inc., Beta Tau has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships to deserving Black students in the New Haven area. The program is administered by Scholarship America and has earned the reputation of being highly competitive.

*Archon Alan H. Bowie, Jr.
 Grapier, Beta Tau Boulé*



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE JOSHUA HALL AND FAMILY



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES SISTERS KAYLA AND ZARA WILLIAMSON



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE SIMONE JOHNSON WITH HER MOTHER, ARCHOUSA DAWN JOHNSON, AND FAMILY



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE XAVIER JONES AND FAMILY

GAMMA BETA BOULÉ'S SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY HITS MILESTONE



The Archons of Jacksonville, Florida's Gamma Beta Boulé held their 40th Anniversary Annual High Potential Youth Recognition Awards Program on May 1, 2024, at the University of North Florida. More than \$210,000 in scholarships was awarded from Gamma Beta and event partners University of North Florida and Jack and Jill of America. There were twelve African American high school scholarship recipients, equally split between men and women. Proud parents joined the scholarship winners at a reception held by the Archons.

The event also included an unprecedented collaboration of the social action and scholarship commit-

tees to present the students with opportunities to preregister and register to vote in upcoming elections through representatives of the supervisor of elections. Venerable sponsors Florida Blue (Blue Cross Blue Shield) and the PGA Tour extended their continued support, memorial scholarships were given honoring Omega Archons William Cody, Leon L. Haley, Jr., and Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Gamma Beta Boulé Founders Scholarship was awarded.

*Archon Roger M. Groves
Grapter, Gamma Beta Boulé*

GAMMA ZETA BOULÉ'S **LAMP** MENTOR PROGRAM AWARDS RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS



ETHAN ALLEN, JR., JACOB MYROW, JAEDEN PUGH, WILLIAM BIGBY, MARCUS ALLEN, JOSHUA FLOYD AND AMARI ROSE



CHAZ AUSTIN, NICHOLAS CROSS, VINCENT VELAZCO, LOGAN WEAVER, BRANSON BAILEY, KANYE MARTIN AND KENNEDY MITCHELL-EGBO

On May 18, 2024, the LAMP (Leadership, Achievement, Management and Professionalism) Mentor Program, one of the three social action programs of Gamma Zeta Boulé, Pasadena, California, awarded a record-breaking number of scholarships to seventeen high school seniors, all young Black men who graduated from the program. Some of the mentees celebrated were in the LAMP Mentor Program all four years of their high school journey, while others were in the program for a shorter period of time, and a few only during their senior year of high school.

Gamma Zeta Boulé extends warm congratulations to this year's LAMP graduates: Joseph Scales, Jaeden Pugh, Jacob Myrow, Joshua Floyd, Kahlil Huston, Kanye Martin, Kennedy Mitchell-Egbo, Logan Weaver, Cameron Mitchell, Branson Bailey, Chaz Austin, Amari Rose, Nicholas Cross, Ethan Allen, Jr., Vincent Velazco, Marcus Allen and William Bigby. Gamma Zeta Boulé is extremely proud to share that all seventeen young men are on their way to colleges and universities across the United States.

It has become a welcome tradition to enjoy the participation of the Pacific Region Sire Archon at the annual LAMP scholarship celebration. This year the tradition continued and Pacific Region Sire Archon Kanahl Kendrick and Archousa Narris traveled to Pasadena to participate.

The LAMP Mentor Program provides guidance to high school-age young Black men by holding monthly workshops to teach them soft skills, such as time management, financial literacy, interviewing, writing for business communications, dining etiquette and many others that are needed for success in the world. Workshops are conducted on Saturdays from 8:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. and start with a brainteaser that typically involves the entire class of mentees solving an impromptu STEAM subject matter problem. All LAMP workshops follow a strict dress code of business attire, including a suit, bowtie or necktie, and shoes. If a mentee has outgrown his suit and requires a replacement, he can access the suit bank to obtain a slightly used suit from another mentee. The suit bank was established by two LAMP alumni a few years ago. At the end of their senior year in the program, each graduating senior who commits to attending a college or university is awarded a scholarship to help reduce the cost of attending college.

For more information about the LAMP Mentor Program, visit the Gamma Zeta Boulé Foundation's website.

*Archon Earle M. Charles
Grapter, Gamma Zeta Boulé*

GAMMA ZETA BOULÉ SPONSORS ANNUAL MAN CAVE EVENT



On April 26, 2024, several of the most renowned physicians, hospital administrators and health care professionals presented eight hours' worth of medical information and research on heart disease, colon cancer, kidney disease, prostate cancer, holistic well-being and mental fitness at the ninth annual Man Cave event. The Man Cave was hosted in partnership with several key community and service organizations in conjunction with the SoCal Women's Conference. Event cochairs Ron Carter and Danny Bakewell led the organizing committee that comprised many community organizations representing the health industry, community leaders, businesses, individuals and organizations, including Gamma Zeta Boulé, Pasadena, California, which played a key role in the event, serving as an executive sponsor and providing several key speakers.

The focus of the Man Cave is to help and motivate men to take the path of physical, emotional and mental health and to inspire others to change how they feel about themselves and their bodies. Truth be told, men are assailed by diseases that can affect anyone – heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, depression – but they also have unique issues, such as prostate cancer and benign prostate enlargement. The Man Cave was a time for men to come together and hear from professionals and engage in dialogue throughout the day. It provided them an opportunity to be real while also respecting other brothers' opinions and views and being open to change. In other words, iron sharpening iron!

This year's Man Cave honored former Pasadena city councilmember John J. Kennedy, who represented Pasadena's District 3 from 2013 to 2022, served on the city's finance committee and chaired the public safety committee. It also included insightful political discussions with California state senator Steven C. Bradford and Pasadena city councilmember-elect Rick Cole.

The event's health presentations featured a panel comprising Gamma Zeta Boulé Archon Richard Allen

Williams, heart specialist and president and CEO of Minority Health Institute, Inc.; Zeta Epsilon Boulé Sire Archon David Pryor, colon specialist and regional vice president and medical director at Anthem, Inc.; Delta Xi Boulé Archon Vincent Anthony, a kidney specialist who is board certified in internal medicine and nephrology; and Gamma Zeta Boulé Sire Archon Michael Scott, a prostate specialist and medical doctor who graduated from the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

The event began at 9 A.M. with a welcome from Danny Bakewell and a prayer by Pastor Kerwin Manning. The event emcee was Anthony McFarland, who is a pastor, coach, consultant, motivational speaker and community leader. Speakers included Romeo Brooks, a distinguished speaker, thought leader, advocate for positive change in the realms of health, nutrition and personal development, and visionary in natural anti-aging techniques; and Alfred Glover, who was chosen among several podiatry specialists as an outstanding professional.

The day concluded around 4 P.M. with the Mental Health Panel, which included John McCall, a licensed clinical social worker, senior pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church of Pasadena, and chief executive officer of D'Veal Family and Youth Services; and Eric "E.J." Warren, Jr., a licensed psychotherapist, marriage and family therapist, motivational facilitator, and wellness adviser.

The Man Cave annually brings together about 150 men from businesses, community-based health organizations and the nonprofit sector. This year's event lived up to its promise to invigorate the Southern California male community, inspiring them to keep health and wellness a priority. It was truly an amazing, health-focused day!

*Archon Earle M. Charles
Grapter, Gamma Zeta Boulé*

GAMMA SIGMA BOULÉ SUPPORTS ANOTHER ROUND OF OUTSTANDING ENLOE SCHOLARS



On June 7, 2024, Raleigh, North Carolina's Gamma Sigma Boulé, under the leadership of its social action committee (the late Archon Paul Bitting and Archons Bill McNeal, Jim Smith, Everett Ward and Randy Lee), has successfully sponsored five outstanding young men through its Enloe Scholars Program. The goal of the program is to engage participants in helping cultivate their interests, develop academic skills, enhance their experiences, and celebrate success with appropriately scaled awards and scholarships.

The program involved meeting with the five scholars once a month over the course of three school years. Expert presenters from Gamma Sigma and external presenters provided the following lectures: Arts and the Humanities; Math, Science, Technology (STEM); Financial Literacy; Moral Development; The

Value of Education; African American Men and the Legal System; the Value of the Arts; Higher Education; and Mental Health.

All five of the scholars graduated from Enloe High School with honors. They and their intended colleges and majors are Ellis Charles, the University of Pennsylvania (physics and computer science); Luka Ison, Oberlin Conservatory of Music (jazz studies); Tristan Myers, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (computer science); Xavier Sparks, Loyola Marymount University (film and television production); and Nelson Stallworth, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (biology).

*Archon Joel J. Ducoste
Grapter, Gamma Sigma Boulé*

DELTA BETA BOULÉ PRESENTS WILLIE T. SMITH, JR. LECTURE AND POLICY FORUM

Each year Greenville, South Carolina's Delta Beta Boulé presents a lecture on a pertinent topic currently affecting the community. It honors the life and legacy of Delta Beta Boulé charter Archon Willie T. Smith, Jr., a judge whose law career involved cases leading to the desegregation of Greenville public schools and public accommodations, and to the desegregation of Clemson University, a case in which he was a cooperating attorney. During Memorial Day Weekend, on Friday, May 24, 2024, Delta Beta presented "Journey to the International African American Museum and Beyond" by guest lecturer Archon Bernard Powers, founder and director of the Center for the Study of Slavery and professor emeritus of the College of Charleston history department.

To honor those who have died in military service to our country protecting our nation and the world, a moment of silence preceded the lecture, which was followed by a panel discussion. The panelists included Rhondra Robinson Thomas, Calhoun Lemon Professor of Literature at Clemson University; Archon Geovanny Martinez, senior lecturing fellow and executive director for the Center on Law, Race and Policy at Duke University School of Law; Carmen Harris, professor of history, University of South Carolina (USC) Upstate; and Aaron Bryant, curator of photography and visual culture at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Additional program participants were Archon Don Beatty, chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme



INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

Court; USC Upstate chancellor Bennie Harris; Archon Dwayne Harris; Archon Kevin Williams; and moderators of the panel discussion Archon Kenneth L. Robinson, professor, Clemson University; Archon Ken Cummings, senior vice president, Southern First Bank; and Archon Michael Allen, CEO MOA Architecture, Inc. The moderators posed audience questions to the panelists from both online and in-person attendees.

The lecture was delivered in person and virtually at the BMW lecture classroom at the College of Business and Economics at USC Upstate's downtown Spartanburg campus – the largest public regional comprehensive university in the upstate region of South Carolina. The event concerned the opening last year of the International African American Museum in Charleston. The museum is located at the historically sacred site of Gadsden's Wharf, one of our nation's most active former slave ports, where more than 40 percent of the nation's enslaved Africans arrived for sale into bondage.

History professor emeritus and Archon Bernard Powers of the College of Charleston was the keynote lecturer, with a talk entitled "Journey to the International African American Museum and Beyond." As a current board member for the International African American Museum (IAAM) since its inception and having served as its interim CEO and president, Archon Powers discussed the planning, construction and execution phases of the museum and the design of the galleries, exhibitions and programming.

Describing the museum's inception and establishment as a twenty-three-year-long undertaking, Archon Powers described how it plans to connect with other institutions and projects around the state and internationally, like the Carolina-Barbados con-

nection and efforts in Sierra Leone, as well as building a platform for international trade between South Carolina, the Caribbean and the West Coast of Africa. While Archon Powers captured the themes of the museum and shared depictions of the galleries in his presentation, he did not reveal too much because he wanted visitors to see it firsthand.

Archon Powers described the origins of the IAAM and the distinctiveness and identity of the museum, due in large measure to its location in Charleston along the Cooper River and to how it is situated in that space. South Carolina and Charleston are at the heart of the museum. He emphasized the importance of "International" in its name, denoting the worldwide connections via the Middle Passage and transatlantic crossings. He discussed the Carolina Settlement and its connections to the Caribbean islands, particularly Barbados, including the labor-intensive cultivation of rice, African agricultural ingenuity and Gullah-Geechee culture. He also traced African American lineage through the Haitian Revolution and Black migrations following the American Revolution between Charleston, Nova Scotia, Great Britain, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

He remarked on the rise of white supremacy in the United States following the Reconstruction Era in terms of disfranchisement, racial violence and Jim Crow segregation as well as in foreign policy (for instance, the so-called white man's burden), Cold War politics and civil rights through the aftermath of George Floyd's murder in 2020. He followed social justice movements and global Black Lives Matter protests in cities such as Berlin, Rio de Janeiro, Belfast and Brussels. Touching on racial violence, he highlighted the blinding of decorated World War



FRONT ROW: ARCHON KEVIN WILLIAMS, RHONDDA R. THOMAS, CARMEN HARRIS, ARCHON KENNETH L. ROBINSON AND BENNIE HARRIS. BACK ROW: ARCHONS BRENT CLINKSCALE (SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIR), CLINT THOMPSON (A CHARTER ARCHON OF DELTA BETA BOULÉ), BERNIE POWERS, DON BEATTY; AARON BRYANT; AND ARCHON GEOVANNY MARTINEZ.

II African American veteran Issac Woodard in South Carolina as the catalyst for President Harry Truman's integration of the military in 1948.

In closing, he commended the IAAM's Center for Family History as a resource for conducting genealogy research. He extended an open invitation to everyone to plan a visit to the museum. The panel then provided a provocative discussion on topics ranging from their personal and institutional perspectives on the lecture to how the museum is making immeasurable contributions to cultural, social and community causes. Representing myriad backgrounds and disciplines, the panelists in their roles as academics and museum professionals shared how their work and research relates to the museum's mission. Panelists responded to audience questions about how they approach sensitive topics in African American history such as slavery and segregation, and why it is important to engage non-African Americans on such topics. They also commented on the challenges of fundraising resulting from recent retrenchment in public funding for programs and activities associated with diversity, equity and inclusion and how they envision attracting funding for future activities.

The success of the lecture and panel was enhanced by the generosity of USC Upstate chancellor Bennie Harris and his staff, who provided flawless execution

of both. Harris graciously welcomed both the in-person and virtual audience. His comments included an overview of USC Upstate's involvement with the Delta Beta–USC Upstate scholars mentoring initiative. The initiative focuses on scholars at USC Upstate with a 3.0 GPA or better (primarily African American males).

Harris has selected twenty-eight scholars to participate in the Delta Beta Boulé–Boulevard mentoring initiative emphasizing networking, leadership, resilience, ambition, high achievement, career planning and career success. He noted that the Delta Beta Boulé–USC Upstate–Boulevard Scholars will receive career mentoring advice from individual Delta Beta Archons, who will share their own professional career path experiences, challenges and successes.

Overall, the lecture was well attended by a diverse audience representing all segments of the USC Upstate community, including business, higher education, nonprofits and residents. Special appreciation was given to an incredibly engaged audience for their attendance and insightful questions. Last, there was a thankful acknowledgement of USC Upstate for its logistical support and for the reception sponsorship.

*Archon Kenneth L. Robinson
Gapter, Delta Beta Boulé*

DELTA EPSILON SPONSORS SHARK TANK PITCH COMPETITION



STUDENTS IN THE *SHARK TANK* COMPETITION POSE WITH ARCHONS.

For the seventh straight year, Southern New Jersey's Delta Epsilon Boulé awarded high school students for their potential as entrepreneurs. In conjunction with Rutgers University School of Business, Archons judged a *Shark Tank*-style competition where students pitched their ideas for startup businesses. The pitch was the culmination of a nine-week program in which local business professionals taught all the core subjects necessary for launching a business. Archons Lloyd Freeman and Damon Pennington of Delta Epsilon joined Archon Rohan Arjun of Zeta Delta Boulé to provide the students with an informational seminar on entrepreneurship.

The winning team, consisting of high school students from Southern New Jersey, presented an idea for an app that organizes the schedules of teenagers. Combining their extracurricular activities, work schedules, chores and



SHARK TANK JUDGES ARCHON ROHAN ARJUN OF ZETA DELTA WITH ARCHONS DAMON PENNINGTON AND LLOYD FREEMAN OF DELTA EPSILON

academics, the app aims to give students organization and time management. The students were presented with plaques as well as monetary awards. Over the life of the program, Delta Epsilon has

invested more than \$20,000 in the participating students' entrepreneurial dreams.

*Archon Lloyd Freeman
Grapter, Delta Epsilon Boulé*

DELTA NU BOULÉ GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$86,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS



THE OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

On June 3, 2024, the Opportunity Foundation, the 501(c)(3) organization of Delta Nu Boulé in Fairfield County, Connecticut, hosted the sixth Darwin N. Davis Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament at Saint Andrew's Golf Course in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. This course has the distinction of being the oldest golf course in America. It was a beautiful day for raising funds for scholarships. Seventy-six golfers participated, including neighboring member boulés, which made for a fun-filled day of camaraderie. At dinner Archon Gregg DeMar was the auctioneer for a beautiful painting by Archousa Cheryl D. Miller and a hand-raise that generated a considerable amount of revenue.

Through the generosity of participants, sponsors and supporters, the Opportunity Foundation awarded six new \$2,500 scholarships. Scholars will have the ability to be awarded additional \$2,500 scholarships throughout their college tenure. Scholars must meet the stringent guidelines for academic standing, need and community-service involvement. Scholarship recipients who are graduating receive a blue blazer from the foundation.

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



THE DELTA NU GOLF COMMITTEE: ARCHONS ANDERSON LIVINGSTON, PHILLIP MILLER AND RAI COCKFIELD; NORTHEAST REGION SIRE ARCHON DAVID TAPSCOTT; SIRE ARCHON ARCHIE ELAM; FOUNDATION PRESIDENT ARCHON RONALD WOODS; AND ARCHONS GREGG DEMAR, GARY FORD, CHARLES SPAULDING AND CRAIG POLITE.

DELTA UPSILON BOULÉ SUPPORTS LAUNCH OF GED CENTER



With the help of North Atlanta, Georgia's Delta Upsilon Boulé and other community partners, Cobb County Sheriff Craig Owens celebrated the opening of the jail's new GED Training Center along with the sheriff's office leadership, Delta Upsilon Archons and other community leaders. The GED Center, located in Marietta, consists of nine computer stations and was funded at no cost to Cobb County – thanks in large part to a significant contribution from Delta Upsilon. The chief aim of the center is to support the onsite testing of detainees so that they would no longer need to be transported to Fulton County to take their tests.

Sheriff Owens started the program in July 2022 as part of its ReAlign ReStart program, a collaboration between the sheriff's office and other community partners to train detainees in different trades, and to offer more educational opportunities to those locked up. The program's goal, Owens explained, is to ensure that people leaving the jail are prepared to

get and maintain jobs – an important step in ensuring that they do not return to the jail. The education gap between those finding themselves in jail and those on the outside is stark: Owens said more than 30 percent of the jail's detainees have not completed a high school education.

Archon Garry W. Bridgeman, Delta Upsilon's social action committee chair, noted that the boulé is working to break the cycle of incarceration for young Black men. He further added that this initiative is not just about giving back, it is also about Archons working and solving problems together, which helps us to get to know the best of one another. In addition to Archon Bridgeman, Archons William Thompson, Phillip Fant, Tommie Mack, J. Martin Lett and Gerald Johnson attended the GED Training Center Opening.

*Archon Timothy W. Goodly
Grapter, Delta Upsilon Boulé*

DELTA PHI BOULÉ PRESENTS ASPIRE SCHOLARSHIP



ARCHON LARRY D. ROPER, DRE'CION GATES AND FAMILY, AND ARCHON MICHAEL ALEXANDER

In June 2024 Portland, Oregon's Delta Phi Boulé presented its 2023–24 Aspire scholarship to Dre'cion Gates of De La Salle North Catholic High School during the school's annual senior day awards. The school is one of two local high schools with which Delta Phi sustains a mentoring relationship and a \$2,500 scholarship is given to a graduating mentee from each of the partner schools.

Dre'cion's nominator shared that he is admired by all his teachers and respected by his peers for his

positive attitude and reliability. He was unanimously voted as captain on the basketball team this season. A member of Delta Phi's social action committee noted that Dre'cion has been a consistently engaged and insightful participant in the mentoring sessions. Dre'cion will attend Grambling State University.

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

ABIGAIL ELIAS AWARDED EPSILON DELTA BOULÉ SCHOLARSHIP

On May 30, 2024, Abigail Elias, a senior at Tabb High School in Yorktown, Virginia, was introduced as Williamsburg, Virginia's Epsilon Delta Boulé Scholar. She will receive \$5,000 in recognition of her stellar high school academic and extracurricular achievements. Abigail has a 4.7 GPA, and she scored 1,460 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

Her extracurricular activities include captain of the swim team, student council president, student



ABIGAIL ELIAS

council association class president, National Honor Society, AWANA volunteer, Science National Honor Society, medical club, Beta Club, Key Club, Debate Club, Pre-Health Sciences Club, STEPS Club, Operation Smile and Mu Alpha Theta. Abigail desires to be a neurosurgeon and will attend the University of Virginia in the fall.

*Archon Roscoe C. Roberts
Grapter, Epsilon Delta Boulé*

FOSTERING FUTURES: EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ COMMITS TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



The Ronald H. Brown American Journey Award, established in 2009, honors the legacy of Archon Ronald H. Brown and assists future leaders. It recognizes the values of leadership, mentorship and service that Archon Brown (1941–96) championed throughout his life. By celebrating the transformative impact of individuals who exemplify Brown's visionary ideals, this prestigious award reflects a deep-seated commitment to uplifting the leaders of tomorrow.

Central to this mission is the Ron Brown Scholar Program, an initiative designed to propel intellectually gifted African American students into realms of higher education and consequential leadership roles. Founded in 1996, this program aligns seamlessly with a core objective of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity's Strategic Plan, which emphasizes cultivating and celebrating academic excellence among Black students, particularly males. The Ron Brown Scholar Program's dedication to advancing educational and leadership opportunities through scholarships, mentorship and comprehensive support initiatives echoes the objectives set forth by the Grand Boulé, highlighting a shared commitment to empowering African American youths.

Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé's unwavering support for this initiative, both financially and through active engagement, underscores its dedication to these ideals. The annual awards gala, held on March 22, 2024, saw distinguished representatives from Epsilon Zeta, including Sire Archon-Elect Greg Fenner, Archousa Angela Butler, and Archons Pat Brown, Arthur Dean, Kamonte McCray, Daryl Savage, William "Kip" Ward and Marshall Williams, in attendance. Their participation signifies a steadfast commitment to fostering academic

excellence and aligns with Epsilon Zeta Boulé's and the Grand Boulé's strategic vision.

Through implementing the Boulé Scholars Program and other academic endeavors, Epsilon Zeta Boulé actively contributes to achieving the ambitious objectives outlined in Goal 5 of the Grand Boulé's Strategic Plan. This includes adherence to the Grand Boulé Social Action Committee guidelines, emphasizing areas of specialization such as math and science, arts and humanities, and health careers, among others. By recognizing the achievements of Boulé Scholars at various educational levels and celebrating the integral roles of teachers, students and parents, Epsilon Zeta Boulé is at the forefront of creating a supportive ecosystem that encourages high academic achievement.

The Ron Brown Scholar Program and the Ronald H. Brown American Journey Award, supported by Epsilon Zeta Boulé's contributions, embody a collective effort to honor the legacy of Archon Ron Brown. This effort is rooted in a shared vision of cultivating transformational leaders who will significantly impact their communities and professions. Epsilon Zeta Boulé's participation in these initiatives reflects its dedication to the Grand Boulé's Strategic Plan and its broader commitment to fostering an environment where African American students are empowered to achieve excellence and become the leaders of tomorrow. To date, Epsilon Zeta has supported 683 students through the Ron Brown Scholar and Boulé Scholars programs. Through such endeavors, Epsilon Zeta Boulé continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future, one scholar at a time.

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

EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ ADDRESSES READING CRISIS



FREDRICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL AND E3 STAFF

In line with the strategic objectives outlined in the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity 2018–24 Strategic Plan, particularly Goal 4, which aims to develop and implement a public policy agenda responsive to the needs of Black youths, families and communities, Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé has taken decisive action to address the pressing issue of literacy within the Black community.

On April 20, 2024, the historic Frederick Douglass High School in Leesburg, Virginia, was the venue for a transformative event organized by the African American Community Alliance (AACA) and sponsored by the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) Partnership in collaboration with the MLK Diversity-Engagement Foundation. Under the theme "Our Schools, Our Families, Our Community," this gathering united community leaders, educators and advocates in a shared commitment to celebrate achievements and confront challenges head-on.

Distinguished guests from academia and the local school board were present. Epsilon Zeta Boulé was represented by Archon Patrick Brown, board member of the AACA, and Archon Marshall Williams, chair of the Epsilon Zeta social action committee. Both emphasized the importance of collective action in fostering academic excellence and social justice. Amidst the celebrations, however, emerged a sobering reality: A reading crisis grips our local communities, state and nation.

Shocking statistics revealed that 41 percent of Virginia kindergartners lack literacy, math, social skills or self-regulation readiness, with one in six falling below the literacy benchmark. This crisis has far-reaching implications, impacting academic success, workforce readiness and overall quality of life. Recognizing the situation's urgency, Epsilon Zeta has committed to addressing the root causes of the reading crisis and supporting literacy initiatives in our schools and communities.

Epsilon Zeta Boulé seeks to amplify its impact and achieve tangible results through strategic partnerships and collaborations with other organizations. Advocacy for evidence-based reading curriculum,



ARCHONS MARSHALL WILLIAMS AND PAT BROWN

teacher training, data-driven literacy plans and dedicated funding are among the key initiatives championed by the boulé to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Black young people, families and communities. As we reflect on the success of the event at Frederick Douglass High School, we are reminded of the power of unity and collaboration in effecting positive change. By leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we can overcome even the most daunting challenges and build a brighter future for future generations. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering academic achievement, empowering our youth and strengthening the bonds that unite us as a community.

The event at Frederick Douglass High School served both as a celebration of past achievements and as a call to action for a brighter future. Epsilon Zeta stands ready to heed the call and work tirelessly to ensure that all children can unlock their full potential and contribute to the success of our communities. Together, we will turn the tide of the reading crisis and create a future where every child can thrive.

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

EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ SUPPORTS DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION

Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé, is proud to continue its support of the Loudoun Education Foundation's Diversifying the Teaching Workforce Scholarship. This year Epsilon Zeta Boulé offered a generous grant to students aspiring to become educators. This contribution can make a significant difference in the lives of qualified high school African American male students in Loudoun County. This scholarship does not simply provide financial support, but will empower these students to pursue their dreams of a career in education, thereby contributing to a more diverse teacher workforce.

The scholarship, administered by the Loudoun Education Foundation, provides \$3,000 annually to recipients enrolled full-time in undergraduate college, totaling \$12,000. This initiative aligns with both Sigma Pi Phi's and Epsilon Zeta Boulé's strategic goals of fostering diversity and equity in education, as outlined in our respective strategic plans.

Archon Marshall Williams, chair of Epsilon Zeta's social action committee, serves a crucial role in the scholarship board. His presence ensures that the selection process is fair and transparent and that only the most deserving applicants are chosen. This is a testament to the boulé's commitment to supporting African American male high school students who are passionate about education and are ready to make a difference in the classroom.

Preference is given based on financial need, with applicants required to submit a transcript and a letter of recommendation from a Loudoun County public school teacher or supervisor, along with copies of FAFSA or SAR. Recipients must maintain a 3.0 GPA or above and report their grades to the Loudoun Education Foundation each semester to retain the scholarship.

Diversifying the teaching workforce is critical for creating inclusive learning environments where all students can thrive. Research consistently shows that students benefit from learning from educators with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Representation matters not only in the classroom but also in inspiring future generations to pursue careers in teaching.

As we strive to make a difference in the lives of high school seniors who dream of shaping students' lives, let us join hands in supporting education in Loudoun County. Together we can ensure a brighter future for all, where every student has access to quality education and every teacher reflects the rich diversity of our communities.

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



ARCHON MARSHALL WILLIAMS

EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ HONORED WITH GRAND BOULÉ SCHOLARS



BOULÉ SCHOLAR NATHAN JENKINS



BOULÉ SCHOLAR AUBREY SMITH

In a continued testament to excellence, Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé once again surpassed expectations when the Grand Boulé Scholarship Committee awarded three Grand Boulé scholarships to students sponsored by Epsilon Zeta in spring 2024. This remarkable achievement brings the total number of Boulé Scholars from this member boulé to eight since its first recipient in 2021, highlighting an unparalleled trajectory of success and commitment to nurturing future leaders.

This year's recipients, Nathan Jenkins and Aubrey Smith of Freedom High School and George Tamakloe from Future Kings STEM Academy, have demonstrated exceptional academic prowess and leadership qualities, making them standout candidates for this prestigious scholarship.

A future innovator in mechanical engineering, Nathan Jenkins from Chantilly, Virginia, has been an exemplary student throughout his academic career. With a passionate interest in mechanical engineering, he plans to attend Virginia Tech University to further his education and develop the skills necessary to contribute to technological advancements and engineering solutions.

Aspiring to transform the tech industry, Aubrey Smith of South Riding also plans to attend Virginia Tech University, focusing on business-information technology. He hopes to innovate the tech industry from within and desires to use his education to bridge the gap between business operations and technological development, thereby enhancing efficiencies and fostering growth in new sectors.

Engineering a better tomorrow, George Tamakloe from Woodbridge joins his fellow scholars at Virginia Tech University, planning on pursuing mechanical engineering. His dedication to academic excellence and his

commitment to using technology to improve lives indicate his potential to become a leader in his field.

Cultivating academic excellence and leadership, the Boulé Scholars Program, a cornerstone initiative of Epsilon Zeta and the Grand Boulé, is designed to address African American males' educational and developmental needs by providing significant financial support and mentorship. The program not only aims to alleviate the financial barriers associated with higher education, but also fosters an environment where these young men can achieve their full potential and emerge as leaders who are well equipped to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

In addressing a continued legacy of leadership, Past Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi and Epsilon Zeta Sire Archon Bernard A. Mustafa have expressed their pride and commitment to the continued success of the Boulé Scholars. Each scholar will be closely monitored and supported throughout his academic journey, ensuring that he meets the rigorous standards set forth by the program and that he continues to exemplify the values of leadership, educational excellence and civic engagement.

Looking forward, Epsilon Zeta Boulé continues to contribute to the development of future leaders. The community and supporters eagerly anticipate the significant accomplishments these young men will achieve in their academic and professional careers. This sustained success highlights the importance of the Boulé Scholars Program and reinforces the critical role of community and mentorship in supporting and uplifting young individuals.

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

EPSILON OMICRON BOULÉ HONORED FOR ELEMENTARY LEVEL MENTORING PROGRAM



SIRE ARCHON DATREN WILLIAMS AND ARCHONS ALBERT HILLIARD, CALVIN HUDSON AND PATRICK OLDACRE RECEIVE A RECOGNITION AWARD FROM THE CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Frederick Douglas said, “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” Epsilon Omicron Boulé in North Houston, Texas, has taken up the charge of investing its time and talent in making an impact on a few young men at a time. Since early 2023, Epsilon Omicron Boulé has been on a unique journey, forging a partnership with two elementary schools in North Houston (Birnam Woods Elementary School and Ford Elementary School).

This innovative initiative paired Archons, distinguished members of our community, to serve as mentors to a targeted group of third and fourth graders. The mission of the Elementary Level Mentoring (ELM) Program is to provide positive role-modeling encounters, a distinctive approach that enhances the learning experience of African American male students in the third and fourth grades. Archons who serve as mentors spend one hour every other week with their respective mentees for six weeks, which is called a session. The program conducts two sessions per calendar year and onboards new mentors and mentees at the beginning of each six-week period, which is intended to keep it vibrant and growing.

Numerous studies show that there are many benefits to young people’s having a mentor. For example,

students with a mentor are more likely to volunteer regularly in their community and are more likely to attend college. Students with mentors also demonstrate a higher level of self-confidence and self-esteem. Another key item extracted from several of the studies was that grades three and four were key points of potential influence for students. These studies and discussions with Archons in the field of education were key elements that resulted in Epsilon Omicron Boulé’s decision to launch the ELM Program.

Epsilon Omicron Boulé was recently presented with a recognition award from the Conroe Independent School District for making a positive impact on students and staff at Ford Elementary via the work being done by the Archons participating in the ELM Program.

“I mentor two fourth graders in the program, and they attend separate schools,” said Archon Johnny Griggs, who has been with the program since its inception. “Although the schools are in different economically distinct areas, the needs of these young Black boys are identical. Someone to look up to, to model a different kind of Black male behavior, to whisper positive words of encouragement to them, and most importantly, simply to listen. My excite-



ARCHON JOHNNY GRIGGS AND HIS MENTEE

ment to visit the mentees is only exceeded by their energies and willingness to participate in these precious sessions. It is a living example of the axiom, If you build it, they will come.”

Archon Albert Hilliard, the program executive, works with the administrators at each elementary school to plan the mentoring schedules, shape the activities, and ensure that all deliverables are executed in a timely and outstanding manner. Archon Hilliard’s passion and commitment are indeed key enablers to the program’s success. He often says, “We recognize that our time with our mentees is limited, but we can plant powerful seeds with the time we have that will expand their possibilities for the rest of their lives.”

The Archons in Epsilon Omicron Boulé continue to be committed to making a positive impact in the community through active engagement in multiple social action programs and activities, including the ELM Program. We continue to believe that these investments of time and energy can and do make a difference in the lives of young African Americans.

*Archon Calvin G. Hudson
Grapter, Epsilon Omicron Boulé*



ARCHON ANDREW SOLOMON ROBINSON, JR., WITH MENTEES

EPSILON OMICRON BOULÉ PRESENTS SIX STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



On May 18, 2024, Epsilon Omicron Boulé of North Houston, Texas, hosted its 2024 Scholarship Recognition and Reception Program at the elegant home of Immediate Past Sire Archon Clarence Estes. The picturesque setting provided a perfect backdrop for a memorable evening dedicated to celebrating academic excellence and the future achievements of outstanding students. The event commenced with a warm welcome and opening remarks delivered by scholarship committee chair Archon Kevan McCrae, setting a tone of pride and encouragement for the scholars and their families.

Following the opening remarks, greetings were extended by Immediate Past Sire Archon Clarence Estes and Sire Archon-Elect Dexter Turnquest, acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the scholarship recipients. Archon Tarrynce Robinson then took the stage to present the scholarships, honoring six exemplary students: Inioluwa Akanni, pursuing aerospace engineering at Texas A&M;

Augustine Asare, majoring in biology at Sam Houston State; James Butler, focusing on education at Trinity University; Tyrell Drones, studying computer engineering at Texas State; Immanuel Poole, specializing in acting for stage and screen at USC; and Hamza Zayed, advancing in biomedical engineering at Duke University.

The evening continued with heartfelt words of encouragement from Epsilon Omicron Archons, inspiring the scholars to strive for greatness in their academic and professional endeavors. Special recognitions and closing remarks were delivered by Archon Turnquest, encapsulating the spirit of support and fraternity that defined the event. It was a beautiful celebration of these amazing students, and the joy and pride shared among all attendees made for a truly unforgettable evening.

*Archon Calvin G. Hudson
Grapter, Epsilon Omicron Boulé*



ARCHON ALBERT L. HILLIARD



ARCHON JAMES A. HURD, JR.



ARCHON ELIJAH WHITE, JR.



ARCHON GLENN MORGAN

EPSILON PHI BOULÉ SHAPES FUTURES THROUGH MENTORSHIP



ARCHONS AT DuVAL HIGH SCHOOL



ARCHONS AT FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL



ARCHONS AT PARKDALE HIGH SCHOOL

In April 2024 Prince George's County, Maryland's Epsilon Phi Boulé reached a significant milestone in its fifth-year program – doubling its impact through an ambitious expansion of its mentoring program. Spearheaded by the Epsilon Phi social action committee and a dedicated group of Archons serving as mentors, this initiative has truly transformed lives. This year, twenty talented seniors from three Prince George's County high schools – Fairmont Heights, Parkdale and DuVal – were honored with certificates recognizing their successful completion of this empowering program.

This expansion not only marked a milestone by growing from one to three schools, but also continued the vital partnership with First Generation College Bound, Inc., supporting African American high school seniors, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. This strategic col-

laboration has proven to be a catalyst for enhancing organizational synergy and student achievement.

The fruits of this labor are evident: all graduates have been accepted into college and have collectively received \$12,000 in scholarships from the Epsilon Phi Foundation, along with a special recognition package, including a dress shirt and tie, preparing them for their next journey.

A heartfelt thank-you to the Epsilon Phi Boulé social action committee cochairmen and mentors – Archons Phillip Raines and Limone Collins – and the tireless mentors Archons Anthony Swain, Mickey Burnim, Cephias Goldman, William Lamar and Alvin Thornton, whose dedication has fueled this transformative endeavor.

*Archon Vennard Wright
Grapter, Epsilon Phi Boulé*

EPSILON PHI BOULÉ FOUNDATION RAISES MONEY FOR SOCIAL ACTION



The Epsilon Phi Boulé Foundation of Epsilon Phi Boulé, Prince George's County, Maryland, held its 2024 fundraiser – “Petals & Bowties” Cherry Blossom Affair – on April 7, 2024, at The Hotel at the University of Maryland. The mission of the foundation, which was established in 2019, is to facilitate the cultivation and nurturing of youth and the advancement of the residents of Prince George's County, through mentoring, scholarships, leadership development and other related social initiatives that affect the positive development of our community. The atmosphere was one of cheerful giving, highlighted by a spirited live auction, jazz entertainment and delicious food.

The highly successful sold-out event enabled the foundation to increase the number of scholarships for the 2023–24 mentoring year from nine to sixteen,

to continue supporting efforts to eliminate food insecurities in our county and to expand the mentoring program. The members are especially excited to have exceeded last year's total, having raised more than \$36,000.

Archons Cephas Goldman and Wayman Griffith cochaired the event, and subcommittee chairs were Archousai Dawn Brown, Thurma Goldman and Jacquelyn Griffith and Archons Rodney Beverly, K. Bernard Chase, William Lamar IV and Vennard Wright. Thanks go out to a host of committee members and others who contributed to the success of this event.

*Archon Vennard Wright
Grapter, Epsilon Phi Boulé*



EPSILON PSI BOULÉ HOSTS SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH



ARCHON DONALD W. JONES (CENTER)

On April 28, 2024, Charlottesville, Virginia's Epsilon Psi Boulé hosted the Third Annual Dr. Donald Wallace Jones Scholarship Brunch in honor of its most senior Archon at Charlottesville High School. More than 160 people attended this event, co-moderated by Joshua Epps and De'Ajree Branch, a Ph.D. candidate in mechanical and aerospace engineering at the University of Virginia. Its purpose was to recognize, encourage and incentivize the continued excellence of student members of Men of Color, Honor and Ambition (MOCHA); Women of Color, Honor and Ambition (WOCHA); and People of Color, Honor and Ambition (POCHA) from middle schools and high schools in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. These organizations provide personal, academic, cultural, social, professional and leadership development opportunities to students, assisting them toward their academic success, increasing retention rates at school and developing successful leaders of tomorrow.

Jermardo Towler, a guidance counselor at Charlottesville High School, served as the keynote speaker. He stressed the importance of having a destination in mind to assist efforts to navigate the challenges that accompany life as students in secondary and postsecondary institutions.

At the conclusion of the brunch, Archon Jones was warmly greeted by honorees, their parents and others for his efforts to invest in the lives of students. He is the founder and chairman of the Dr. Donald W. Jones Foundation. Before retiring from UVA as a full professor, he was an assistant and adviser to five presidents of the university – the first African American to serve in that position. He also founded the school's Darden Minority Business Executive Program. Archon Jones is married to Archousa Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, and they have a daughter, Tracey Tolbert Jones.

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

ZETA DELTA BOULÉ LAUNCHES COLLEGE MENTORING PROGRAM

Zeta Delta Boulé of Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the first member boulé to be set apart by two single-letter boulés (Alpha and Mu) and across two state lines, was given a challenge less than twenty-four hours after its chartering ceremony. Over breakfast on Sunday, November 14, 2021, the morning after its chartering, then-Mu Boulé Sire Archon Craig MacKay challenged the newly inducted Archons to take the lead in setting up a mentoring program at Princeton University.

The charge had originated with the past Grand Boulé Scholars Program subcommittee chair, Archon Ron Kelley, who envisioned that mentoring programs be set up by local boulés at select elite universities.

The objective was to deliver mentoring support from accomplished Black men to accomplished Black male students at Ivy League and other elite institutions, to match with those established at select HBCUs. With its proximity to Princeton University, Zeta Delta graciously accepted the challenge.

Zeta Delta's social action committee, chaired by Archon Harvey Butler, met monthly over two years to draw up the plan. While navigating obstacles, the formal mentoring sessions were finally launched during February 2024's Black History Month. Ahead of that, thirty students had participated in one or more mostly monthly sessions to engage in rich dialogue with prominent Archons



SEATED: ZETA DELTA ARCHONS JEFFERY HUGHES, CLYDE WAITE, EDWARD BENSON, JR., HARVEY BUTLER, CHARLES CORPENING II, FRED WOODS, JR., DILLARD ELMORE AND DONALD WILLIFORD. STANDING: PRINCETON UNIVERSITY STUDENT MENTEES.

who shared their personal and professional successes and challenges.

Early Headwinds

Zeta Delta Boulé met with difficulties as it pursued its ambitions due to formal and informal constraints. These included direct recruiting of students by convincing them to attend information and networking sessions off-campus; finding convenient, within-walking-distance, off-campus facilities; and navigating around student schedules, competing priorities and other social activities. “We provided assurances to Princeton that we would work within its policies, allaying any concerns that may arise from the program,” said Zeta Delta Sire Archon Charles Corpening, Princeton class of 1987.

Through vigorous debate, Zeta Delta Boulé weighed the decision of staying the course in a restrictive environment or seeking out other local postsecondary schools to launch the mentoring program. “Ultimately, we wanted to honor the commitment made to Mu Boulé, the Grand Boulé Education Committee and the Black male students at Princeton, who face immense pressures and challenges on campus; but it took time to arrive at the final decision,” added Archon Harvey Butler, who had observed his son (Princeton class of 2018) experience challenges firsthand. This served as additional motivation to convince the members to stay the course, drawing a straight line between the students and their future potential selves.

Given the proximity to Princeton, Zeta Delta Boulé, with a roster that includes Princeton alumnus Archon Corpening, concluded that the Black male students

could greatly benefit from the mentorship and fellowship with members of Sigma Pi Phi. And so, the Black Male Mentoring Project (BMMP) was launched.

Curriculum Design

Once Zeta Delta Boulé agreed to move forward with Princeton students, a November 2023 orientation session hosted thirty students who provided feedback and support for the anticipated curriculum. The plan for a multiyear program was then ratified.

- Modules for Professional Soft-Skill Development: Conducting Effective Meetings; Strategic Planning; Stacking the CV; Public Speaking; Understanding Personal Style Preferences; Dealing with Difficult People; Sponsorship, Mentoring and Networking; Mental Health; and Leadership.
- Modules for Internship, Career and Entrepreneurship Introduction and Awareness: New Venture Creation; Private Capital; Investment Banking; Medicine; Biomedical; Health Sciences; Technology; Engineering; and Legal and Jurisprudence.

Launch of Mentoring and Early Careers Sessions

In February 2024, aligned with Black History Month, the first BMMP mentoring module was presented as a virtual Zoom session. It featured Archons Ernest Green and Terrence Roberts, who are civil rights icons and members of the Little Rock Nine. The students were riveted by the two Archons as they shared

their life journeys and provided thoughtful commentary and insights on responsible leadership, nuggets of wisdom that fueled intellectual engagement.

In March 2024 Mu Boulé's Immediate Past Sire Archon Craig MacKay, interim CEO of Carver Federal Bank, shared his personal and professional achievements with the students, walking them through his journey from Ivy League to Wall Street to Black Main Street. The dialogue reinforced the importance of Black banks in providing valuable financial resources to the community.

In April 2024 Archon Reginald Browne was scheduled to present his experiences in launching a new trillion-dollar ETF industry. However, postponement was in order given the protests that were sweeping college campuses around the country. Also in April 2024, as part of a career and internship planning workshop, students participated in a virtual early careers' presentation delivered by Barclays Technology and Operations division. A trip to Wall Street to visit other financial institutions is being planned for the 2024–25 academic year.

Zeta Delta Boulé will resume the mentoring modules in the 2024–25 academic year and plans to leverage the network of Archons locally, regionally and nationally to deliver content aligned with the interests of the Princeton Black male students who are Zeta Delta Boulé Scholars.

- Majors of Princeton students engaged: neuroscience; molecular biology; computer science; engineering (chemical, biological, electrical and computer); economics; public and international affairs; politics; political economy; African American studies; and anthropology.
- Professional interests of students engaged: medicine and health care; medical devices; neurosurgery; technology; software engineering; device engineering; engineering in academia; data analytics; machine learning and data science; space; biophysics and neuroscience; materials science; renewable energy; water treatment; defense; national labs; professional research; product management; consulting; finance (private equity, wealth management and quantitative finance);

law; manufacturing; entrepreneurship; entertainment; performing arts; music; government; state department; international improvement work; universities and higher education; activism; sports contracts; and business.

We believe there may be similar mentoring programs, current or anticipated, at other universities led by member boulés that offer synergy. Zeta Delta Boulé remains open to collaboration to share insights, experiences and learnings.

One-on-One Mentoring

In the new academic year, with recognition as Zeta Delta Boulé Scholars, the students who opt in will be matched with Archons in their respective field of interest to provide networking and one-on-one relationship building that may prove useful as they seek internship and career opportunities. Seven of the students have already signed up for the Grand Education Committee's national mentoring-match initiative launched by Archon Ron Kelley in April 2024. Zeta Delta Boulé intends to create similar matches for students seeking careers, especially in esoteric fields, such as working on the Space Station.

Zeta Delta's Immediate Past Sire Archon Calvin Butts, Jr., stated, "In all, despite some of the challenges we've faced, we are very pleased to have spent the time planning for the delivery of this important watershed moment in the young history of our member boulé." He added, "We've started small, but we expect the initiative will expand to other local universities in the Bucks County and Mercer County areas, driving our commitment to social action."

The Zeta Delta Boulé social action committee comprises Sire Archon Charles Corpening; Immediate Past Sire Archon Calvin Butts, Jr.; and Archons Rohan Arjun, Darrell Armstrong, Ed Benson, Dillard Elmore, John Fiadjoe, Jeff Hughes, Clyde Waite, Don Williford and Fred Woods and is chaired by Archon Harvey Butler.

*Archon Dwight A. Green
Gapter, Zeta Delta Boulé*

ZETA DELTA AND AREA BOULÉS HOST GOLF FUNDRAISER



SEATED: SIRE ARCHON-ELECT WILLIAM WHYTE (ZETA DELTA), ARCHON ROD BENNETT (DELTA EPSILON) AND ARCHON CLYDE WAITE (ZETA DELTA). **STANDING:** ARCHONS VINNIE ROSS (BETA ETA), DON WILLIFORD (ZETA DELTA), ED BENSON (ZETA DELTA), ERROL TAYLOR (MU), JEFF HUGHES (ZETA DELTA), KERRY BENSON (DELTA EPSILON), RODNEY GILLESPIE (BETA ETA) AND TONY EDWARDS (BETA).

First Tee – Greater Trenton is grateful for the Archons and Archousai who participated in this year’s annual Golf Fundraiser at TPC Jasna Polana in Princeton, New Jersey, on April 29, 2024. The organization’s leadership team includes Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Archons Edward Benson and Jeffrey Hughes and Archousa Rosalind Williford. This year’s event was chaired by Northern New Jersey’s Mu Boulé Archousa Paula Taylor, a member of First Tee’s board.

Invitations were extended to member boulés in and around Pennsylvania and New Jersey, resulting in twenty-four Archons and Archousai from four different member boulés playing golf and/or attending the reception and dinner. Mu Boulé won this year’s Five Member Boulé Trophy with a score of -7. A total of 122 golfers participated in the fundraiser, helping to raise a gross figure close to \$100,000 for First Tee – Greater Trenton, surpassing all previous years’ revenue totals. Funds will be used to continue growing the entity’s youth development program.

*Archon Dwight A. Green
Grapter, Zeta Delta Boulé*



MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US

Boulé Economic Empowerment Summit II

Baltimore, MD • March 13-15, 2025

CONTENT TRACKS

- Entrepreneurship
- Corporate America / the C-Suite
- Investment Opportunities
including Business Pitch Sessions

CONTENT RICH SESSIONS

- Dynastic Wealth Management
- Retirement Planning
- Law Practice as a Business
- Health Practice as a Business

More programming to be announced.

EARLY REGISTRATION begins October 15, 2024 - November 15, 2024



Scan code to view *recap* video from the inaugural BEES event held in 2023

In partnership with:



Nationwide®



BERNSTEIN

WEALTH ACCUMULATION | WEALTH PRESERVATION | WEALTH DISTRIBUTION

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.COM > GRAPTER PORTAL

Spring 2025
Volume 89
Number 1

SUBMISSION DEADLINE*:
December 15, 2024

Summer 2025
Volume 89
Number 2

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
March 15, 2025

Fall 2025
Volume 89
Number 3

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
June 15, 2025

Winter 2025
Volume 89
Number 4

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
September 15, 2025

***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.com.

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. Complete identifying captions must accompany every photo submission.

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.

THE NEW ARCHONS

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity

Epsilon Boulé Salutes Five New Members

March 2, 2024, marked a truly momentous day: The Archons and Archousai of Washington, D.C.'s Epsilon Boulé gathered at Columbia Country Club to welcome five remarkable men of great accomplishment into the august body of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. Sire Archon A. Scott Bolden presided over the induction ceremony before he and the officers and Archons of Epsilon Boulé were joined by their Archousai to celebrate this joyous occasion where all enjoyed getting to know the best of one another.

Archon Herbert B. Dixon, Jr., is a senior judge with the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. First appointed by President Ronald Reagan and subsequently by President Bill Clinton, he retired after serving successive fifteen-year terms on the court as an associate judge. Archon Dixon was presiding judge of the Civil Division and the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division, cochair of the Strategic Planning Leadership Council for the D.C. Courts, and chair of the Superior Court's Electronic Filing Pilot Project. He is currently chair of the *ABA Journal* board of editors; technology columnist for *The Judges' Journal* magazine, where he also sits on the editorial board; and senior judicial adviser to the Center for Legal & Court Technology, an initiative of the William & Mary Law School and the National Center for State Courts.

A member of the Washington Bar Association Hall of Fame, Archon Dixon is also a fellow at the College of Law Practice Management. He earned his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from Howard University and his J.D. from Georgetown Law. Archon Dixon was sponsored into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity by recently deceased Archon Stephen Whatley, and Archon Fred Cook stood in for Archon Whatley during the induction ceremony. Archon Dixon and his Archousa, Phoebe Dixon, are the proud parents of two children.

Archon Adrian R. Gardner is a retired Senior Executive Service member and U.S. Air Force veteran, with more than thirty years' experience transforming large, geographically dispersed classified and unclassified federal information technology (IT) organizations. After his government career, Archon Gardner founded the nonprofit SmarTech Nexus Foundation to support communities across the United States in their efforts to become environmentally sustainable and resilient to social, economic and natural disasters. SmarTech uses technology to provide faith- and community-based organizations with the capacity to deliver equitable care to people of all backgrounds. He is also sustainability and resilience director at Adsystech, an IT consulting company.

Archon Gardner earned a bachelor's degree in biology and ecology from Tuskegee University, where he was commissioned into the Air Force and is a proud member of the ROTC Hall of Fame, upholding the Tuskegee Airmen's highest standards of "integrity, service and excellence." He earned an M.S. in environmental studies from Hood College, where he was later awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters, and an M.P.A. from the University of Southern California, where he is pursuing a doctor of public administration degree. Archon Gardner was sponsored into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity by Sire Archon A. Scott Bolden, and he and his Archousa, Terri Kemp-Gardner, are the proud parents of one child.

Archon John Peter Howard III is an associate judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. He was previously an administrative law judge with the District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings and the District of Columbia Commission on Human Rights. Before joining the bench, Archon Howard practiced law with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer



& Feld, LLP, where he focused on civil litigation and family law, and as a sole practitioner. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge Alexander Williams, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland and to Chief Judge David C. Simmons of the District of Columbia Commission on Human Rights.

Archon Howard is an officer of the Washington Bar Association Judicial Council Division, where he is chair, and a past president of the District of Columbia Association of Administrative Law Judiciary. He earned his B.A. in political science from Howard University and went on to receive his J.D. from Georgetown Law, where he is an adjunct professor. Archon Howard was sponsored by Archon Roy Priest, and he and his Archousa, Brandi G. Howard, are the proud parents of one child.

Archon Roger A. Mitchell, Jr., is a tenured professor of pathology and chair of the pathology department at Howard University College of Medicine; he is also chief medical officer of ambulatory care at Howard University. He was previously chief medical examiner for Washington, D.C., and interim deputy mayor for public safety and justice. Archon Mitchell is also speaker of the House of Delegates for the National Medical Association. Board certified in anatomic and forensic pathology by the American Board of Pathology, he has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals, has provided more than one hundred lectures on myriad forensic topics, and is coauthor of the book *Death in Custody: How America Ignores the Truth and What We Can Do About It*.

After earning a B.S. in animal biology from Howard University and his M.D. from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School), Archon Mitchell completed a

pathology residency at the George Washington University Hospital and a forensic-pathology fellowship at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York. Archon Mitchell was sponsored by Archon Duane Taylor, and he and his Archousa, Angelique Mitchell, are the proud parents of three children.

Archon Fernando Porter is the founder and lead physician of Capital City Primary and Immediate Care, which offers flexible and comprehensive health care solutions, including preventive care, chronic disease management, women's health, pediatrics, vaccinations, COVID-19 testing and telemedicine. He is also a member of Privia Medical Group, a national network of high-performance physicians who are committed to providing patients with better, more coordinated care. Board certified by the American Academy of Family Physicians, Archon Porter has been rated a top family doctor in the Washington, D.C., area by KellySearch.

Archon Porter obtained a B.S. in biology from Florida A&M University and his M.D. from Florida State University College of Medicine, where he graduated with honors and received several awards for academic excellence and leadership. He completed his residency training in family medicine at Chestnut Hill Hospital. Committed to lifelong learning, Archon Porter has completed courses at Harvard Business School Online on topics such as health care management, innovation and entrepreneurship. He has also obtained certifications in advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support, basic life support and neonatal resuscitation. Archon Porter was sponsored by Grammateus Ivory A. Toldson, and he and his Archousa, DeShaun Wise Porter, are the proud parents of two children.

Tau Boulé Chooses Four Distinguished Men



NEW ARCHONS OF TAU BOULÉ WILLIAM CLAWSON, WES GILLESPIE, MICHAEL BASTON AND MELVIN SMITH

Cleveland's Tau Boulé welcomed four new Archons on April 13, 2024, during a ceremony held at the historic Canterbury Golf Club and led by Sire Archon Jeffrey Weaver. In attendance was Tau Boulé's invited guest, then-Grand Grammateus Samuel Bacote III, who provided a warm welcome to the new Archons and eloquently intertwined the history of the Boulé and the significance of the sphinx with the tradition of brotherly support, the role of the talented tenth and the significance of being an example of "the higher type of manhood." His eloquent remarks about the Fraternity resulted in a standing ovation.

Archon Michael A. Baston is the fifth university president of Cuyahoga Community College, also known as Tri-C. He is a national leader in creating initiatives to support students' completion of college and successful entry into the labor market. Archon Baston has dedicated his tenure at Tri-C to furthering the sixty-year-old college's mission of promoting access and success for the 41,000 credit and non-credit students attending its campuses throughout the Cleveland area. He was previously president and CEO of Rockland Community College, part of the State University of New York.

Beyond Tri-C, Archon Baston is a national Guided Pathways and Equity Transfer Initiative coach for the American Association of Community Colleges

(AACC), helping to integrate student-success initiatives at two- and four-year colleges nationwide; he is a past member of the AACC board of directors executive committee. He is also an Aspen Presidents Fellow, part of the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program, and cochairs Jobs for the Future's Policy Leadership Trust. Archon Baston received a B.A. in political science from Iona University, a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School and an Ed.D. in executive leadership from St. John Fisher University.

Archon William "Bill" Clawson is the chief human resources officer for Progressive Insurance, where he leads all aspects of HR for the Fortune 100 company and its 60,000 employees. He was previously Progressive's business leader for compensation and benefits. During his time at Progressive, Archon Clawson has transformed the organization's diversity and inclusion efforts by helping to establish programs promoting career growth and improving leadership-development opportunities for people of color. Before joining Progressive, he had managerial roles at McKinsey & Co. and Procter & Gamble.

Archon Clawson is a member of the Metro Health Foundation board of directors and was twice elected to the Shaker Heights Schools board of education, where he was president. He earned a B.S. in economics from the Wharton School of the University of

Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Archon Wesley “Wes” H. Gillespie is president of ErieBank, a subsidiary of CNB Financial Corp., and chair of its board of advisers. He was previously regional president at the bank, directing its overall commercial and industrial lending activities and services across northeast Ohio and spearheading its expansion into the Cleveland area. Under Archon Gillespie’s leadership, the bank saw a 270 percent increase in loans, and a 165 percent increase in deposits, in Ohio over five years, and the number of customer households nearly doubled. He previously held executive positions at U.S. Bank, Huntington National Bank, FirstMerit Bank and KeyBank.

In 2023 Archon Gillespie was named a recipient of *Smart Business* magazine’s Corporate College Smart 50 Awards, which celebrate northeast Ohio’s top executives. He is chair of the Growth Capital Corp. board of directors and also sits on the Friends of Breakthrough Schools board of directors and the Young Men Growing board. Archon Gillespie earned a B.A. in organizational communication and economics from Youngstown State University.

Archon Melvin L. Smith is a professor of organizational behavior and faculty director of executive education at the Weatherhead School of Management

at Case Western Reserve University. His academic research and teaching emphasize leadership and emotional intelligence, focusing on the use of executive coaching to develop human and social capital within organizations. Archon Smith is coauthor of *Helping People Change: Coaching With Compassion for Lifelong Learning and Growth*. Before his academic career, he spent more than fifteen years in sales, marketing management and organizational development at several Fortune 500 companies.

Archon Smith sits on several boards, including the Graduate School Alliance for Education in Coaching board of directors, the BetterUp science board and the International Coaching Federation Thought Leadership Institute global board of directors; he is also president of the Edge Sports & Arts Academy board of directors. He received a B.S. in general management and accounting science from Purdue University’s Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business, an M.B.A. in general management and accounting from Clark Atlanta University, and a Ph.D. in organizational behavior and human resource management from the University of Pittsburgh’s Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business.

*Archon Emmitt R. Jolly
Gapter, Tau Boulé*

Calvin Mackie Is the Newest Member of Alpha Alpha Boulé



ARCHON CALVIN MACKIE RECEIVES HIS MINTON FELLOW LEGACY AWARD FROM GRAND SIRE ARCHON ANTOINE GARIBALDI.

New Orleans’s Alpha Alpha Boulé inducted an outstanding STEM advocate into its ranks at the Windsor Court hotel on June 8, 2024. The induction was followed by the annual Alpha Alpha Ladies’ Night event.

Archon Calvin Mackie is the founder and CEO of STEM NOLA, a nonprofit that designs STEM activities and programs for K–12 students, families and communities. What began in 2013 as weekend science lessons in his garage for his son and neighbor-

hood children has evolved into an enterprise that has engaged more than 150,000 students and has expanded its model to other cities and states.

Archon Mackie’s numerous awards include the 2019 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Chair’s Phoenix Award and a 2023 Eric and Wendy Schmidt Award for Excellence in Science Communications, given by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine in partnership with Schmidt Sciences. A lifelong New Orleans resident, Archon Mackie is a member of 100 Black Men of Metro New Orleans and the LASTEM (Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Advisory Council. He is a regular contributor to *Forbes.com*, offering insight on STEM in public life.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Archon Mackie earned a B.S. in mathematics magna cum laude from Morehouse College and, as part of a dual-degree program, a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he subsequently earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. He is married to Archousa Tracy and has two sons: Myles Ahmad and Mason Amir.

*Archon Brian L. Pettiford
Gapter, Alpha Alpha Boulé*

Beta Tau Boulé Presents Two Pastors



ARCHON HORACE A. HOUGH

New Haven, Connecticut's Beta Tau Boulé inducted two worthy Archons on March 16, 2024, at the historic Elm City Club in a ceremony presided over by Sire Archon Dirk C. Johnson. The members of Beta Tau celebrated the occasion with live jazz and had the opportunity to continue to get to know the best of one another over dinner, which included remarks from membership council chair Archon Ralph Gatison, Sire Archon Johnson, Past Sire Archon Carlton Oneal, and the new Archons and their sponsors.

Archon Horace A. Hough is the senior pastor of First Baptist Church. He has spent most of his life serving in ministerial capacities, working in education and mentoring. Archon Hough is a fellow at Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School and an adjunct professor at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace. He was previously director of Jericho Partnership's Pathways Danbury Boys' Mentoring, a program that guides at-risk boys through high school, and vice principal of Pathways Academy, a private, faith-based boys' middle school where he was also a member of the founding developmental committee. His experience working with young men led him to write the Amazon bestseller *8 Things Every Boy Should Know About Being a Man*, a handbook for boys dealing with the societal expectations of manhood. Archon Hough is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity as well as several local boards and committees.

A native of Queens, New York, Archon Hough earned a B.A. from Hofstra University, an M.A. in religion from Fordham Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education, and a D.Min. from New York



ARCHON KEITH A. KING

Theological Seminary. He and his Archousa, Kellee, are both focused on educating, informing and benefiting their community.

Archon Keith A. King is the lead pastor of Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church. Before deciding to focus exclusively on pastoral ministry, he also prosecuted white-collar and violent crimes as well as civil rights cases for almost two decades as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Connecticut. In that role Archon King spearheaded a nationally recognized outreach program to deter juvenile gun crime and launched the Clergy Ambassador Program to formalize relationships between the clergy and law enforcement and reduce crime. He has utilized his expertise in law enforcement as cochair of the Connecticut Bar Association's Policing Task Force and was recently appointed to the Hamden Police Commission.

Archon King entered the U.S. Marine Corps as a judge advocate general. He was awarded a Navy Achievement Medal by the secretary of the Navy and ended active-duty service at the rank of captain. Archon King received a bachelor's degree in international business from Howard University, a J.D. from Georgetown Law, a master of sacred theology degree from Yale Divinity School and a master's in theology from Andover Newton Theological School. He and his Archousa, Joaquina Borges King, a renewables and energy attorney, have been married for thirty-three years and have three adult children.

*Archon Alan H. Bowie, Jr.
Gapter, Beta Tau Boulé*

Seven Outstanding Men Join Delta Alpha Boulé



ARCHONS FRANCIS O. IDEHEN, JR., MARCUS LEBEOUF, WENDELL E. MACKEY, J. BRANDON NEAL, JAMES SMITH, EVERETT S. TUCKER AND ALEX E. WASHINGTON III

Northern Illinois's Delta Alpha Boulé inducted seven Archons into its ranks on May 17, 2024, at the Glenview Club in a ceremony presided over by Sire Archon Jeffery Perry.

Archon Francis O. Idehen, Jr., is a partner in the client-solutions group at Goldman Sachs Asset Management, where he is head of alternative multi-strategy solutions for the Americas. Prior to joining the firm, he was chief operating officer at Grosvenor Capital Management, a global alternative-asset manager, where he oversaw the client group, focusing on business strategy, product development and client-relationship management. Archon Idehen also held senior roles at Exelon Corp., serving as treasurer, head of investor relations and head of private markets in the investment office. Earlier in his career, he was a portfolio manager at Intel Corp., focusing on public fixed-income portfolios, and an associate at Lehman Brothers. He began his career in fixed income at Goldman Sachs.

A trustee of Deerfield Academy, the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools and Prep for Prep, Archon Idehen is also a member of the Rush University Medical Center board of directors. He earned a B.A. in economics from Yale University and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. Archon Idehen and his Archousa, Nicola, have two sons: Nosa, 15, and Nico, 13.

Archon Marcus LeBeouf is vice president and general counsel for the Chicago Blackhawks, Fifth Third Arena, the Rockford IceHogs, the Chicago Steel, Circa 26 and the Chicago Blackhawks Foundation. In this role he is responsible for legal strategy, compliance, enterprise-wide risk management and mitigation, and legislative matters. He also sits on the board of directors for the Chicago Blackhawks Foun-

dation, which supports local communities through mentorship, programming and financial aid. Archon LeBeouf was previously assistant general counsel for the Charlotte Hornets, where he provided legal support across the organization's portfolio of business activities. While there, he negotiated the team's first jersey-patch deal; the acquisition, branding and operation of a new NBA 2K League franchise; and deals to bring the Republican National Convention and NBA All-Star Game to Charlotte, North Carolina.

Archon LeBeouf is a mentor and coach to several Morehouse College undergraduates who aspire to become lawyers and/or pursue careers in sports. This support includes an annual scholarship to an incoming freshman who demonstrates academic excellence and commitment to community service. He has a B.A. in political science from Morehouse and a J.D. from Duke University School of Law. Archon LeBeouf resides in Wilmette, Illinois, with Archousa Alicia and their children: Marcus, Jr., 8, and Sydney, 6.

Archon Wendell E. Mackey is cofounder, co-CEO and chief investment officer of Channing Capital Management (CCM), LLC, which has more than \$4 billion in assets under management. He and cofounder Rodney B. Herenton have built one of the nation's premier boutique investment companies, which has made regular appearances on *Black Enterprise's* list of largest Black-owned and -led financial-services firms during its twenty-year history. Archon Mackey and Herenton also launched Channing Global Advisors in 2018 and made a minority investment in Preserver Partners, an alternative investment firm led by African American women, in 2023.

Archon Mackey's community service includes a \$250,000 donation in 2018 to establish the Bloomberg Finance Lab at the Howard University School of Busi-

ness, where he sits on the board of visitors. In addition, CCM has provided numerous internships to female and minority students of HBCUs, students of color in general, international students from Africa, and Chicago-area students from various backgrounds. Archon Mackey, who resides in Chicago, is a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, having pledged into the Alpha Chapter at Howard University, where he earned a B.B.A. He also received an M.B.A. from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and has the chartered financial analyst designation.

Archon J. Brandon Neal is senior vice president and deputy general counsel of Walgreens Boots Alliance, where he works closely with the global chief legal officer to provide strategic guidance and counsel to senior and executive leadership teams. Archon Neal also leads corporate and commercial legal functions within the legal department, including for Walgreens, Walgreens Health and the international segment. He was previously senior vice president and deputy chief legal officer for Novant Health, where he managed the legal department and supported the executive vice president and chief administrative officer in all legal functions. Prior to joining Novant Health, Archon Neal was managing counsel in the Wells Fargo & Co. legal department.

Very active in his community and in philanthropic endeavors, Archon Neal is a member of the National Urban League, Chicago PBS affiliate WTTW and radio station WFMT boards of trustees and also sits on the Duke Alumni Association board of directors, among others. He received his B.S. in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School and his J.D. from Duke University School of Law. Archon Neal and his Archousa, Kerbie, live in Evanston, Illinois, and have two children: Kennedy, 10, and Caleb, 8.

Archon James Smith is managing director of Demopolis Equity Partners, where he is also a partner. He was previously a managing director at Diamond Hill Capital Management, where he led the institutional sales team. Archon Smith has also held senior roles at PineBridge Investments, MFS Investment Management, Ariel Investments and Goldman Sachs. He has raised more than \$12 billion in institutional assets across his twenty-five-year career in asset management. Archon Smith began his career as an engineer at Procter & Gamble. He is also the owner and president of Chess Scholars/Afterschool Enrichment Solutions, which operates in schools around Chicago, and a past member of the Chicago Children's Museum board of directors, the Talladega College board of trustees and the Ariel Community Academy local school council.

Archon Smith earned a B.Sc. in mechanical engineering from Princeton University, an M.M.E. from Northwestern University's McCormick School of Engineering and an M.B.A. from Northwestern's Kellogg

School of Management. He and Archousa Chelsea are the parents of three student-athletes who keep them busy traveling to basketball and volleyball courts: son Zachery, 20, and daughters Kinsey, 18, and Channing, 16. Archon Smith also has a long-standing interest in performance vehicles and car restoration and holds an amateur racing license.

Archon Everett S. Tucker is the divisional vice president (DVP) of commercial support services within Abbott's core diagnostics division. He previously held three other global leadership positions in core diagnostics at the health care company: DVP and general manager of hematology, DVP of instrument operations, and DVP of operations strategy and engineering. Archon Tucker is also the executive committee chair for Abbott's Black Business Network, a member of the Asian Leadership and Cultural Network executive committee, and a member of the AMIE (Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering) board of directors on behalf of Abbott. Before joining Abbott he held leadership positions at CAE Healthcare, METI of Baird Capital, Kimball Electronics and GE.

Archon Tucker earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering from the Pennsylvania State University. He resides in Lake Forest, Illinois, with his Archousa, Cynthia Tucker. They are the proud parents of three children: Alana Tucker, 27; Amiya Tucker, 24; and Myles Tucker, 20.

Archon Alex E. Washington III is a senior managing director at Wind Point Partners, a middle-market private-equity firm that focuses on investments in consumer and industrial products and business services and has more than \$6 billion in assets under management. Archon Washington shares leadership responsibility for raising capital and managing investments and portfolios. Before joining Wind Point, he was a senior associate with J.H. Whitney & Co.

Archon Washington's board memberships include the Wintrust Financial Corp. board of directors, where he is chair of the finance committee; the Chicago Council on Global Affairs board of directors, where he sits on the executive committee; and the Art Institute of Chicago board of trustees, where he is a member of the investment committee. He is also a life trustee, and past board chairman, of the Chicago Foundation for Education and a member of the Chicago Club and the Commercial Club of Chicago. Archon Washington has a B.A. in finance from Morehouse College, where he was class salutatorian, and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. He was a Class 6 recipient of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Fellowship in venture capital. Archon Washington and Archousa Devanee live in Chicago and are the parents of three children: Victoria, 17; Nadia, 15; and Alex IV, 12.

*Archon Herman S. Baskerville
Gapter, Delta Alpha Boulé*

Delta Kappa Boulé Celebrates Six New Archons



Under the leadership of Sire Archon Carl Franklin, Shreveport, Louisiana's Delta Kappa Boulé inducted six impressive Archons on May 18, 2024, at the Petroleum Club of Shreveport. Sire Archon-Elect Marlon Henderson, Grammateus Jerome Cox and membership committee chairman Archon Dannye Malone spearheaded an elegant evening in a regal atmosphere infused with tradition. Each new Archon demonstrated his commitment by entering this illustrious brotherhood as a Minton Fellow. The Petroleum Club never disappoints with its savory entrées and assorted decadent desserts. A commissioned saxophonist filled the ballroom with the sounds of jazz and easy listening as the guests enjoyed getting to know the best of one another. Then-Grand Rhetoricos Carl E. Stewart (Delta Kappa) extended congratulatory remarks from the Grand Boulé, and Archon Henderson gave an insightful history of Delta Kappa. Visiting Archon Tim Hardy and his Archousa, Stacy, from Alpha Xi Boulé also took part in the celebration. A jovial time was had by all in attendance.

Archon Kenny R. Cox served in the Louisiana House of Representatives as a representative for District 23 from 2012 to 2024. He sat on a number of committees, including Commerce, Health and Welfare,

and Labor and Industrial Relations, as well as the Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

Archon Cox was commissioned as a U.S. Army officer during his time at Northwestern State University, where he earned a B.S., and specialized in many areas during his military career, including air-defense artillery, comptroller school, Pentagon staff and organizational training, and information-security training. He was comptroller for the Army chief of staff, managing a \$1.2 billion budget, and was awarded the Soldier's Medal for his acts of bravery during the terrorist attack at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; he retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel. Archon Cox is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He and Archousa Candie have three children: Kenny II, Kellen and Derrel.

Archon Michael R. Hicks is CEO and founder of TSC Training & Development, a full-service human capital consulting firm. He has spent the majority of his career educating young people, from K-12 to university, both undergraduate and graduate. Archon Hicks is a past assistant professor of education at Jarvis Christian University and at Centenary College of Louisiana and also held academic and administrative positions at Southern University at Shreveport.

A member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Archon Hicks earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Morehouse College and went on to obtain a master's degree in guidance and counseling and a doctorate in education, both from Louisiana Tech University. He and his Archousa, Demessia, have two children: Madisyn and Michael.

Archon Darwin L. Jones is a captain with Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office and commander of the SRT/SWAT team in Shreveport. As captain he is a supervisor of judicial services, which include the civil, fines, bonds, warrants, district attorney-liaison and courthouse-security divisions. Archon Jones is also an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Wiley University. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, he matriculated through the 252nd session of the FBI National Academy at Quantico.

Archon Jones earned a bachelor's degree in criminal-justice administration from Wiley, a master's degree in the administration of justice and security from the University of Phoenix, and a doctorate in criminal justice from St. Leo University. A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, he is married to Archousa Ree Casey-Jones and has two sons: Marcus and Dawson.

Archon Leathon "Buck" Magee is founder and president of the nonprofit Access and Opportunity Links. He has worked within the faith-based community in northwest Louisiana in many capacities, including as a pastor, and his community and nonprofit contributions have ranged from serving as chief assistant to the mayor and special assistant to a university president to procuring funding for charter schools in Louisiana, Texas, Florida and California.

A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Archon Magee has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Mississippi Valley State University, a master of divinity degree from Biola University's Talbot School of Theology and an M.B.A. in organizational leadership from Grand Canyon University; he is also a candidate for the doctor of ministry degree at Virginia University of Lynchburg. Archon Magee is married to Archousa Sophia Magee and has a son, Leathon, Jr., and a daughter, Talor.

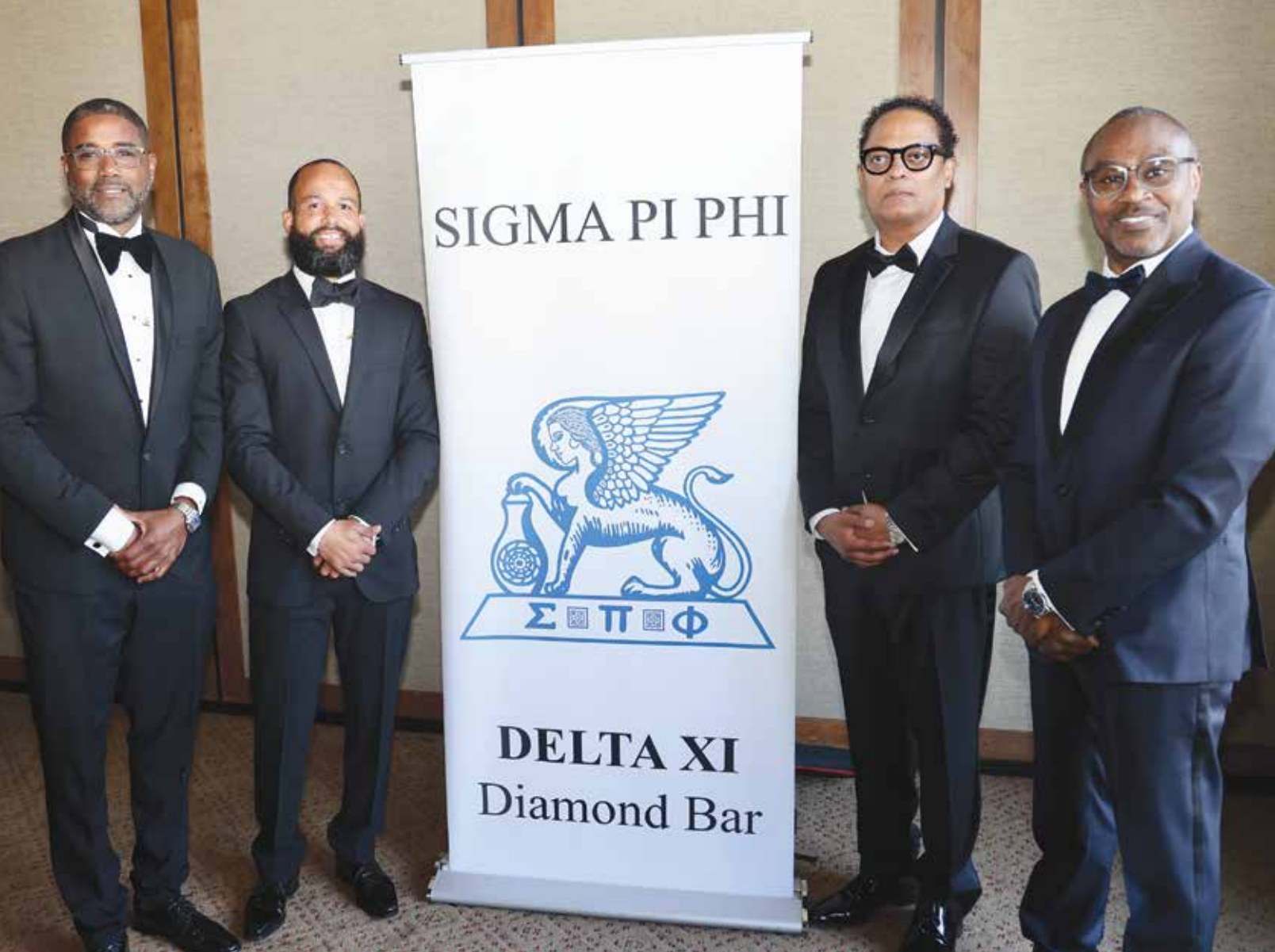
Archon Terry E. Moore is a senior financial adviser at Merrill Lynch. He is experienced in wealth management for individuals, small businesses and corporations. Archon Moore's extensive banking experience also includes estate and trust planning, succession planning, and institutional endowment servicing. He is a member of the boards of directors of the Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance and BRF (Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana), where he is a past chairman, and has also served on the Bossier Chamber of Commerce board of directors, among others. He is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Archon Moore has a bachelor of architecture degree from Louisiana State University, a B.A. in journalism from Northwestern State University of Louisiana and an M.B.A. from Centenary College of Louisiana. He and Archousa Lisette Guillory-Moore have three children: Terrye Christina, Dominique and Autumn.

Archon Leonard Weather, Jr., is an ob-gyn with practices in Shreveport and New Orleans. He is also an active researcher on gynecological clinical trials and an inventor. Archon Weather invented optical dissection pelviscopy, a surgical procedure to assist in the prevention of organ injury during laparoscopy, and is president of the Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research board of trustees. He is also an accomplished author; his most recent book, *Endometriosis: The Name of the Pain and How to Repress It*, was published in 2023. Archon Weather is past president of the National Medical Association, New Orleans Medical Association and Louisiana Medical Association.

A member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Archon Weather received a B.S. in pharmacy from Howard University College of Pharmacy and his M.D. from Rush Medical College; he trained in obstetrics and gynecology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Archon Weather and his Archousa, Cynthia Montgomery, have four children: Marcus, Kirstin, Leonard III and Ethan.

*Archon Shomichael L. Stephens
Grapier, Delta Kappa Boulé*



NEWLY INDUCTED ARCHONS STEPHEN A. KING, JORDAN R. GASKINS, MICHAEL D. PAYNE AND KEITH D. DORSEY

Four Stellar Professionals Selected for Delta Xi Boulé

Delta Xi Boulé of Walnut–Diamond Bar, California, inducted four accomplished Archons on April 20, 2024, at a ceremony presided over by Sire Archon James Breedlove at the South Hills Country Club.

Archon Keith D. Dorsey is a managing partner and the U.S. practice leader of CEO and board services at global executive-search firm Boyden. He has more than twenty-five years of leadership experience in human capital management and is focused on diversity, governance and strategic growth for private and public corporate boards. His recent research examined Black female executives' pathways to securing seats on these boards, yielding powerful insights

about the unique barriers and facilitators that diverse candidates seeking these positions experience.

Archon Dorsey is a National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) certified director who was named to the 2023 NACD Directorship 100, which recognizes leading corporate directors and corporate-governance experts. His board memberships include the board of directors at Vimly Benefit Solutions, a private technology and third-party administration company, as well as the Pacific Crest Trail Association board of directors, the Fast Company executive board and the Pepperdine Graziadio Business School board; he is also chair of La Quinta's Financial Advisory Commission. Archon

Dorsey earned a B.S. in business administration from Charter Oak State College, an M.B.A. from the Pepperdine Graziadio Business School, and an Ed.D. in organizational change and leadership from the University of Southern California. Archon Dorsey and his Archousa, Vikki Dorsey, reside in La Quinta, California.

Archon Jordan Reuel Gaskins is senior counsel for the Department of Toxic Substances Control, part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Before deciding to pursue public service, he was a litigator in private practice with several law firms for about ten years. Archon Gaskins has been an active mentor with Big Brothers of Los Angeles, part of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles, for more than ten years and sits on the board of directors of AltadenaWild, a nonprofit that advocates for the protection of Altadena's local wildlands in the San Gabriel Mountains.

Archon Gaskins and his Archousa, Lauren, are native Southern Californians who attended the University of Southern California together. He obtained his bachelor's degree in international relations from USC and his J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law. Archon Gaskins is a second-generation legacy Archon, the son of Archon Reuel T. Gaskins and Archousa Jennifer Gaskins of Delta Xi. He holds a black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu and is the proud father of two daughters, one goldendoodle and one mystery mixed-breed dog.

Archon Stephen A. King is the founder of Kings Justice Law, APC, and cofounder of Creary, Fletcher, King Trial Lawyers for the People, where he is the principal trial lawyer. Archon King's legal practice is focused on complex litigation cases involving catastrophic injuries, wrongful death, civil rights violations, personal injury, workplace discrimination and criminal law. He is a member of the Melvin M. Belli Society, an educational organization of distinguished trial lawyers, and the American Board of Trial Advocates, which is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the right to civil jury trials, as guaranteed by the Seventh Amendment of the Constitution.

In 2023 Archon King was president of the John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles, the largest and most influential African American bar association in Southern California. He is currently a membership committee cochair and officer at the California Association of Black Lawyers, where he is South vice president. A proud, active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Archon King obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Irvine, and a J.D. from the University of La Verne College of Law and Public Service. He and Archousa Adrienne reside in Los Angeles with their children.

Archon Michael D. Payne is a trial lawyer and principal in the Law Offices of Michael D. Payne, where he specializes in catastrophic personal injury cases. His litigation background includes representation of insurance companies, professionals and corporations. Archon Payne was previously regional litigation counsel for McDonald's Corp. and has advised other Fortune 500 corporations on employment-practice policies to ensure compliance with federal and state law. He is a life member of the California Association of Black Lawyers and also holds memberships in a number of other professional organizations, including the National Bar Association, the National Black Lawyers Top 100 and the John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles.

Archon Payne earned his B.B.A. from Loyola Marymount University and his J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law. He is a third-generation legacy Archon: His grandfather was Archon William K. Payne of Alpha Lambda, his father was Archon William K. Payne II of Alpha Pi, his brother is Archon William K. Payne III of Delta Sigma, his uncle is Archon Charles H. Epps, Jr., of Epsilon and his cousin is Archon Howard R. Epps of Nu. Archon Payne and Archousa Yvette have two daughters: Alexa, a graduate of Vanderbilt Law School, and Lauryn, a graduate of Pepperdine University School of Public Policy.

*Archon Alonzo E. Hill
Grapter, Delta Xi Boulé*

Delta Tau Boulé Adds Two Men of Distinction



NEW ARCHONS CHRIS FORD AND ABDUL MUHAMMAD

Frankfort, Kentucky's Delta Tau Boulé welcomed two new Archons on April 14, 2024, at Kentucky State University's Board of Regents Room. Both men reside in Lexington, Kentucky, and have made contributions as leaders in the fields of banking, real estate, government and politics.

Archon Chris Ford is commissioner of general services for Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. As an appointee to the mayor's executive cabinet, he leads a department responsible for local government's facility-maintenance and fleet-services operations, capital-project management, and multifaceted parks-and-recreation system. Previously, he was Lexington's commissioner of social services and held elected office on the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council.

Archon Ford's local involvement in Lexington has included volunteer work as a youth sports coach and leadership roles on numerous community task forces, boards and commissions. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, where he earned a B.S. in journalism and was a member of the Wildcats varsity football team. He later earned an M.P.A. from Western Kentucky University. Archon Ford and his Archousa, Talesha, have four sons.

Archon Abdul Muhammad is market president for WesBanco Bank's central-Kentucky territory and regional mortgage manager for central Kentucky and southern Indiana. He was previously senior vice president and regional sales manager at the bank. Archon Muhammad is first vice chair of the Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County; a board member of the Fayette County Local Development Corp.; a past chair of the equity council committee for Fayette County Public Schools; and a past member of the High Street YMCA advisory board, where he chaired the fundraising committee.

A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Archon Muhammad is a former Kentucky district director for the fraternity. He earned a B.S. in finance from the Gies College of Business at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has been happily married to Archousa Tonya for more than thirty years, and they have a son, Kendall, and a daughter, Kierra.

*Archon Timothy A. Johnson
Gapter, Delta Tau Boulé*

Delta Upsilon Boulé Celebrates Its Twentieth Anniversary and Inducts Nine Archons

North Atlanta's Delta Upsilon Boulé celebrated its twentieth anniversary and welcomed nine new Archons over the weekend of April 19–20, 2024, at the Westin Atlanta Perimeter North hotel. Chartered on April 17, 2004, Delta Upsilon was the last member boulé chartered during the first centennial of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. The charter Archons were Femi E. Ayewoh, James E. Carter IV, Theodis Elzie, Phillip E. Fant, Sims W. Gordon, Jr., Leon Haley, Jr., David Hankerson, Marcel D. Henry, Henry Earl Holliday, Don Johnson, Tommie Mack, Jr., Robert L. McNeil, C. Ray Mullins, Earnest C. Simmons and William "T" Thompson.

The anniversary celebration and dinner began with a warm welcome and cheerful acknowledgment of the guests by Past Western Region Sire Archon Kenneth H. Harris, Sr. (Delta Upsilon), chair of the twentieth-anniversary celebration. Special guests included Past Grand Sire Archons Robert L. Harris (Alpha Gamma) and Gregory J. Vincent (Gamma Gamma), Northeast Region Grammateus Kelly R. Holloway (Zeta), Southeast Region Sire Archon James A. Welch (Delta Upsilon), Immediate Past Southeast Region Sire Archon Darrell B. Searcy (Epsilon Lambda) and Sigma Pi Phi Executive Director Archon Bennett L. Gaines. Archon Jai Dorsey recited the history of Delta Upsilon, including the context that led to its chartering, the charter members and the boulé's milestone events. Delta Upsilon Sire Archon Brent Wilson then provided remarks for the occasion and led a roll call of Archons and Archousai who have transitioned to Omega Boulé. Archon Gaines subsequently shared a proclamation honoring Delta Upsilon for its contributions over the past twenty years. After remarks from Archons Vincent and Welch commemorating the occasion, Archon Carl Haithcox offered a soulful prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude, which was followed by a delicious dinner.

After the meal and two entertaining and commemorative video presentations, Past Delta Upsilon Sire Archon J. Lett introduced Delta Upsilon's charter Archons and Past Sire Archons. Archon Don Johnson, Delta Upsilon's first Sire Archon, then provided remarks on both his experience as Sire Archon, the special bond he has developed with other charter Archons, and the sincere gratitude he has for Delta



NEW ARCHON MICHAEL J. DUBOSE

Upsilon and Sigma Pi Phi. Archon Gerald Johnson, chair of the induction committee, subsequently introduced Delta Upsilon's new class of Archons and their sponsoring Archons. After brief remarks from the new Archons, closing comments by Sire Archon Wilson and group photos, the lively celebration continued for hours with dancing and cheerful reflections.

Delta Upsilon inducted the new Archons on April 19 at a ceremony attended by Sire Archon Welch and Archons from the Atlanta-area member boulés. Afterward, Delta Upsilon Archons and Archousai hosted a special reception for the new Archons and Archousai as well as visiting Archons and guests.

Archon Michael J. Dubose is the recently retired president of Fisher Healthcare, the multibillion-dollar clinical diagnostic division of Thermo Fisher Scientific, a global life sciences corporation. He was previously global vice president for W.W. Grainger, where he was responsible for all national and global customer contracts and teams. Archon Dubose is a member of the Watts Water Technologies, Inc., board of directors, board chairman of the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation and an executive committee member



NEW ARCHON DELMONT A. EARLY III

of the Boy Scouts of America Atlanta Area Council board of directors. He is also past chairman of the Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA) board of directors and a past member of the Florida A&M University board of trustees.

Archon Dubose, who plays the French horn, earned a bachelor's degree in music, with a minor in business, from Florida A&M University. He has been featured in *Black Enterprise* magazine and HIDA publications and on the covers of *The Kappa Alpha Psi Journal*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Savoy* magazine. A life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Archon Dubose has been married to Archousa Elizabeth for more than thirty-five years, and they have one son, Alexander Michael Dubose, who is a corporate attorney with Latham & Watkins.

Archon Delmont "Del" A. Early III is the founder and managing partner of Carter Hill Commercial Real Estate Advisors, a boutique commercial-real estate advisory, brokerage and investment firm. He has twenty years of experience advising senior executives, business owners and entrepreneurs in all aspects of commercial real estate. Prior to founding Carter Hill, Archon Early was affiliated with the



NEW ARCHON NORMAN L. ELLIOT

Atlanta office of CBRE, where he was vice president of transaction and advisory services. He is a licensed real estate broker and a member of the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors, where he is a life member of the Million Dollar Club.

Archon Early has a bachelor's degree in finance from Morehouse College and a J.D. from Howard University School of Law. He is a member of the board of directors of Voices for Georgia's Children, a leading child-advocacy organization, and a former chairman of the board of directors of Atlanta-based nonprofit Families First. Archon Early and Archousa Emily R. Early, who have been married for thirteen years, are the parents of three sons: Lathen and Zachary, 12, and Coleman, 5.

Archon Norman L. Elliott is a retired physician; he was a partner at Atlanta Gastroenterology Associates for thirty-three years. He is also a retired U.S. Air Force pilot and flight surgeon, retiring with the rank of brigadier general, and was a team physician for the Atlanta Braves baseball team. Archon Elliott is a fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology and a trustee of the Falcon Foundation at the U.S. Air Force Academy.



NEW ARCHON WILLIAM F. FISHER III

A graduate of the Air Force Academy, Archon Elliott earned his M.D. from Yale School of Medicine, and completed his internship and residency at Emory University Hospital. He is married to Archousa Pamela, with whom he has two children: Jason and Kristen.

Archon William F. Fisher III is CEO of the Rice Capital Access Program (RCAP), the designated bonding authority for the U.S. Department of Education's HBCU Capital Financing Program. Under his leadership, the program has provided more than \$2 billion of capital improvements for student centers, dormitories and academic facilities. He brings more than thirty years of public finance experience to his role at RCAP.

Heavily involved in social and foundation work, Archon Fisher is scholarship committee chairman of the George M. Hughes Foundation; vice chairman of the Jarvis Christian University board of trustees; a member of the boards of trustees for the American Opportunity Foundation – a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to develop and support affordable housing – and the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute Foundation; and sponsor of the Shirley Fisher Catch a Break Scholarship. He is also a mixed martial arts judge/referee for the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment



NEW ARCHON RONALD A. HALL

ment Commission and several other regulatory agencies, as well as an arbitrator for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. A graduate of Howard University and Emory Law School, Archon Fisher is married to Archousa Lisa, with whom he has seven children.

Archon Ronald Anthony Hall is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon at Resurgens Orthopaedics, where he specializes in total joint replacement of the hip and knee as well as sports medicine. He is active with numerous national professional organizations, including the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, the American Medical Association, the National Medical Association and the J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society. Archon Hall has also held various leadership roles at Emory Johns Creek Hospital, including director of surgery and head of the department of orthopedic surgery.

A mentor with the Leadership Empowerment Project, Archon Hall is a proud life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and 100 Black Men of America. He earned a B.A. in biochemistry from Oberlin College and his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where he was inducted



NEW ARCHON CLEMONT JOHNSON

into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, of which he is a life member. He completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Originally from Cleveland, Archon Hall and his Archousa, Keisha Dennard Hall, have been married for more than twenty-five years and are the proud parents of three wonderful sons: Justin, Jayden and James.

Archon Clemont “Clem” Johnson is senior managing director of Harvard Group International (HGI), an executive-search firm where he leads a team of recruiters to assist clients with their senior-level staffing needs. He also leads HGI’s diversity recruiting practice. Prior to joining HGI, Archon Johnson was a franchise owner of Snelling Staffing Services. He was also senior vice president of human resources for OFS (formerly Lucent Technologies’ Optical Fiber Solutions). In addition, Archon Johnson held various senior HR management roles over a twenty-year period with ExxonMobil and International Paper Co. He is a past member of the SHRM-Atlanta board of directors and has held major fundraising roles with the United Way and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life annual event.



NEW ARCHON MARC A. LOVE

A member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Archon Johnson holds a B.S. in business administration from Alcorn State University and completed all courses toward an M.B.A. at the University of Southern Mississippi. He and his Archousa, Linda V. Johnson, have one daughter, Venus V. Anderson. Archon Johnson is a member of St. James Community Church.

Archon Marc A. Love is the vice president of national provider contracting and strategy for Kaiser Permanente (KP), where he leads KP’s strategies for its external-provider network in Georgia and mid-Atlantic states and is responsible for building value-based contractual relationships with key hospitals, health systems and providers while driving high-quality care and financial performance. Before joining KP, he was the state chief operating officer at WellCare of Georgia. Archon Love is a member of the board of trustees, and finance committee chair, at Talladega College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and was recently awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters. He also sits on the advisory board of PoliHire, a national search firm.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Archon Love received an M.B.A. from the Howard University School of Busi-



NEW ARCHON WAYNE MARTIN, JR.



NEW ARCHON SHAYNE E. O'REILLY

ness after graduating from Talladega and went on to obtain a doctorate in business administration from Florida International University's Chapman Graduate School of Business. He is happily married to Archousa Sherell, and they have two children: Erik and Langston.

Archon Wayne Martin, Jr., is vice president of government affairs at Morehouse School of Medicine, where he leads political and governmental engagement at the local, state and federal levels. He was previously regional head of government affairs for Starbucks Coffee Co.'s East Coast markets and senior manager of external affairs for Comcast Corp.'s Atlanta market. Archon Martin sits on the boards of directors of the Morris Brown College Foundation, Quest Community Development Corp. and BCM Georgia. He is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta and a member of the Leadership Georgia Class of 2024 and holds active memberships in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and 100 Black Men of Atlanta.

An ordained minister, Archon Martin is a member of the Spirit & Truth Church Atlanta staff. He is also president and CEO of Covenant HealthShare, a nonprofit, faith-based health care ministry. Archon Martin

earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Morehouse College and an M.P.A. from Arkansas State University. He and his Archousa, Emily T. Martin, have three children: Kennedy, Kristopher and Ethan.

Archon Shayne E. O'Reilly is a director and associate general counsel at Meta Platforms, Inc. (formerly Facebook, Inc.), where he leads a team with global responsibility for strategic transactions, technology transactions, AI, licensing, open source and high-risk initiatives. Before joining Meta, Archon O'Reilly was an intellectual property attorney at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, LLP. He has sat on the board of trustees of the Ron Clark Academy and the executive advisory board of North Carolina A&T State University. Archon O'Reilly is also a member of the Leadership Georgia Class of 2023 and 100 Black Men of Atlanta.

Archon O'Reilly earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from North Carolina A&T and his J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. He is married to Archousa Cherie, and they have three children: Colin, Benjamin and Harrison.

*Archon Timothy W. Goodly
Grapter, Delta Upsilon Boulé*



ARCHON ALEXANDER CONYERS



ARCHON SIDNEY J. EVERING II

Delta Chi Boulé Welcomes Four New Archons

Orangeburg, South Carolina's Delta Chi Boulé proudly inducted four Archons on February 10, 2024, at the Orangeburg Country Club. The newly inducted Archons possess an array of skills, talents and resources that continue to benefit the Orangeburg community and surrounding areas.

Archon Alexander Conyers is the thirteenth president of South Carolina State University and a member of the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education. He spent more than twenty-eight years in the U.S. Army, where he led complex organizations in recruitment, training, human resources, safety and finances. As a member of the Senior Executive Service, Archon Conyers held the position of deputy assistant secretary of the Army and was head of the Army Review Boards Agency. His military assignments also included tours in South Korea, Afghanistan and Cuba, and he led more than 3,600 soldiers and civilians across four military installations: Fort Bragg, now Fort Liberty, in North Carolina; Fort Stewart in Georgia; Fort Campbell in Kentucky; and Fort Drum in New York.

A native of Manning, South Carolina, Archon Conyers earned a B.S. in criminal justice from SC State, a master's degree in corrections from the University of South Carolina and a master's degree in public administration from Troy University; he is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Archon Conyers and his Archousa, Agatha, have two children.

Archon Sidney J. Evering II is the Orangeburg city administrator, the first African American to hold this position. Born and raised in Orangeburg, he was previously an attorney at Parker Poe, where he focused on public finance, economic development and local government. Archon Evering's numerous honors include receiving the Jonathan Jasper Wright Award, presented to an outstanding member of the South Carolina legal community, and the Southern Region Black Law Students Association Alumni Award. He has sat on numerous boards, including the South Carolina Bar board of governors, the South Carolina State University board of trustees and the Richland County First Steps board of directors.



ARCHON SHAWN D. FOSTER

Archon Evering earned a B.S. in economics and marketing from the University of South Carolina and went on to receive his J.D. from the university's Joseph F. Rice School of Law. He and his Archousa, Wendee, are the proud parents of two sons.

Archon Shawn D. Foster is superintendent of the Orangeburg County School District, which serves more than 10,500 students. Before this appointment, he was deputy superintendent and chief officer of operations and student services for Aiken County Public Schools. Archon Foster is a member of the Rotary Club of Orangeburg and a past president of the Epsilon Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He is completing a fellowship with the Racial Equity Leadership Network, sponsored by the Southern Education Foundation.

Born in Greensboro, North Carolina, Archon Foster earned a B.S.W. from Livingstone College, a master's degree in counseling from Webster University, a master of education degree from Columbia College, and an Ed.D. in educational leadership and adminis-



ARCHON CLIFTON JORDAN III

tration from South Carolina State University. He and his Archousa, Tanya, have been married for more than eighteen years and have a son and a daughter.

Archon Clifton Jordan III, who has been a practicing general dentist for more than twenty-three years, is the owner of Edisto Dental Associates and Jordan Dental Associates. He is an active member of the American Dental Association, the South Carolina Dental Association and the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation, or DOCS Education.

A native of Bamberg, South Carolina, Archon Jordan earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from South Carolina State University and received his D.D.S. from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. He and his Archousa, Della, enjoy traveling, car shows and motorcycle rides and are also active with the Charleston Chapter of The Moles and Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

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

Epsilon Zeta Boulé Introduces Six Leaders



ARCHONS KEITH MOODY, EARL MATTHEWS, BRUCE CRAWFORD, LAWRENCE MOOREHEAD, KENYATTA UZZELL AND HOWARD BELL

Epsilon Zeta Boulé of Loudoun County, Virginia, inducted six Archons into the Boulé in a ceremony held at the Westin Washington Dulles Airport hotel on April 7, 2024. This event was attended by Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi (Iota) and several visiting Archons.

Archon Howard Otha Bell III is the CEO and visionary leader of Abl, an AI-powered platform transforming scheduling at school districts in locations such as Baltimore; Fairfax County, Virginia; Houston, Texas; Los Angeles; and Portland, Oregon. Archon Howard and his team of data scientists, education experts and engineers provide strategic scheduling solutions that empower educators to move away from outdated systems, ensuring both equitable access to courses critical to students' post-high school success and a more efficient use of school resources. Archon Howard's leadership in educational technology spans more than twenty-five years at companies including Hobsons, Kaplan, Scholastic and Study Group. He also brings experience from Wayne State University, where he led TechTown, an urban research and technology park, and taught entrepreneurship in the university's M.B.A. program. In recognition of his educational impact, the Emerson Collective recently named him a Dial Fellow.

Archon Howard holds a B.S. in electrical engineering from Brown University, an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan's Stephen M. Ross School of Business

and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. An active member of Alfred Street Baptist Church, Archon Howard cherishes his Archousa, Bonita Lewis Bell, to whom he has been married for twenty-three years, and their son, Howard Bell IV.

Archon Bruce Crawford is an inspired thought leader with more than thirty-six years of experience in executive management, national security, digital transformation and cybersecurity. He is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant general and finished his military career as chief information officer of the Army. A commercial and defense consultant, private-equity adviser and volunteer, Archon Crawford sits on the boards of directors of Comtech Telecommunications Corp., Foundation Risk Partners and the George C. Marshall International Center. He was named the BEYA Black Engineer of the Year in 2020.

A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Archon Crawford was commissioned through South Carolina State University's Reserve Officers' Training Corps after graduating as a distinguished military graduate with a B.S. in electrical engineering. In addition, he holds a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University and an M.S. in national security and resource strategy from the National Defense University. He also received an honorary doctorate in public service from SC State. Archon Crawford and his Archousa, Dianne, a career educator, have two sons and two grandchildren.

Archon Earl G. Matthews is general counsel and head of business development for Neros Technologies. He was previously general counsel, corporate secretary and chief administrative officer of Albers Aerospace and president of Veeam Government Solutions, a subsidiary of Veeam Software Corp. Archon Matthews also held senior positions in the administration of President Donald J. Trump, including deputy assistant to the president and senior director for defense policy and strategy on the National Security Council staff, principal deputy general counsel of the Department of the Army, and special counsel to the director of national intelligence.

A veteran of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Archon Matthews continues to serve as a colonel in the Army Reserve. He earned a B.A. from Villanova University, an M.S. in strategic intelligence from National Intelligence University, an LL.M. in national-security law from Georgetown Law, an M.S. in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Archon Matthews is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Judge Advocates Association and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; a nonresident fellow at the Gemunder Center for Defense and Strategy of the Jewish Institute for National Security of America; and a former Lincoln Fellow at the Claremont Institute. He resides in Great Falls, Virginia, with his Archousa, Tyra W. Matthews.

Archon Keith A. Moody is president and cofounder of LinkVisum Consulting Group, a management consultancy catering to the federal government. He brings to the role more than thirty years of professional expertise in technology, process enhancement and organizational transformation. Archon Moody previously held leadership roles at Booz Allen Hamilton, Commerce One, PricewaterhouseCoopers and CGI/American Management Systems. He also founded and manages Remington-34 Properties, a real estate investment company.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Archon Moody is dedicated to community engagement and has mentored youths for nine years as a member of 100 Black Men of Greater Washington, D.C. His involvement has been instrumental in the success of the Saturday Leadership Academy, the organization's flagship mentorship program catering to boys ages 13 to 18. In 2020 he was appointed to the Loudoun Water board of directors and is also an active member of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. Archon Moody earned a B.S. with dual degrees in management information systems and marketing from Syracuse University, followed by an M.B.A. from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He and his Archousa, Fatimah, are the proud parents of two daughters, Imani and Maya, and a son named Miles.

Archon Lawrence Anthony Moorehead is a dedicated business leader in the retail automotive indus-

try with a career that spans more than thirty years. He has held positions including general manager and vice president of operations, managing retail BMW, Mini, Rolls-Royce, Lamborghini, McLaren, Harley-Davidson and, currently, Nissan franchises. An active community member, Archon Moorehead has been a member of and supported a number of professional and civic organizations, including the National Pan-Hellenic Council, NAMAD (National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers) NextGen, the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, the National Automobile Dealers Association, the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association, the Joyce and Thomas Moorehead Foundation, Backpack Buddies, Wounded Warrior Project, LAWS/Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice and Heritage Fellowship Church.

Archon Moorehead holds a bachelor's degree in automotive marketing and management from Northwood University. He also attended Grambling State University before transferring to Northwood for its specialized curriculum. While at Northwood he sat on the student board of directors for the Northwood University International Auto Show, the largest outdoor automotive show in North America. He is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Heritage Fellowship Church and the proud father of Kensington Ava, 6.

Archon Kenyatta L. Uzzell is the founder and CEO of PoliHire, an executive-search firm that partners with government leaders and public boards and commissions to recruit cabinet-level officials and directors across the public sector. He has recruited hundreds of executives during his career of more than thirty years. Before founding PoliHire, Archon Uzzell was the talent manager for former Washington, D.C., mayor Anthony Williams. He has also been a regional market leader for three global staffing firms.

A native of Goldsboro, North Carolina, Archon Uzzell earned a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he majored in English and minored in African American studies. He also holds an M.B.A. from the Howard University School of Business. Archon Uzzell, who is host of the podcast *Kenyatta's Talent Hunt*, sits on the Business Council of the African American Mayors Association and the National Corporate Council for the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. He is a life member of the University of North Carolina General Alumni Association and of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, where he chartered the Loudoun County chapter. He is also a youth basketball and lacrosse coach. Archon Uzzell and his Archousa, Kahni, have been married for eighteen years and reside in the Chantilly area of Loudoun County with their children: Kamila, 13, and Kaleb, 9.

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

1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON, D.C.



Leaders of the Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C., 1963. Standing: Executive director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice Matthew Ahmann, Rabbi Joachim Prinz, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) leader Archon John Lewis, Protestant minister Eugene Carson Blake, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) leader Floyd McKissick, and labor union leader Walter Reuther. Sitting: National Urban League executive director Archon Whitney Young, chairman of the Demonstration Committee Cleveland Robinson, labor union leader A. Philip Randolph, Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., and NAACP leader Archon Roy Wilkins.

KUDOS & COMMENDATIONS



BRONZE SCULPTURE OF MEMPHIS'S DELTA BOULÉ ARCHON A.C. WHARTON, JR., UNVEILED



Dwayne Allen

Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Archon Dwayne Allen received the coveted Information Technology Senior Management Forum (ITSMF) Fellow medal for career and professional achievement and was named Technology Executive of the Year at ITSMF's annual awards gala in March 2024. The black-tie event, held in Atlanta, was sold out, with more than 500 people in attendance. Archon Allen is the senior vice president and chief technology officer for Unisys.



Harry L. Allen

Belmont University announced the appointment of Nashville's Chi Boulé Archon Harry L. Allen as executive vice president for financial excellence and chief financial officer on its website on May 7, 2024. Archon Allen began his new role on July 1. Prior to joining Belmont, Archon Allen most recently served as cofounder and chief relationship officer at Studio Bank, which, under his leadership, became one of Nashville's fastest-growing companies.



F. Vincent Allison III

On June 7, 2024, Archon F. Vincent Allison III of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé was selected for a three-year term on the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners. His term began on August 1, 2024. In addition to leading a family dental practice, Archon Allison serves as an adjunct faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Adams School of Dentistry and the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine.





Gordon Amerson

Archon Gordon Amerson of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, was appointed superintendent of the Val Verde Unified School District in May 2024 following a comprehensive nationwide search. Marla Kirkland, board president, expressed her enthusiasm for Archon Amerson's selection: "Dr. Amerson stood out among several distinguished candidates. His strategic and collaborative leadership approach, along with a proven track record in enhancing curriculum and instruction, make him the ideal leader for our district at this critical time."



Jean-Philippe Austin

In May 2024 Archon Jean-Philippe "J.P." Austin of Miami, Florida's Alpha Rho Boulé received the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor, established by the Ellis Island Honors Society, for his outstanding civic engagement at a reception on Ellis Island in New York. In receiving this honor, Archon Austin, a practicing oncologist who immigrated from Haiti as a child, joins the ranks of several distinguished Americans, including six United States presidents.



Baston, Bibb, Calhoun & Johnson

Archons Michael Baston, Leon Bibb and Alexander Johnson of Tau Boulé, Cleveland, and Archon W. Byron Calhoun of Beta Rho Boulé, Akron-Kent, Ohio, were highlighted in the spring 2024 issue of *The Black Professional* magazine, which was published in March 2024.



Calvin Bland

On April 19, 2024, the latest cohort of Calvin Bland Faculty Fellows hosted the Bland Faculty Fellows Symposium at the University of Pennsylvania. Now in its sixth year, the fellowship, named in honor of Southern New Jersey's Delta Epsilon Boulé Archon Calvin Bland, a 1972 alumnus of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, is specifically designed to empower faculty to conduct research through an interdisciplinary approach aimed at increasing positive life and career options for young men of color.



Jose Bodipo-Memba

On May 19, 2024, Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé Archon Jose Bodipo-Memba gave an inspirational speech to students of the Black Achievers Creating Change (BACC) program. Developed by the Sacramento chapter of The Links, Inc., whose membership includes many Gamma Epsilon Archousai, including Archousa Teresa Aldredge, the chapter's president, BACC is a free two-year program for junior and senior high school students who exemplify academic achievement, leadership potential and a willingness to empower others through service.



Randy Bowman

On April 18, 2024, Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé Archon Randy Bowman received the VolunteerNow Lifetime Achievement Award. VolunteerNow is one of the nation's largest volunteer centers with thousands of volunteers who support more than 4,200 philanthropic organizations. Archon Bowman was recognized as an exemplary community servant. His contributions include serving on the boards of the Parkland Health Foundation, which supports the nation's largest public hospital; Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas; and Impact Dallas Capital.

Bryan C. Brantley

On April 10, 2024, Sire Archon Bryan C. Brantley of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé coestablished a scholarship endowment with his brother, Gary Brantley, at Youngstown State University. The scholarship will assist Black and brown students interested in pursuing careers in information technology and/or law. Archon Brantley is a member of McGuire-Woods's board of partners and leads the firm's transportation industry group. He has a vast amount of litigation experience in areas including, but not limited to, transportation, retail, construction, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals.



Roy C. Brooks & Jennifer Giddings Brooks

Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas's Delta Mu Boulé Archon Roy C. Brooks and his Archousa, Jennifer Giddings Brooks, both received the Multicultural Alliance's Lifetime Achievement Award on February 29, 2024. On April 9, 2024, Downtown Fort Worth, Inc., also presented Archon Brooks with its prestigious Trailblazer Award for his exemplary service to the citizens of Fort Worth.



Artis M. Brown

North Houston, Texas's Epsilon Omicron Boulé Archon Artis M. Brown, vice president of ExxonMobil's global base stocks and waxes business, was recognized by *Savoy* magazine as one of the most influential executives in corporate America in April 2024. With nearly twenty-eight years of experience in various roles and regions, Archon Brown has led multibillion-dollar businesses and has contributed to ExxonMobil's strategy, external messaging and board of directors communications. Archon Brown is also a mentor, adviser and member of several boards and councils.



Reginald J. Brown

Northern Virginia's Beta Nu Boulé Archon Reginald J. Brown was named to *Washingtonian* magazine's 2024 list of Washington, D.C.'s 500 most influential people. The list was published on May 2, 2024. Archon Brown is a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Kirkland & Ellis, LLP.



Rodney Bullard

South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé Archon Rodney Bullard, CEO of The Same House, received Morehouse College's Presidential Award of Distinction at the historic Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel on February 15, 2024. Archon Bullard said, "Morehouse has a rich history of producing leaders in all areas of life and to be recognized by such an esteemed institution is truly an honor." In June 2024 Archon Bullard also launched a blog series on LinkedIn titled *Building a Same House Mindset: Exploring Respect in Community Building*.



William T. Burke III

On April 5, 2024, San Antonio's Gamma Phi Boulé Grapter William T. Burke III was selected for induction into the Trinity University chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, an international business honor society, in recognition of his service in the education of business disciplines.





John L. Burris

An interview on KPIX-TV with Archon John L. Burris of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland–Berkeley, California, aired on February 1, 2024. Discussion focused on some landmark cases his practice has handled involving police misconduct, employment discrimination and criminal defense. A civil rights lawyer for more than forty years, Archon Burris earned two degrees from the University of California, Berkeley – a law degree from the School of Law and an M.B.A. from the Haas School of Business. He has also been a legal analyst on Fox, MSNBC, Court TV, CNN and other broadcast media for twenty-five years.



Richard K. Bynum

In April 2024 *Savoy* magazine selected Archon Richard K. Bynum of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, as one of the most influential executives in corporate America for 2024. Archon Bynum is chief corporate responsibility officer and executive committee member for The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., where he leads the PNC Foundation, community affairs, responsible business strategies, community development banking, and diversity and inclusion. This is the third time *Savoy* has selected Archon Bynum for this honor.



Donald Byrd

The TBC Corp. announced the appointment of Sire Archon–Elect Donald Byrd of Epsilon Lambda Boulé, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida, as its new president and chief executive officer on its website on April 24, 2024. Archon Byrd joined TBC in 2018 as its executive vice president and as the president and COO for TBC's subsidiary National Tire Wholesale. Prior to TBC, Archon Byrd served as COO and president of Tire Centers, LLC, and held roles in marketing and operations at Procter & Gamble.



Kirk A. Calhoun

Archon Kirk A. Calhoun of Tyler, Texas's Delta Gamma Boulé retired as president of the University of Texas at Tyler on May 31, 2024. His retirement was announced in the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* on February 13, 2024. Archon Calhoun served as president of the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSCT) at Tyler since 2002 and led UT Tyler since the university merged with UTHSCT in 2021.



Kenneth Chance

American Dental Association president Linda J. Edgar appointed Archon Kenneth Chance of Cleveland's Tau Boulé to serve on the National Task Force on Lowering Dental School Tuition on April 1, 2024. The association's board of trustees formed the task force to address this important issue for the future of oral health care. Archon Chance was one of four dental school deans selected for the ten-member team.



Eric Chatman

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston (FHLBank Boston) announced in April 2024 that Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archon Eric Chatman, executive vice president and chief financial officer of the Housing Partnership Network, is now chair of its board of directors. A more than \$60 billion asset financial institution, FHLBank Boston supports affordable housing finance, community development and programs for lower-income households. One of eleven FHLBanks in the nation, FHLBank Boston serves six New England states. Beta Beta Archon E. Macey Russell is also on the board of FHLBank Boston.

Justin Christian

The *Indianapolis Business Journal* announced Archon Justin Christian of Indianapolis's Alpha Eta Boulé as the inaugural winner of its Mickey Maurer Entrepreneur of the Year Award on its website on April 25, 2024. Archon Christian is CEO and founder of BCforward, an information technology consulting and workforce management company that was founded in 1998 with only two employees. The company now employs 5,000 people worldwide.



Kieth Cockrell

In April 2024 Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Kieth Cockrell was selected for the *Business North Carolina* Power List 2024. Archon Cockrell is the president of Bank of America Charlotte.



Malcomb Coley

In April 2024 Archon Malcomb Coley of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé was selected for the *Business North Carolina* Power List 2024. He was also an honoree at the 2024 *Charlotte Business Journal* Most Admired CEO Awards on June 13, 2024. Archon Coley is the central region private leader and Charlotte managing partner for EY.



Brandon Corbin

Archon Brandon Corbin of Nashville's Chi Boulé was celebrated as an up-and-coming Nashville philanthropist at the *Nfocus* Fresh Faces of Philanthropy reception on June 5, 2024. To be eligible for selection, nominees had to be 45 years of age or younger, active in the community, and nominated by the nonprofit organizations for which they volunteer or serve on a board or committee. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee nominated Archon Corbin. The *Nfocus* profile of Archon Corbin is available on the magazine's website.



Clifford E. DeBaptiste

On May 19, 2024, members of Delaware's Beta Eta Boulé joined almost 1,000 friends and family to celebrate Archon Clifford E. DeBaptiste's birthday with cake and ice cream exactly one hundred years after the day he was born. The number of people in attendance spoke to the legacy of the great man.



Willie A. Deese

In academia few achievements are as prestigious as attaining a top spot in the national rankings. The North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Willie A. Deese College of Business and Economics, named for Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Epsilon Gamma Boulé Archon Willie A. Deese, has done just that. The college was named the number one business school among the United States' historically Black colleges and universities by *U.S. News & World Report* in the organization's rankings of the best graduate colleges published April 9, 2024.





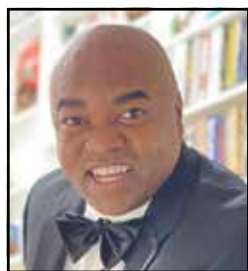
Raymond T. Diamond

In April 2024 Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé Archon Raymond T. Diamond delivered a paper at the Equal Protection Symposium sponsored by the *Southern University Law Review* and delivered the keynote address at Tulane University Law School's celebration of the 70th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. At the Slavery Past, Present, and Future 8th Global Meeting, held at the University of Vienna in June 2024, Archon Diamond presented a paper titled "Abortion as a 13th Amendment Right" and chaired the Racial Slavery: Structures and Underpinnings panel.



I. Kenneth Dious

On April 12, 2024, the University of Georgia School of Law honored four distinguished graduates during an awards dinner at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. Among the honorees was Athens, Georgia's Delta Psi Boulé Archon I. Kenneth "Ken" Dious, a 1973 UGA Law graduate, who received the Distinguished Service Scroll Award for his outstanding dedication and service to the legal profession and the law school. Archon Dious, one of the first African Americans to practice law in Northeast Georgia, has provided legal services to area citizens for fifty years.



Grady D. Dunn

Hampton-Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé Archon Grady D. Dunn assumed the position of war game coordinator for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Allied Command Transformation on March 11, 2024. The war game directorate is responsible for providing the military vision for the great power competition and preparing forces through strategic exercises, training and war games. These war games further the alliance's efforts to strengthen the defense posture and provide decisive military advantages to all thirty-two nations in the organization.



Jim Dunn

Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Jim Dunn published a book called *101 Lessons in Leading With Laughter: Research & Real Stories on Humor at Work* on April 8, 2024. Archon Dunn is the president and CEO of LD Human Capital Consulting, which specializes in comprehensive human capital consulting services, with a focus on executive and organizational services, including executive and business coaching, human resources mergers and acquisitions integration, cultural assessment and mapping, career and workforce development planning, and executive recruitment services.



James Dyke, Jr.

On May 16, 2024, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce recognized Archon James Dyke, Jr., of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, with a Centennial Lifetime Achievement Award. The award honors corporate citizens who have had success in their respective fields and made significant contributions to Virginia and its business community. Archon Dyke is the former Virginia secretary of education and currently serves as senior adviser for state government relations at McGuireWoods, LLP.



Sheldon Early

The BMW Charity Pro-Am, held June 6–9, 2024, in the picturesque setting of Upstate South Carolina, saw a remarkable confluence of talent, philanthropy and community engagement, thanks to the tireless efforts of Archon Sheldon Early of Greenville, South Carolina's Delta Beta Boulé. This event, more than just a prestigious golf tournament, has become a beacon for diversity and youth engagement under Archon Early's influence. For the past four years, he has been a dedicated member of the South Carolina Charities, Inc., board and has helped organize the event.

W.H. Easter III

Archon W.H. “Bill” Easter III of Houston, Texas’s Nu Boulé was named one of America’s top twenty value-creating directors by *Corporate Board Member* magazine in April 2024. The magazine used artificial intelligence–led research to identify directors who, since 2008, have served on four or more large public company boards whose cumulative total shareholder returns (TSRs) exceeded peer company TSRs by the highest amount during their tenure. Archon Easter is a director of Delta Air Lines, Emerson Electric Co. and Aurora Sustainable Lands.



Eric Flowers

On May 22, 2024, Healthright 360 presented Archon Eric Flowers of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland–Berkeley, California, with its prestigious Healthcare Visionary Award for his exceptional achievements, dedication and service. Archon Flowers joined the board of directors of Haight Ashbury Free Clinics in 2001. Later, as board chair, he participated in the negotiations that led to the merger of Haight Ashbury Free Clinics and Walden House, creating Healthright 360. Today, Archon Flowers is chair of Healthright 360’s foundation board.



Terence H. Fontaine

Texas Southern University and Houston, Texas’s Nu Boulé Archon Terence H. Fontaine, executive director of aviation at TSU, are proud to partner with Aviate, United Airlines’s industry-leading pilot career development program that offers aspiring and established pilots the most direct path to a United flight deck. The partnership was announced in April 2024. Former and current TSU students, as well as certified flight instructors, who apply and are successful in the Aviate selection process will receive a conditional job as a United Airlines first officer.



Evan S. Frazier

Archon Evan S. Frazier of Pittsburgh’s Rho Boulé received the Social Impact Award at the Ja’Quan Lavender Foundation Gold Gala Awards on March 23, 2024. The Ja’Quan Lavender Foundation focuses on empowering youth to pursue their hopes and dreams through professional programming and mentorship. At the gala Archon Frazier was able to meet three-time Olympic gold medalist LaShawn Merritt. Archon Frazier is president and CEO of The Advanced Leadership Institute in Pittsburgh.



Jason F. Fullman

In May 2024 North Atlanta’s Delta Upsilon Boulé Archon Jason F. Fullman was promoted to director of customer insights and academy at Mercedes-Benz USA, headquartered in Atlanta. In this new role, Archon Fullman oversees the strategic development and execution of customer care and training initiatives tailored for U.S. customers and dealers, oversees operations at the Mercedes-Benz Customer Assistance Center, and manages programs at the Mercedes-Benz Academy.



B.K. Fulton

Archon B.K. Fulton of Richmond’s Alpha Beta Boulé received the Renaissance Award at the twenty-first annual North Carolina Black Film Festival, held May 16–19, 2024, in Wilmington, North Carolina. Previous Renaissance Award winners include Pam Grier, Ava DuVernay and Giancarlo Esposito. During the festival Archon Fulton discussed the 2023 comedy thriller *The Kill Room*, starring Samuel L. Jackson, which Archon Fulton executive produced. Archon Fulton is the founding chairman and CEO of Souldify Productions, a digital theatre, book and film production company





Marcus Funchess & Joseph Paulino

Inland Empire of Southern California's Epsilon Tau Boulé Sire Archon Joseph Paulino and Archon Marcus Funchess received California State Assembly proclamations recognizing their achievements, dedication and positive impact on the community. Additionally, on June 7, 2024, Knock It Off & ForGive Foundation and All Smilez Loving Care Foundation, in partnership with the Inland Empire 66ers baseball team, celebrated Archons Paulino and Funchess at the Negro League Night celebration at San Manuel Stadium.



Harvey B. Gantt

Archon Harvey B. Gantt of Beta Delta Boulé, Charlotte, North Carolina, was honored at the Johnson C. Smith University Arch of Triumph Awards and Inaugural Ball on April 6, 2024. The first Black mayor of Charlotte, Archon Gantt is an American architect and Democratic politician active in North Carolina. Archon Gantt attended Iowa State University and later became the first African American student to be admitted to Clemson University.



Owen Garrick

Archon Owen Garrick of San Jose, California's Gamma Chi Boulé was featured in the *Mayo Clinic Magazine* in May 2024. Archon Garrick began his new position as dean of clinical trials for Mayo Clinic on October 30, 2023. Prior to joining Mayo Clinic, Archon Garrick was chief medical officer for clinical trial services at CVS Health. He has also held leadership positions at McKesson, Novartis and Merck and worked in health insurance at MetLife and in finance at Goldman Sachs.



Stanley Gbandawa

Archon Stanley Gbandawa of Colorado Springs's Epsilon Chi Boulé was recognized by the Boys & Girls Club of the Pikes Peak Region as the Outstanding Board Member of the Year for 2024 during the organization's annual Great Futures Gala on March 9, 2024. Archon Gbandawa shared remarks on what Black History Month means to him and why it is important to teach about Black contributions throughout history.



Northan F. Golden

Archon Northan F. Golden of Delta Chi Boulé, Orangeburg, South Carolina, took home high honors at the Express Employment Professionals annual International Leadership Conference (ILC) in Denver, Colorado, on March 6–9, 2024. Archon Golden is the owner of Express Employment Professionals of Columbia, South Carolina. His office was awarded the Circle of Excellence, which recognizes top-performing offices in the Express system in sales, recruitment and placement, and was recognized for having the second-highest office services growth in 2023 out of more than 800 Express franchises nationwide.



Timothy W. Goodly

Archon Timothy W. Goodly of North Atlanta's Delta Upsilon Boulé received a doctor of humane letters degree from Morris Brown College during the institution's commencement exercise in May 2024 for his academic, civic and community contributions. He also delivered the graduation address, which centered on the vital function performed by the Morris Brown College staff and faculty. Archon Goodly is senior vice president and chief human resources officer of The Blank Family of Businesses, the parent company of the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United FC and PGA Tour Superstore.

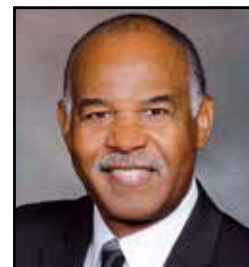
Phillip W. Graham

On June 1, 2024, Archon Phillip W. Graham of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé was selected as the president-elect of the Society for Prevention Research, an international, multidisciplinary organization dedicated to prevention science. Archon Graham, principal scientist in the health practice area at RTI International, will begin his two-year term as president on June 1, 2025.



Roger L. Gregory

Chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Archon Roger L. Gregory of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé was presented the 2024 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law on April 11, 2024. The award, cosponsored by the University of Virginia and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, is the highest external honor bestowed by the university and foundation. It is awarded annually in recognition of achievement in architecture, citizen leadership, global innovation and law.



Paul Griffin, Jr.

Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé Archon Paul Griffin, Jr., received the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. This award, part of the President's Call to Service program, recognizes those who have devoted more than 4,000 hours to volunteer service during their lifetime. Archon Griffin is a former vice president of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and currently serves as senior vice president for strategic urban initiatives at Amplify Education, Inc.



Oscar Groomes

In May 2024 Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Oscar Groomes celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of his quarterly digital magazine and website *O's Place Jazz*, which features concise, unbiased reviews of the latest jazz and blues. The magazine focuses on an audiophile and professional community across the United States, with some subscribers also in Europe and South America.



Rodney Gullatte, Jr.

On July 10, 2024, EC-Council hosted a webinar with Archon Rodney Gullatte, Jr., of Epsilon Chi Boulé, Colorado Springs, titled "A CISO's Playbook for Success in Cybersecurity Career." Archon Gullatte is CEO of Firma IT Solutions & Services. He is also a 2023 EC-Council Top 50 Certified Chief Information Security Officer (CICISO) Hall of Fame awardee, which places him among the top CICISOs in the world.



Keith L. Hardiman

Alpha Theta Boulé, Oklahoma City, is celebrating the promotion of Archon Keith L. Hardiman, who was promoted to director of enterprise information technology at the United States Department of the Air Force on April 11, 2024. In this role Archon Hardiman will have oversight of the management, planning, governance and resourcing for enterprise IT and will manage a budget of nearly \$7 billion for information and cyber enterprise.





Timothy Hardy

On June 10, 2024, Louisiana governor Jeffrey M. Landry appointed Archon Timothy Hardy of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé as the chairman of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, which represents twelve community colleges in Louisiana, serving more than 150,000 students and graduating more than 30,000 students each year.



Lewis Hargett

Archon Lewis Hargett of Louisville, Kentucky's Psi Boulé began his term as president of the Greater Louisville Medical Society in June 2024. Archon Hargett is a 1987 graduate of Meharry Medical College and has served as a member of the college's board of trustees. He was also president of the Meharry National Alumni Association from 2019 to 2021. Archon Hargett was a major in the United States Army Reserve and has practiced medicine in Louisville for more than twenty-five years.



Robert E. Harrington

Archon Robert E. Harrington of Beta Delta Boulé, Charlotte, North Carolina, was named to the *Business North Carolina* Power List in April 2024. Archon Harrington is a partner at Robinson Bradshaw and cochairs the firm's litigation department.



Anthony Harris

Archon Anthony "Tony" Harris of Oakland-Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé received special recognition as one of the founders of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) on March 20, 2024. Founded in 1975, NSBE supports the aspirations of students and technical professionals in engineering and technology in the pursuit of its mission to "increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community."



Kelvin Harris

Archon Kelvin Harris of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé was recognized as the best ob-gyn in the Gaston Community's Choice Awards on May 23, 2024. Archon Harris is an experienced gynecologist with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital and health care industry. He is skilled in polycystic ovarian syndrome, clinical research, customer service, obstetrics and gynecology. A strong health care services professional, Archon Harris graduated from Wayne State University.



Leonard Haynes III

Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé Archon Leonard Haynes III was interviewed for an article in the summer 2024 issue of *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*. The article was also published on the magazine's website on June 12, 2024. Archon Haynes, who received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in 1975, is widely recognized for his work in higher education. In the article Archon Haynes shares what brought him to Ohio State and discusses some of the proudest moments of his career.

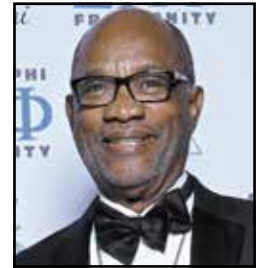
Reggie Hedgebeth

Archon Reggie Hedgebeth of Nu Boulé, Houston, Texas, began his new role as executive vice president of external affairs and chief legal officer of Enbridge, Inc., on January 1, 2024. In this role he oversees the company's law, public affairs, communication and sustainability, corporate security, and aviation functions. Archon Hedgebeth previously served as chief legal officer for Capital Group and executive vice president, general counsel and chief administrative officer for Marathon Oil Corp.



Michael P. Heiskell

Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas's Delta Mu Boulé Archon Michael P. Heiskell was once again recognized by Baylor University's board of regents for his leadership skills and excellence in support of the board. During its May 2024 meeting, the board approved committee chairs, who will also serve on the executive committee, and committee vice chairs for the 2024–25 academic year. Archon Heiskell was appointed chair of the academic affairs committee and was reelected for a second three-year term on the board of regents. His term began on June 1.



MaCalus V. Hogan

Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé Archon MaCalus V. Hogan received the Chuck Cooper Foundation Leadership Award in May 2024. The award recognizes a company or individual that has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a strong commitment to promoting diversity and made outstanding contributions in the community. Archon Hogan is the David Silver Professor and chair of the department of orthopedic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He is also chief of foot and ankle surgery at UPMC.



Hugh Holston & Henry W.B. Smith III

Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, is proud to announce that Archon Hugh Holston and Immediate Past Sire Archon Henry W.B. Smith III were recognized by the Rosa Foundation for their significant contributions to the community during the foundation's Fourth Annual Men Making Positive Changes Awards Ceremony and Banquet held at the Greensboro Shrine Club on March 16, 2024.



Milton Irvin

On May 17, 2024, Archon Milton Irvin of Epsilon Mu Boulé, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, received the 2024 Alumni Award for Distinguished Service at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. The award recognizes Wharton alumni celebrating a reunion year who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in their professional work, as well as remarkable and ongoing service to the Wharton School. Archon Irvin is among a very select group of alumni, dating back almost forty years, who have received the prestigious award.



Anthony Jackson

Archon Anthony Jackson of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé was announced as the Superintendent of the Year by the North Carolina Association of Educators Division of Principals/Administrators on June 3, 2024. Archon Jackson is superintendent of Chatham County Schools, one of the fastest-growing school systems in North Carolina. This year's award is the second for Archon Jackson in the last four years.





Brian K. Jackson

Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé Sire Archon Brian K. Jackson, a partner at the law firm Hirschler Fleischer, was named president of the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners on April 30, 2024. Archon Jackson has served on the board since 2001 and is the board's first African American president.



Derrick Jackson

Archon Derrick Jackson of South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé won the Democratic primary for the Georgia House of Representatives District 68 seat on May 21, 2024. If reelected in November, he will commence his fifth term in the Georgia General Assembly in January 2025 as a senior ranking member of the following committees: regulated industries, budget and fiscal affairs oversight, defense and veterans affairs, and state planning and community affairs. On June 12, 2024, Archon Jackson was also featured on the *#RolandMartinUnfiltered Daily Digital Show*.



Derrick Z. Jackson

Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archon Derrick Z. Jackson won first place in Feature Photography in the 90th National Headliner Awards, one of the nation's oldest and largest journalism contests, in April 2024. Archon Jackson's winning image "Haddock Haul" captures an Atlantic puffin in Maine flying to an island with fish in its beak to feed a chick. The judges' comments said, "Science journalist and photographer Derrick Jackson captures the beauty of puffins as he creates a visual record of the successful repopulation of the species along the coast of Maine."



Jesse Jackson

In April 2024 Southlake, Texas's Epsilon Pi Boulé Archon Jesse Jackson, president of b1Bank's financial institutions group, was appointed to the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) Large Community Bank Council. The council and the ICBA advocate for the role of community banks in supporting local economies. As part of his appointment, Archon Jackson attended the ICBA Capital Summit, held April 28 through May 1, 2024, in Washington, D.C.



Michael Jeans

Growth Opps, led by Cleveland's Tau Boulé Archon Michael Jeans, president and CEO, was awarded a \$156 million grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the Solar for All program to lead the Industrial Heartland Solar Coalition's transformative initiative, expanding solar access to more than thirty-one low- and moderate-income communities across eight states. Growth Opps made the announcement on its website in April 2024.



Cedric King & Van Johnson II

The Boy Scouts of America Coastal Georgia Council, at separate venues, presented the Golden Eagle Award to two Alpha Lambda Boulé, Savannah, Archons. In a ceremony in Brunswick, Georgia, on April 16, 2024, Archon Cedric King was acknowledged as a dedicated leader who tirelessly serves the community. In Savannah on May 9 Archon Van Johnson II, mayor of Savannah, was recognized for his contributions to the success of Savannah regarding public engagement, collaboration and the improved lives of its citizenry.

Maurice A. Jones

Inside Business named Archon Maurice A. Jones of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé to its Power List 2024: Emeritus on May 13, 2024. The power list comprises people who have the most influence in shaping business in Hampton Roads. Archon Jones is the former publisher of *The Virginian-Pilot*, former Virginia secretary of commerce and current vice president of news at WHRO Public Media.



Thomas Jones, Jr.

Port Houston, the nation's busiest and largest port for waterborne tonnage, has named Houston, Texas's Nu Boulé Past Sire Archon Thomas Jones, Jr., its port commissioner. Houston mayor John H. Whitmire administered the oath of office to Archon Jones on March 22, 2024, at a reception held in his honor. Port Houston affects 1.5 million jobs in Texas and an additional 4 to 5 million jobs across the country.



Joshua J. Joseph

Columbus, Ohio's Lambda Boulé Archon Joshua J. Joseph was named the medical director of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's new Healthy Community Center. The center opened in May 2024 at the site of a former library that Archon Joseph visited while growing up. The center will host health screenings, events hosted by neighborhood groups, cooking classes focused on nutritious foods and other events to address the area's wellness needs.



Damaune Journey

Archon Damaune Journey of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland–Berkeley, California, was recognized by *Savoy* magazine as one of the most influential corporate executives in America in April 2024. As the chief growth officer of 72andSunny, Archon Journey cultivates global opportunities to help drive growth for 72andSunny, its affiliated companies Hecho Studios and Brand Citizens, and its clients. He also serves on the global leadership team.



Ron Kelley

On April 22, 2024, Kentucky governor Andrew G. Beshear commissioned San Antonio's Gamma Phi Boulé Sire Archon Ron Kelley as a Kentucky Colonel, the highest title of honor bestowed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky in recognition of an individual's noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding service to the community, state and nation. A lifetime commission, Kentucky Colonels become members of the philanthropic Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, which cares for children and supports those in need. Established in 1894 the order includes Archon Arthur Ashe, Muhammad Ali and President Bill Clinton.



Wright L. Lassiter III

Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé Archon Wright L. Lassiter III was named one of the most influential corporate executives in America by *Savoy* magazine in April 2024. Archon Lassiter is CEO of the nonprofit, Catholic health system CommonSpirit Health. He previously served as CEO of Henry Ford Health and Alameda Health System. He is the immediate past chair of the American Hospital Association and is a past chair of America's Essential Hospitals.





Kirk Law

Chief development officer at Cohesity, Inc., Archon Kirk Law of San Jose, California's Gamma Chi Boulé received the 2024 Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award from Purdue University on April 11, 2024. The award is presented to those who have distinguished themselves in ways that reflect favorably on Purdue University or the engineering profession. Following Archon Law's selection for the award, the university published a profile of Archon Law on its website.



Bertram L. Lawson II

On May 10, 2024, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* named the YMCA of Greater Brandywine to its list of the top workplaces for 2024. Archon Bertram L. Lawson II of Syracuse, New York's Zeta Zeta Boulé is the YMCA of Greater Brandywine's president and CEO. "It's an honor to be named a top workplace," Archon Lawson said. "And the honor means so much to me, not because it came from *The Philadelphia Inquirer* but because the award was based upon feedback from our staff."



Gerald Bruce Lee

Archon Gerald Bruce Lee of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, received the prestigious Neil Kerwin Alumni Achievement Award from American University in Washington, D.C., on April 25, 2024. This esteemed award is a testament to Archon Lee's remarkable professional accomplishments and unwavering commitment to excellence. Archon Lee is a double graduate of American University, where he earned his bachelor of arts degree and his juris doctorate at the Washington College of Law. Archon Lee was a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Virginia from 1998 to 2017.



Marc A. Love

Archon Marc A. Love of Delta Upsilon Boulé, North Atlanta, received a doctor of humane letters degree on May 5, 2024, from his alma mater Talladega College for his service to the institution and his contributions to the field of health administration. Under Archon Love's leadership on Talladega College's board of trustees, the institution has achieved strong financial results and built a new student union and dormitory.



Percy A. Mack, Jr.

Former Richland County School District One superintendent Archon Percy A. Mack, Jr., of Alpha Iota Boulé, Columbia, South Carolina, was inducted into the Richland One Hall of Fame on April 13, 2024. The hall of fame recognizes alumni of Richland County School District One and other persons involved with the school district who have made significant contributions to the school district, their communities, their professions and society.



Kwame J. Manley

Archon Kwame J. Manley of Northern Virginia's Beta Nu Boulé has been appointed global chair of the litigation department at Paul Hastings, LLP, a global law firm with more than twenty offices around the world. Archon Manley leads 350 litigation attorneys in Paul Hastings's investigations and white-collar defense, complex litigation, intellectual property and antitrust litigation practice groups. In February 2024 Archon Manley was also recognized as the leader of a Law360 Practice Group of the Year.

Algenon L. Marbley

Archon Algenon L. Marbley of Columbus, Ohio's Lambda Boulé was inducted into the Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) Hall of Fame on April 25, 2024. The ODI Hall of Fame recognizes trailblazers in social justice and inclusive excellence with ties to The Ohio State University. Archon Marbley is the chief judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio and a former board member of The Ohio State University.



Wayne Martin

North Atlanta's Delta Upsilon Boulé Archon Wayne Martin is currently participating in the Leadership Georgia Class of 2024. Leadership Georgia is one of the nation's oldest and most successful leadership training programs for young business, civic and community leaders that have the desire and potential to work together for a better Georgia. The organization's board of trustees selected Archon Martin from a record-breaking number of applicants for the 2024 class.



Arthel McDaniel III

Archon Arthel McDaniel III of Los Angeles's Xi Boulé was recognized as a Top 100 Lawyer by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* on April 22, 2024. Comanaging partner of Polsinelli's Los Angeles office and a principal in the firm's capital markets, commercial lending and tax credit finance practice groups, he works with clients to resolve complicated issues inherent in affordable housing transactions and has significant experience representing documentary film producers, advertising agencies and professional sports teams with respect to creative rights management issues and clearances.



Joe McFerrin II

Self Enhancement, Inc., presented the Life Has Options Award to Archon Joe McFerrin II of Portland, Oregon's Delta Phi Boulé on May 18, 2024.



Alfred McGuire

The Foreign Language Association of Georgia (FLAG) presented the Administrative Support of World Languages Award to Archon Alfred McGuire of Savannah's Alpha Lambda Boulé in March 2024. The FLAG Administrative Support of World Languages Award recognizes Georgia deans, superintendents and principals who provide strong and overt support for world languages instruction. Archon McGuire is the principal of the high-performing Woodville-Tompkins High School, which has enjoyed a 100 percent graduation rate for the past few years.



André Mickel & Alexander Mickel

Double congratulations are due to Cleveland's Tau Boulé Archon André Mickel. On May 18, 2024, the son of Archon Mickel and Archousa Estomarys Mickel, Alexander Mickel, graduated with a doctorate in dental medicine from Case Western Reserve University. The week before Archon Mickel was awarded his second doctoral degree, receiving a doctorate in transformational leadership from Ashland Theological Seminary. Archon Mickel is chairman of the department of endodontics and director of the postdoctoral endodontic residency program at Case Western Reserve University.





Nathaniel Miles

On April 27, 2024, the Alliance for Education, a nonprofit that raises money and creates programs to pursue educational justice and racial equity in Seattle schools, presented Archon Nathaniel Miles of Seattle's Alpha Omicron Boulé with its 2024 Public Education Advocacy Award for his work in support of public education. Archon Miles is a native of Washington, a graduate of the University of Washington, and a long-tenured vice president for strategic initiatives for Eli Lilly and Co.



Quincy L. Miller

On April 19, 2024, Boston's Business Growth Task Force, founded by the Eastern Bank Foundation, launched the first-of-its-kind Business Growth Visibility Campaign to help level the playing field for entrepreneurs from traditionally underserved communities. The initiative plans to assist twenty-five businesses from said communities in the Boston area with individualized public relations and business growth consulting. The campaign is one of several initiatives overseen by Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archon Quincy L. Miller, Eastern Bank president, to promote supplier diversity and small-business economic inclusion.



Athol W. Morgan

On April 11, 2024, Baltimore's Gamma Boulé Archon Athol W. Morgan was appointed codirector of the Meadow Park Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center's cardiopulmonary care program. His appointment follows Meadow Park earning the American Heart Association's new Skilled Nursing Facility Heart Failure certification. Archon Morgan is board-certified in internal medicine and cardiology. He is affiliated with LifeBridge Health and is director of cardiology at Grace Medical Center and codirector of cardiopulmonary care at Westgate Hills Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center.



Gabriel A. Morgan, Sr.

On April 3, 2024, Archon Gabriel A. "Gabe" Morgan, Sr., of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé was selected as the new advisory board chairman of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). The board, which comprises sixteen members appointed by the United States attorney general, provides insight and recommendations to the NIC and public policymakers in the interest of improving public safety. Archon Morgan, sheriff of Newport News, Virginia, previously served as the board's vice chairman.



David E. Morris

On May 29, 2024, Archon David E. Morris of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé was appointed to the board of advisors of the North Carolina Central University Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (CEED). The mission of CEED is to create a culture of creativity and innovation within North Carolina Central University and the broader community to spur entrepreneurship and economic development. Archon Morris is a partner at Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP, where he focuses on venture capital fund formation, private placements, and mergers and acquisitions.



Patrick Morris

The Memphis Bar Foundation named Memphis's Delta Boulé Archon Patrick Morris one of its 2024 fellows at the annual Fellows Reception on May 9, 2024. The event was held at the University Club of Memphis. According to the Memphis Bar Foundation, attorneys and judges are recognized as fellows because of their "distinguished service to the legal profession and the administration of justice and their adherence to the highest standards of professional ethics and personal conduct."

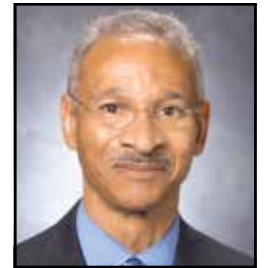
Gregory B. Morrison

Jacksonville, Florida's Gamma Beta Boulé Archon Gregory B. Morrison was elected to the board of directors of RB Global, an omnichannel marketplace for commercial assets and vehicles, on May 7, 2024. The former senior vice president and corporate chief information officer for Cox Enterprises, Inc., a communications, media and automotive company, from February 2002 until his retirement on January 1, 2020, Archon Morrison currently serves on the boards of directors of Veritex Holdings, Inc., Rollins, Inc., Amerisure Mutual Insurance Co. and IEWC.



John Morrow

On April 19, 2024, the Society for Military History presented its prestigious 2024 Samuel Eliot Morison Prize to Athens, Georgia's Delta Psi Boulé Archon John Morrow. This esteemed recognition celebrates Archon Morrow's outstanding contributions to the study of military history. A University of Georgia scholar of military history, Archon Morrow's career exemplifies the society's mission to advance the understanding and appreciation of military history. His extensive body of work has enriched the collective knowledge of pivotal events, strategies and the human experience during times of military conflict.



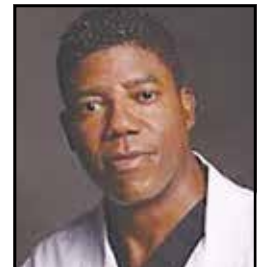
Eric Mullins

The Greater Houston Partnership's annual meeting was held on February 9, 2024, and Houston, Texas's Nu Boulé Past Sire Archon Eric Mullins, the organization's incoming board chair and chairman and CEO of Lime Rock Resources, an oil and gas private-equity firm, gave the meeting's keynote presentation. The meeting marked the start of Partnership Week, which provides opportunities for the region's business community to connect and learn about ways Greater Houston Partnership members can become involved in the organization's mission to make Houston the world's best place to live, work and build a business.



Zuri A. Murrell

Archon Zuri A. Murrell of Xi Boulé, Los Angeles, was recognized by *Los Angeles* magazine when it profiled the "best of the best" in the Los Angeles health care community in its May 8, 2024, issue. Archon Murrell is a board-certified colorectal surgeon whose practice focuses on minimally invasive surgical procedures. Archon Murrell is the director of the Colorectal Cancer Center at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles.



Samuel L. Myers, Jr.

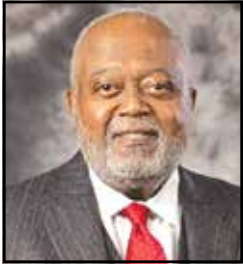
Archon Samuel L. Myers, Jr., of Minneapolis-St. Paul's Omicron Boulé was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS) in March 2024 in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of social science and the public understanding of the human condition. Archon Myers is the AAPSS's inaugural Rebecca Blank Fellow. Founded in 1889 the AAPSS strives to promote social research to inform public policy and synthesize and advance research that could help redress public ills.



Edwin Narain

In April 2024 Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Archon Edwin Narain was named the corporate board chair for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay. Additionally, on April 15 the George Edgecomb Bar Association presented Archon Narain with the Francisco Rodriguez Award for his work on improving the status of African Americans in the community.





William T. Newman, Jr.

Archon William T. Newman, Jr., of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, was the commencement speaker at his alma mater Ohio University in May 2024. Archon Newman was a judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit of Virginia, covering Arlington County and the city of Falls Church, from 1993 through 2023. Archon Newman has received the Ohio University Medal of Merit Award for his outstanding achievements, and in April 2024 he was selected for the Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame Class of 2024.



Spencer Overton

On June 10, 2024, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies announced the release of the first draft of key research it sponsored, "The Implications of Section 230 for Black Communities," coauthored by Suburban Maryland's Beta Mu Boulé Archon Spencer Overton and posted on the Social Science Research Network. A final version of the article will appear in the *William & Mary Law Review* in October 2024.



Zirl A. Palmer, Sr.

In a heartfelt tribute to a legendary figure, Archons of Delta Tau Boulé, Frankfort, Kentucky, gathered in May 2024 to celebrate the opening of a community center named after late Archon Zirl A. Palmer, Sr., of Psi Boulé, Louisville. In Lexington's historically African American East End, the Marksbury Family WayPoint occupies the building that once housed the first Black-owned pharmacy, the historic Palmer's Pharmacy. Now owned by the United Way of the Bluegrass, the center was established using an \$800,000 grant from the Marksbury Family Foundation.



Jonathan Parris

Congratulations to Archon Jonathan Parris of South Atlanta's Epsilon Upsilon Boulé, who was appointed chair of the Southeast Region Boulé's audit and budget committee in May 2024.



Merrill Patin

Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé Archon Merrill Patin was honored by the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board in April 2024 for his trailblazing role in desegregating four East Baton Rouge Parish high schools more than sixty years ago. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System first integrated high schools in 1963. Archon Patin was one of twenty-eight Black students who took on this challenge and paved the way for generations of students to follow.



Joseph G. Paulino

On March 30, 2024, during the 57th Annual Beautillion Scholarship Program, the Social Lites, Inc., of the Inland Empire presented Archon Joseph G. Paulino, chief of police for the San Bernardino City Unified School District Police Department and Sire Archon of Inland Empire of Southern California's Epsilon Tau Boulé, with the prestigious Trailblazer Award. Archon Paulino received the award in recognition of his innovative contributions to public safety and his tireless commitment to community excellence.

Michael C. Payne

On May 11, 2024, Archon Michael C. Payne of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé directed the Welcome to College Academic Symposium at Northeastern University. The all-day symposium, which included classroom and career advice from several speakers from Beta Beta Boulé, was established by Archon Payne to help high school seniors and early college students, particularly those of color, transition to college life.



Felton E. Payton, Sr., & Martha Payton

San Antonio's Gamma Phi Boulé Archon Felton E. Payton, Sr., and Archousa Martha were featured in a multipage article titled "A Modern-day Renaissance Couple" in the April 2024 issue of *Helotes Neighbors* magazine. From a marriage rooted in their attendance at the same high school, the Paytons have integrated a holistic approach to their respective careers in aerospace and real estate, raising four professionally accomplished children and volunteering in their community. Archon Payton is board of trustees president for The Boulé Foundation of San Antonio, Inc.



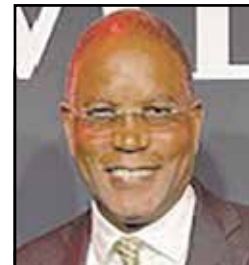
M. Lee Pelton

Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archon M. Lee Pelton was one of three people selected to receive the 2024 Harvard Medal for distinguished service to Harvard University on alumni day on May 31. Archon Pelton, former president of Emerson College and Willamette University and president and CEO of the Boston Foundation, one of the nation's leading philanthropic organizations, received his doctorate in English literature from Harvard University. He has served on Harvard's board of overseers and many of the school's committees and councils.



Neil R. Powe

In May 2024 Archon Neil R. Powe of Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé was recognized by *Time* magazine on its Time 100 Health list of the most influential people in health for 2024. He was selected for his cutting-edge work as cochair of the National Kidney Foundation and American Society of Nephrology task force that was charged with reevaluating the algorithm for kidney screening, evaluation and transplants and determining whether race should continue to be a factor in the algorithm.



Richard J. Powell

Archon Richard J. Powell of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé delivered the Leonard A. Lauder Distinguished Scholar Lecture at The Metropolitan Museum of Art on April 1, 2024. Archon Powell's lecture, "Blackbeats: Cubism Reimagined," provided an analysis of the art of cubism through the historical and aesthetic lens of African American artists such as Dudley Murphy, Aaron Douglas, Jacob Lawrence, Mickalene Thomas and Nina Chanel Abney. Archon Powell is the John Spencer Bassett Professor of Art & Art History at Duke University.



Henry & Jade Ranger

Archon Henry Ranger of Epsilon Delta Boulé, Williamsburg, Virginia, and Archousa Jade Ranger, both graduates of the Hampton University School of Pharmacy, received awards for excellent professional service in March 2024. Archousa Ranger received the Bowl of Hygeia Award from the Virginia Pharmacy Association for her outstanding record of public service. Archon Ranger was honored by the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations for demonstrating significant innovation in his practice, methods and services, resulting in improved patient care and advancement of the profession of pharmacy.





Derek J. Robinson

In April 2024 Northern Illinois's Delta Alpha Boulé Archon Derek J. Robinson was promoted to divisional senior vice president and chief medical officer of enterprise health care management at Health Care Service Corp., the nation's largest consumer-owned health insurance company. On May 13 Archon Robinson was elected to the board of directors of The Economic Club of Chicago, where he will serve as second vice chair, forums, and on May 16 he received the prestigious Health Equity and Community Engagement Award from the I Am Abel Foundation.



Don L. Scott, Jr.

On May 13, 2024, Archon Don L. Scott, Jr., of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé was recognized on *Inside Business's* Power List 2024, which comprises the most influential people shaping business in Hampton Roads. In addition, Archon Scott was honored as a 2024 Legislator of the Year by the Virginia Education Association on April 16, 2024. Archon Scott is the first Black speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates in its 405-year history. As speaker he chairs the House Rules Committee.



Robert C. Scott

On May 13, 2024, Archon Robert C. "Bobby" Scott of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé was recognized by *Inside Business* on its Power List 2024: Emeritus, which comprises people who have the most influence on business in Hampton Roads. Archon Scott represents Virginia's third congressional district in the United States House of Representatives.



Omar & Raynya Simmons

On May 1, 2024, the International Franchise Association launched the Franchise Ascension Initiative, the brainchild of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archon Omar Simmons and Archousa Raynya Simmons. The \$2 million initiative, seeded with \$250,000 from Archon and Archousa Simmons, seeks to break down barriers to franchise ownership for underrepresented groups and economically disadvantaged communities. The initiative was covered by *Forbes* magazine on May 9, 2024.



John L. Smith, Jr.

Following his retirement Archon John L. Smith, Jr., of Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé reflected on his career and considered some questions: How had he become who he is and managed to accomplish the things he has accomplished? What were the influential forces that motivated that meaningful metamorphosis? Intense retrospection and several years of narrative development resulted in his book *They Taught Me How to Be the Man I Am*, which was published on May 31, 2024, and is available on his website.



Kevin B. Sneed

Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Archon Kevin B. Sneed, dean of the Taneja College of Pharmacy at the University of South Florida, received the Together We Stand Award from the American Athletic Conference Inclusion Excellence Committee in April 2024. Additionally, Archon Sneed received the Award of Excellence from the board of directors of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists on June 11, 2024. The Award of Excellence recognizes an individual or group for a significant and recent national achievement or contribution.

Anthony Snipes

Houston, Texas's Nu Boulé Archon Anthony Snipes received the Marks of Excellence award from the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) during its Forum 2024 national conference in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 3–7, 2024. The Marks of Excellence award, NFBPA's highest honor, is bestowed annually on an African American who has made extraordinary achievements in the field of public management. Archon Snipes received this national recognition for his leadership and community impact.



Gregory R. Spencer

Past Northeast Region Sire Archon Gregory R. Spencer of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé was celebrated during the Black Alumni Reunion Weekend at the University of Pittsburgh on April 12–14, 2024. During the reunion he was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award by the African American Alumni Council in recognition of his meritorious achievements and community leadership. Archon Spencer also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center for his contributions to advancing the organization's work to address health care disparities and advance inclusion and diversity.



Frederick Streets

In August 2024 Archon Frederick "Jerry" Streets of New Haven, Connecticut's Beta Tau Boulé completed his first year as the inaugural coordinator of the joint degree program in divinity and social work at Yale Divinity School. The position was created in August 2023. Archon Streets was chosen to lead the new program because of his unique standing as both an ordained minister and a licensed social worker.



William F. Tate IV

In May 2024 Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé Archon William F. Tate IV, president of Louisiana State University, celebrated the spring commencement with nearly 5,000 graduates, including 598 Black and African American degree recipients. Also in May, Archon Tate was named to the *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report* 2024 Capital Region 500. He presented a paper at the Brown at 70 Symposium hosted by William & Mary Law School in February and delivered a presentation to the *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report* Leadership Power Breakfast in January.



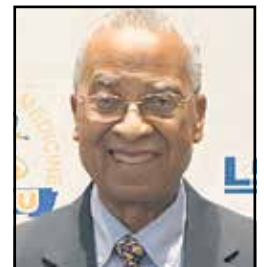
Richard Lewis Taylor

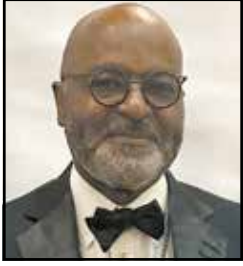
Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archon Richard Lewis Taylor, a former Massachusetts transportation secretary and chair of the state's transportation agency, was inducted into Morehouse College's Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Sponsors on April 11, 2024. The board of sponsors honors those whose "ethical, spiritual and moral example has helped change the world." Additionally, Archon Taylor coauthored the book *Black Homeownership on Martha's Vineyard: A History*, which was published on June 10, 2024.



Claude Tellis, Sr.

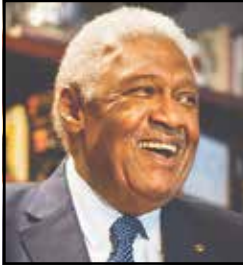
On June 8, 2024, Archon Claude Tellis, Sr., of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé received the Special Merit Award from the Louisiana State University Medical Alumni Association.





Joseph Terry

On May 5, 2024, the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presented Archon Joseph Terry of Prince William County, Virginia's Epsilon Sigma Boulé with its Minerva Award for his outstanding leadership and service to youth within the Prince William County community. Archon Terry's leadership as president of the Epsilon Sigma Boulé Foundation and his participation in several youth-focused community service organizations that promote scholarships and STEM programs for minority youth were cited as reasons for his selection for the award.



John Charles Thomas

Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé Archon John Charles Thomas delivered the commencement address and received an honorary degree during William & Mary's commencement ceremony on May 17, 2024. Archon Thomas, who served on William & Mary's board of visitors for nearly twelve years, was the first African American and youngest appointee to the Supreme Court of Virginia. Before he retired Archon Thomas was a senior partner with Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP, where he was the first African American lawyer to be elevated to partner at a major Southern law firm.



Archie Tucker II

Archon Archie Tucker II of Delta Gamma Boulé, Tyler, Texas, received the Outstanding Leadership Award at the Education 2.0 Conference held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, in March 2024. An article about Archon Tucker's achievement was published on Medium in April 2024. Archon Tucker has twenty years of higher education experience and is currently senior vice president of the University of Texas at Tyler. He received his Ph.D. in higher education from Jackson State University, and in 2015 he was named the inaugural Fundraiser of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Alabama, North Chapter.



Frank Tuitt

In February 2024 Hartford's Alpha Psi Boulé Archon Frank Tuitt, who has served as the University of Connecticut's vice president and chief diversity officer since 2020, was named an American Council on Education Fellow for academic year 2024–25. He is one of only twenty-six who were selected nationally for this prestigious fellowship. During the placement fellows will observe and work with senior officers at their host institutions, attend decision-making meetings, and focus on issues of interest that will benefit their host and nominating institutions.



Clayton P. Turner

Inside Business named Archon Clayton P. Turner of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, to its 2024 power list on May 13, 2024. The *Inside Business* Power List 2024 comprises the most influential people shaping business in Hampton Roads. Archon Turner is the director of NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, where he is leading a team of scientists, researchers, civil servants, engineers and support staff to help NASA enter the next era of space exploration with its Artemis program.



Dexter G. Turnquest

The Texas Medical Association announced the election of North Houston, Texas's Epsilon Omicron Boulé Archon Dexter G. Turnquest to its board of trustees in May 2024. Archon Turnquest is a board-certified general surgeon and bariatric specialist who has been in independent practice for more than twenty years. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a diplomate of the American Board of Obesity Medicine. He also teaches at the Texas A&M University School of Medicine and works at several hospitals in the Houston area.

Michael Ugwueke

Memphis's Delta Boulé Archon Michael Ugwueke, president and CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, was named one of *Becker's Hospital Review's* 231 Black health care leaders to know in May 2024. The 2024 list highlights "individuals who are shaping the patient experience, educating and training the next generation of health care providers, and furthering equity and inclusion."



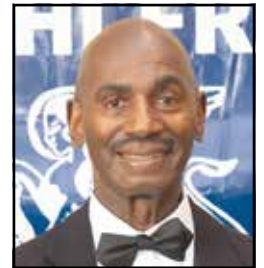
Gregory J. Vincent

In Birmingham, Alabama, in 2023, during the Triennial Reunion of Talladega College alumni, Past Grand Sire Archon Gregory J. Vincent of Austin, Texas's Gamma Gamma Boulé and twenty-first president of Talladega College, spoke to alumni about the future of the college. After hearing him speak, Terrelia Ogletree (Class of 1957) was impressed and asked whether he would be the keynote speaker for the Black History Month program in Dayton at Shiloh Church in 2024. Interested in restarting the Talladega alumni chapter of Dayton, Archon Vincent accepted.



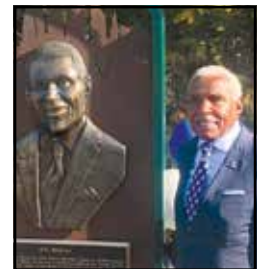
Leonard Weather, Jr.

Archon Leonard Weather, Jr., of Delta Kappa Boulé, Shreveport, Louisiana, was elected a fellow of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine (FPM) on May 16, 2024. He formally received the commendation at the FPM Annual Awards on July 3, 2024, at the Royal College of Physicians in London, England. Archon Weather is past president of the National Medical Association and current president of the Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research.



A.C. Wharton, Jr.

On March 6, 2024, Memphis's Delta Boulé Archon A.C. Wharton, Jr., former mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee, was honored at a dedication ceremony of an impressive bronze bust, designed by Savannah Smith, foundry apprentice at the Metal Museum in Memphis, and created in recognition of Archon Wharton's service as mayor. Archon Wharton was instrumental in the acquisition and development of an eleven-mile stretch of abandoned railroad tracks, which became a paved path known as the Shelby Farms Greenline, used by walkers, runners and bikers to travel from Midtown Memphis through Shelby Farms Park to Cordova.



Harvey L. White

The Consortium of International Management Policy and Development (CIMPAD) celebrated the legacy of Delaware's Beta Eta Boulé Archon Harvey L. White, CIMPAD's founder and past chair, on April 5, 2024. Archon White's legacy includes more than fifty years of public service in various venues, beginning as a city manager at the age of 23 and continuing in academic faculty and administrative positions at five universities and leadership roles in several local, national and international organizations. Archon White's bio is available on the CIMPAD website.



William Whyte

Sire Archon-Elect William Whyte of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was appointed to the National Football League (NFL) Alumni Association's board of directors in April 2024. Archon Whyte will assist in leading the organization's efforts to provide healthier outcomes for NFL Alumni Association members. Archon Whyte is currently vice president of strategy, analytics and transformation for Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine.





Kurtis T. Wilder

On June 11, 2024, the board of directors of the Washtenaw County Bar Association dedicated a portrait of Ann Arbor, Michigan's Gamma Rho Boulé Archon Kurtis T. Wilder, a Michigan Supreme Court justice. He was initially sworn in as a judge on April 2, 1992, to avoid being sworn in on April Fools' Day. During his twenty-seven years on the bench, Archon Wilder did his best not to be a fool but to instead honor the pledge he made when he took the oath of judicial office: to provide equal justice under the law to every party and in every case he decided.



Arnold Williams

Managing director and founding partner of Abrams, Foster, Nole & Williams, PA, Archon Arnold Williams of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, was inducted into *The Baltimore Sun's* Business and Civic Hall of Fame for his leadership and community efforts. *The Baltimore Sun* has inducted 110 area leaders into its Business and Civic Hall of Fame since its inception in 2016. The 2024 inductees were honored at an awards banquet held at The Center Club in Baltimore on June 6, 2024.



Charles E. Williams

During its meeting in May 2024, the board of regents of Baylor University elected Archon Charles E. Williams of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas, as an at-large regent to the board. As an at-large regent, Archon Williams will participate in the business and affairs of Baylor University, which are under the sole management and control of the board of regents.



Dontá L. Wilson

In April 2024 *Business North Carolina* selected Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Dontá L. Wilson for its Power List 2024. That same month the University of North Carolina at Charlotte held a dedication ceremony for the newly renamed Wilson Hall, a residence hall named in honor of Archon Wilson. Archon Wilson is chief consumer and small business banking officer and operating council member for Truist Bank.



F. Blair Wimbush

On March 25, 2024, Archon F. Blair Wimbush of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton-Norfolk, Virginia, was appointed to the board of directors of Armada Hoffler. In announcing Archon Wimbush's appointment, Louis S. Haddad, chief executive officer of Armada Hoffler, said, "We are thrilled to welcome Blair to our esteemed board of directors. His wealth of experience and profound insights align perfectly with our strategic vision."



Vennard Wright

Prince George's County, Maryland's Epsilon Phi Boulé Archon Vennard Wright and his company PerVista were featured in the article "A Look at Black-owned Startups in Prince George's County: PerVista Aims to Prevent Active Shooters," which was published on the Capital News Service website on May 13, 2024. PerVista is a platform that leverages advanced computer vision and machine learning to analyze video streams from surveillance cameras and detect firearms in real time.

LEADING WITH VISION AND RESILIENCE: NAVIGATING HIGHER EDUCATION

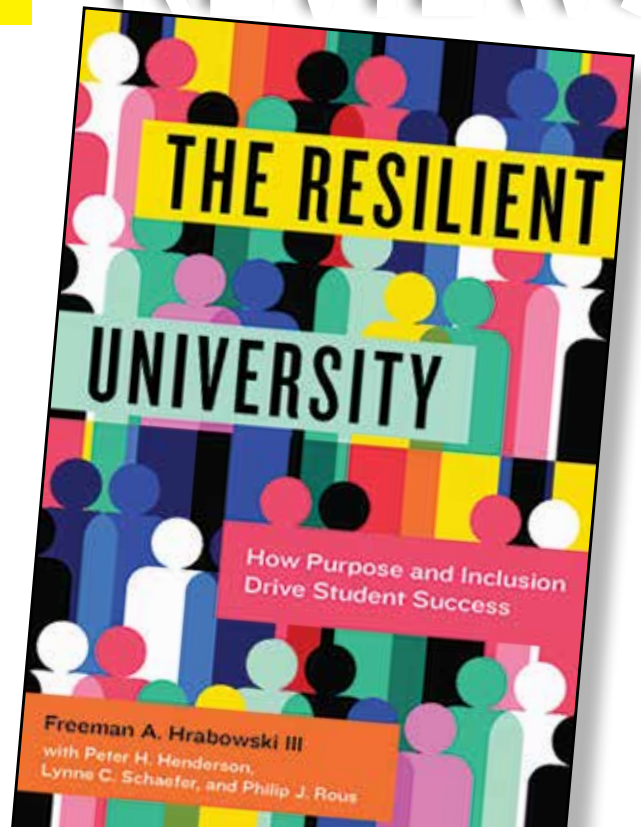
Review by Archon Jack Thomas, Sigma Boulé

THE RESILIENT UNIVERSITY: HOW PURPOSE AND INCLUSION DRIVE STUDENT SUCCESS

BY GAMMA BOULÉ ARCHON FREEMAN A. HRABOWSKI III, PETER
H. HENDERSON, LYNNE C. SCHAEFER AND PHILIP J. ROUS
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2024

In *The Resilient University: How Purpose and Inclusion Drive Student Success*, authors Freeman A. Hrabowski III (Gamma Boulé), Peter H. Henderson, Lynne C. Schaefer and Philip J. Rous craft a compelling narrative and blueprint for navigating the tumultuous landscape of higher education during crises such as COVID-19 and the racial justice movements ignited by George Floyd's tragic death. Drawing from their experiences at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and other resilient institutions, the authors illustrate how proactive and visionary leadership can not only withstand, but also thrive, amidst such challenges.

The book is structured around six pivotal themes: vision, openness, resilience, courage, passion and hope. Each chapter delves deeply into these quali-



ARCHON FREEMAN A. HRABOWSKI III

ties, demonstrating their crucial role in institutional success through vivid examples and actionable strategies. The UMBC's story is particularly inspiring, showcasing how a strong foundation in STEM and a dynamic, inclusive vision can serve as a bedrock for agility and adaptability in crisis management.

Archon Hrabowski and his coauthors argue persuasively that flexibility, planning and a commitment to openness and transparency are paramount in fostering an environment where students and faculty can succeed despite external pressures and crises. Their emphasis on shared governance and community engagement is particularly timely, reflecting a broader need across higher education for inclusivity and collective decision-making.

The Lessons Learned section is a practical guide for university leaders, providing tools and resources to enhance their institution's resilience. The authors stress the importance of maintaining a vibrant community, ensuring financial health, leveraging digital infrastructure and accessing expert networks to build a robust crisis management framework. By synthesizing these elements, the book not only charts a course for navigating immediate crises but also serves as a thoughtful reflection on the enduring values that underpin successful educational institutions. It encourages leaders to embrace change, prioritize people and remain steadfastly committed to their educational missions.

The Resilient University emerges not only as a critical resource for understanding leadership in higher education but also as a timeless guide, especially relevant amidst the current climate of student activism and campus unrest. The recent surge in student protests across the nation highlights the book's relevance and the pressing need for its lessons. Universities have been scenes of significant activism, particularly relating to the Israel–Palestine conflict, with actions ranging from encampments at Columbia University to

administrative-building takeovers at Vanderbilt. These events underscore the complex challenges university leaders face, from maintaining safety and upholding academic values to navigating political pressures and ensuring open dialogue on campus.

In light of these ongoing crises, Archon Hrabowski's insights into leading with vision, resilience and inclusivity are invaluable. The book provides strategic guidance for higher-education leaders on adapting to rapid changes and managing conflicts effectively and with sensitivity. It illustrates how institutions that embrace flexibility, transparency and a deep commitment to community can not only withstand, but also thrive, amidst adversity. As student movements continue to shape campus cultures and influence university policies, the volume stands as a vital instrument for current and future leaders. It offers a framework for navigating the intricacies of campus dynamics and societal pressures, advocating for a leadership style that is both courageous and considerate, aimed at fostering environments where all voices are heard and valued.

Finally, Archon Hrabowski and his colleagues provide a masterful guide to navigating the complexities of higher-education leadership during times of stability and crisis alike. Their insightful discourse, enriched by practical examples and strategies drawn from real-world scenarios, is particularly pertinent. This work is a crucial resource for university leaders, policymakers and academics who seek to foster environments of inclusivity and resilience. It offers a hopeful yet realistic perspective on the challenges confronting today's institutions, advocating for a leadership style that embraces flexibility, community and transparency. For anyone aspiring to lead an educational institution through uncertain times, this work is invaluable, offering not only guidance but also inspiration drawn from the deep collective experiences of its authors.

Affirmative Action in Education: Still a Long Way to Go

Review by Archon Edmund Moore, Sigma Boulé

The Lengthening Shadow of Slavery:

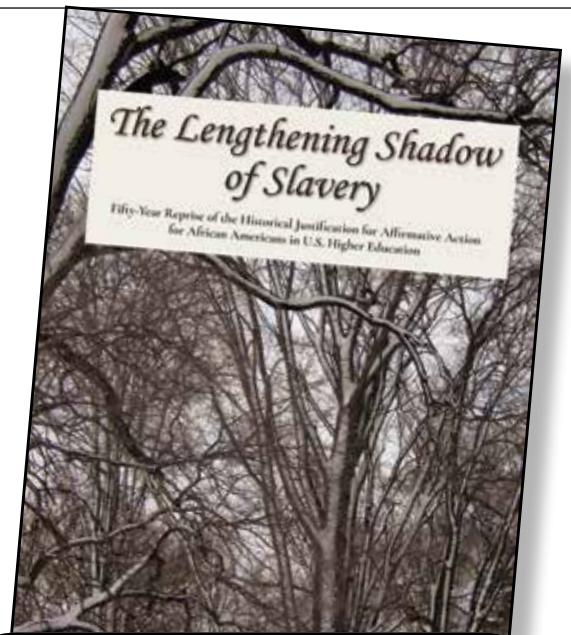
Fifty-Year Reprise of the Historical Justification for Affirmative Action for African Americans in U.S. Higher Education

BY SIGMA BOULÉ ARCHON JOHN E. FLEMING
HOWARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2023

Archon John E. Fleming's reprise of his book published in 1976 by the Institute for the Study of Educational Policy by the Howard University Press, Howard University, demonstrates how far we have advanced in 2024 but reveals how far we must go. *The Lengthening Shadow of Slavery: Fifty-Year Reprise of the Historical Justification for Affirmative Action for African Americans in U.S. Higher Education* is a joint effort by Archon Fleming and his Archousa, Barbara P. Fleming. I believe Archon Fleming deserves a U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom for his career accomplishments. For example, he has opened and/or directed six African American historical museums with the latest being the National Museum of African American Music in Nashville.

This revised volume contains the 2023 updated foreword and preface and the original 1976 manuscript. The updates reflect the current state of African American education in the United States through 2023. Unfortunately, African American students have failed to acquire sufficient education since 1865 due to cultural, legal and public policy barriers. We are living in an era when the Supreme Court and the nation are not willing to make even a modest effort to remedy decades of past discrimination against African Americans, and even Indigenous Americans.

The new foreword covers what has transpired over the last seventy years from the 1954 *Brown v. The*



ARCHON JOHN E. FLEMING

Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas Supreme Court ruling through more recent cases such as *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina*. The later cases concern the issue of race consideration in college admissions policies as a violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Those cases seek to make admissions policies based on colorblind processes that ignore generations of discrimination and prejudice based on race.

Archousa Fleming used her recent two published educational volumes, *Desperately Searching for Higher Education Among the Ruins of the Great Society*, to write the preface. She focuses on the unacceptably large numbers of African American students who are low-income and undereducated in predominantly poor urban elementary and sec-

ondary schools. This lack of preparation reduces that populations' access to enroll and graduate with degrees from postsecondary schools, particularly in STEM areas, compared with international, white, Asian American and other minority peers.

She reveals why African American students' outcomes are the worst and describes the effect on our access to the American educational pipeline. Poverty, resegregation of public schools, and inadequate performance of low-income African American and other minority students on standardized tests lead to high incarceration rates and unemployment for African American males; the wealth gap between white, Hispanic and Black households and the higher student-loan default rates, especially among African American women, is a major issue when it comes to starting stable, two-partner nuclear families in the community.

The first chapter covers the economic justification for the enslavement of Black people and the philosophical and legal basis for slavery. The author explains how the institution of slavery was consolidated as an economic institution after the Revolutionary War, including the adoption of legal restrictions on slaves and later free Blacks in the North and South prior to 1865. The last portion explores the slaves' and free Blacks' quest for education during slavery. Despite the efforts of the American Colonization Society and the abolitionists, at the time of the Civil War only a miniscule number out of 4.5 million Black people could read and write.

The second chapter delves into deleterious actions by the president and congress toward Black people. Under radical reconstruction, President Andrew Johnson's policies were based on state rights that are still used to suppress our rights today. The Freedmen's Bureau helped establish schools to educate newly freed slaves. The education of Blacks in the southern states after the Civil War was unequal, underfunded and continuously under physical attack. Further damaging to Black people were Supreme Court decisions against their civil rights. Black education was sidetracked by Jim Crow as the nation tired of the so-called "waving the bloody shirt." The seeds of Negro second-class citizenship and special education was sown during this period until the post-World War II years.

The third chapter covers the cementing of the second-class citizenship for Black Americans by the infamous *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision that stunned the Black community. There was great "law and disorder" during this period, with the recorded number of Blacks and others lynched between 1882 to 1891 ranging from 96 to 211, yet no antilynching bills were considered. The inequality in education funding for white and Black children was high in places like a Black Belt county in Alabama; between 1907 and 1908, white

teachers' salaries totaled \$28,108 for teaching 2,285 students compared with Black teachers' salaries, which totaled \$3,940 for teaching 10,745 students. The Second Morrill Act of 1890 was key to the development of separate land-grant institutions for Black students, providing funding to establish seventeen Black colleges that were primarily non-degree-granting agriculture, mechanical and industrial schools. The last part focuses on the philosophical debate on education between Booker T. Washington and Archon William Edward Burghardt Du Bois.

Chapter four focuses on the war years (1915–18), when it was reported that 279 Black people were lynched, and the Ku Klux Klan was revived in the South and started to flourish in the North. The status of Black education between the World Wars was that people of color eagerly sought a college education, but the educational institutions were poorly equipped and ineffectively organized and administered. In 1926–27 there were 12,000 Black college students in Negro colleges, with an average of 152 students per school. By 1930 there were 19,000 students in such colleges. For Blacks in World War II and the postwar years, it was promising that presidential executive orders were issued by presidents Roosevelt and Truman, respectively, to cease discrimination in government employment and to create a presidential committee on civil rights. The NAACP continued its fight for Black equality.

Chapter five begins with a discussion of the *Brown* decision of 1954 and other school litigation. It moves on to the Civil Rights Movement and the federal government's active assault on those rights, which continues to this day. Legal decisions that favored Black people were largely unenforced by the courts. The economic plight of Black people on the contemporary scene is discussed in detail. When Black students were desegregated, the Black educators were systematically removed from the education system. The legal basis for affirmative action is discussed, along with its impact on higher education.

The book reveals facts that may change readers' minds about how you look at the United States. If I had to sum up my reading of this revised edition, it would be that "there is a deeply ingrained cultural effort to keep African Americans, the poor and other minorities in a second-class caste system; moreover, the public policy, legal and educational systems are overtly working to maintain the status quo."

This is a recommended read for those seeking a serious history of the African American continuing struggle to obtain education from slavery to 2023. The conclusions from the 1976 book are, unfortunately, still relevant today.

Archon Edmund Moore is a retired federal employee, community volunteer and book author. He has written newspaper editorials and has been an invited guest on podcasts, radio and TV.

ARCHOUSA REVETA BOWERS RECEIVED THE JUDY IVIE BURTON COMMUNITY HEROES AWARD.

Andrea Mari Myers Achi

Andrea Mari Myers Achi, daughter of Archon Samuel Myers, Jr., and Archousa Sheila Ards of Omicron Boulé, Minneapolis–St. Paul, and granddaughter of late Archon Samuel L. Myers, Sr., and Archousa Marion Myers of Gamma Boulé, curated a new exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on Africa and Byzantium in February 2024. The exhibit confronts misconceptions about the role of Africans in contributing to the art and history of the Byzantine era in the Middle East and Mediterranean.



Gia Marie Albert

Gia Marie Albert, daughter of Sire Archon Warren Albert and Archousa Gena Alexander-Albert of Delta Psi Boulé, Athens, Georgia, graduated from the University of Georgia on May 10, 2024, with a bachelor of science in psychology and a minor in sociology. Gia attends East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee, where she is pursuing dual master's degrees in school counseling and mental health counseling.



Gena Alexander-Albert

Archousa Gena Alexander-Albert, wife of Sire Archon Warren Albert of Delta Psi Boulé, Athens, Georgia, was confirmed as the new pediatric medical director for the Athens Piedmont Hospital System in June 2024. Archousa Alexander-Albert is board certified in pediatrics and has been practicing medicine for twenty-five years.





Aver Victoria Lynn Allison

Aver Victoria Lynn Allison, daughter of Archon Adrian Allison and Archousa Krista Allison of Beta Rho Boulé, Akron–Kent, Ohio, graduated on May 12, 2024, from Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College with a master of entertainment industry management degree. Aver currently lives in Los Angeles and hopes to use her degree to pursue a career in the entertainment industry.



Latrice S. Ampy

Archousa LaTrice S. Ampy, wife of Archon Ken Ampy of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé, was promoted to chief product owner and agency portfolio director for Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles in June 2024. Beginning her journey with the agency thirty years ago, Archousa Ampy oversees the agency's portfolio and prioritization process as well as its transformation efforts. She is responsible for aligning the agency's projects and initiatives with its strategic goals, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively and that outcomes are measurable and impactful.



Roslyn Clark Artis

On March 22, 2024, Archousa Roslyn Clark Artis, wife of Archon Selby Artis of Alpha Iota Boulé, Columbia, South Carolina, was honored with the rededication and naming ceremony for the Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis Administration Building at Benedict College in Columbia. The board of trustees honored their president with the ceremony and included a celebratory evening of elegance dedicated to showcasing the contributions of women in HBCU leadership.



Joyce M. Beatty

On April 30, 2024, Archousa Joyce M. Beatty, congresswoman and wife of the late Archon Otto Beatty, Jr., of Columbus, Ohio's Lambda Boulé, introduced a resolution with Congresswoman Katherine A. Castor affirming the need for a health care workforce that mirrors the nation's diverse patient populations. On May 17, 2024, Archousa Beatty gave a speech on the floor of the United States House of Representatives calling out H.R. 7725, which would restrict federal funding to medical schools that pursue DEI initiatives.



Reveta Bowers

On May 8, 2024, the Alliance College-Ready Public Schools Foundation bestowed the Judy Ivie Burton Community Heroes Award upon Archousa Reveta Bowers at their Community Heroes Award Gala, called "Heroes Among Us" in Beverly Hills, California. Archon Bob Bowers, Jr., of Xi Boulé, Los Angeles, was in attendance to proudly support his Archousa. Archousa Bowers's storied career spans half a century, advocating on behalf of students and schools, including participation on boards of trustees and directors.



Annika Bragg

Annika Bragg, daughter of Archon Albert Bragg, Beta Rho Boulé, Akron–Kent, Ohio, graduated from Kent State University (KSU) in May 2024 with her master of business administration degree. In 2022 she received her bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in human resources from KSU. Annika's leadership potential was recognized during her M.B.A. tenure, and she was awarded the First Year Transition and Leadership Development Graduate Assistantship at the Moore Center.

Natalie Braswell

Archousa Natalie Braswell, wife of Archon Rob Braswell of Alpha Psi Boulé, Hartford, was awarded the 2024 George W. Crawford Black Bar Association Visionary Award on May 22, 2024. The George W. Crawford Black Bar Association is a volunteer statewide organization that has represented Black attorneys in Connecticut since 1977. Each year outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the legal field are honored. Archousa Braswell is the first Black female to hold the position of chief legal counsel for the governor of the state of Connecticut.



Miles Q. Braxton

Miles Q. Braxton, son of Archon George P. Braxton and Archousa Kelly Harris-Braxton of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé, is CEO and cofounder of Okovate Sustainable Energy, founded in April 2024. Okovate is an agrivoltaics company which designs and develops solar projects that work in harmony with agricultural practices, such as building solar arrays over crops. Braxton was previously director of risk management and sustainability with Summit Ridge Energy and an associate in the Goldman Sachs Renewable Power Group.



Brandon Brown

In May 2024 Brandon Brown, son of Archon Brian Brown and Archousa Angela "Nikki" Brown of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé, was awarded entry into the Fulbright Scholars Program as an English teaching assistant in La Roja, Spain, for the 2024–25 academic school year. Brown is a recent graduate of the University of Virginia's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.



Sheila Chhutani-Jackson

Archousa Sheila Chhutani-Jackson, M.D., M.B.A., M.L.S., wife of Archon Jesse Jackson of Epsilon Pi Boulé, Southlake, Texas, reached two major career milestones this past spring. She was named chair of obstetrics and gynecology and medical director for Women and Infant Services at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, the flagship hospital for Texas Health Resources in Dallas, in March. In May she was named to the board of directors of the Dallas County Medical Society.



Carolyn Clifford-Goss

On April 14, 2024, Archousa Carolyn Clifford-Goss, evening news anchor for WXYZ-TV 7 Action News in Detroit and wife of Past Sire Archon Gregory Goss of Gamma Rho Boulé, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame at a ceremony at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing. Previously inducted into the Michigan Broadcasting Hall of Fame in September 2021, She received the 2021, 2022 and 2023 Michigan Association of Broadcasters Broadcast Excellence Awards for best news anchor.



Rabeea Collier

Archousa Rabeeah Collier, wife of Archon Robert Collier of Zeta Alpha Boulé, Fort Bend, Texas, was awarded the Houston Bar Association President's Outstanding Service Award at its annual dinner at River Oaks Country Club in May 2024. Archousa Collier is the presiding judge of the 113th Civil District Court of Harris County and chairs the jury committee for the Board of District Judges that oversees jury operations for more than eighty courts. She is also president-elect for the Texas Association of District Judges.





Lauryn Sidni Cooper

On May 25, 2024, Lauryn Sidni Cooper, daughter of Archon Javon Cooper and Archousa Felicia Cooper of Beta Epsilon Boulé in Greensboro, North Carolina, graduated from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, North Carolina. Lauryn currently attends the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill as a Morehead-Cain Scholar, the most prestigious scholarship program at the university. At UNC, she intends to pursue a double major in the areas of health policy and management and nutrition.



Blair Cox

Blair Cox, daughter of Sire Archon Robert Cox of Delta Boulé, Memphis, received her juris doctorate from Georgetown Law School on May 19, 2024. The George Washington University alumna, while at Georgetown Law, was a finalist at the Greenhalg Trial Advocacy program, 3L delegate to the Student Government Association and a member of the Black Law Student Association.



Brittany Cureton

Brittany Cureton, daughter of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Jesse Cureton and Archousa Angela Cureton, graduated from The University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Medicine on May 9, 2024. Brittany earned her M.D. and was also honored with the Georgette Dent Accelerating Change Award. Brittany also graduated from the UNC Gillings School of Public Health where she received her M.P.H. She has been matched at Rush Medical Center in Chicago for her residency and will have a surgical focus in ob-gyn.



Casey Curry

On April 12, 2024, Archousa Casey Curry, wife of Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Sire Archon Bruce Curry, hosted a retrospective conversation for the tenth anniversary of her first novel, *Promises*. The novel tells the thrilling story of Pamela Sloane and her thirty-year journey of military intrigue, love, desire, determination and family. The retrospective conversation was intended to be a then-and-now discussion about the book, its author and its readers. Archousa Curry followed her first novel with the sequel *A Pillar of Fire* in 2019.



Alexandria J. Daniels

On May 17, 2024, Alexandria J. Daniels, daughter of Archon Vincent Daniels and Archousa Melanie Daniels of Beta Eta Boulé in Delaware, graduated from Ross University School of Medicine in Coral Gables, Florida. Alexandria has matched in anesthesiology. She previously received her bachelor of science degree in biology graduating magna cum laude from Spelman College in Atlanta. Alexandria will begin her four-year anesthesia residency at TidalHealth in Salisbury, Maryland.



Angela Davis Drew

Archousa Angela Davis Drew, wife of Minneapolis-St. Paul's Omicron Boulé Archon Duchesne Drew, was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame at the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism. A momentous occasion, marking the culmination of years of hard work and dedication in her career as a journalist, this recognition not only celebrates Archousa Drew's professional journey, but also underscores the importance of perseverance.

Charmayne Mills Ealy

Archousa Charmayne Mills Ealy, wife of Pasadena, California's Gamma Zeta Boulé Archon Raymond Ealy, received the Rotary Club of Pasadena's 2024 Paul Harris Fellow Award at a ceremony on June 12, 2024. One of the highest honors bestowed by the Rotary Club of Pasadena, the Paul Harris Fellow Award is given to those who exemplify service above self as well as truth, fairness, goodwill and benefit to all concerned. An article announcing Archousa Ealy's selection was published on the Pasadena Now website on June 4, 2024.



Karys Elmore

In April 2024 16-year-old Karys Elmore, daughter of Archon Dillard Elmore of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was accepted to attend the University of Chicago Booth School of Business Voltage Scholars 2024 summer program. This program provides a diverse group of high-achieving high schools students who have an interest in economics with the opportunity to experience the university's bold approach to economic instruction and research.



Regina Charlene-Elizabeth Fairfax

Regina Charlene-Elizabeth Fairfax, daughter of Archon Roger A. Fairfax, Jr., and Archousa Lisa Fairfax of Beta Mu Boulé, Suburban Maryland, graduated in May 2024 from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. At Harvard Law School, Regina served as executive editor of the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*. She will work as a litigation associate at Paul, Weiss in Washington, D.C., before clerking for Chief Judge Denise J. Casper of the United States District Court in Boston in 2025.



Antoinette Farmer-Thompson

On April 30, 2024, Strayer University, a higher learning institution for working adults, announced Archousa Antoinette "Toni" Farmer-Thompson, wife of Archon Ronald Thompson of Gamma Mu Boulé, Phoenix, as its next president. Archousa Farmer-Thompson is the first Black woman to be named president of the university. Her relentless desire to help others led Archousa Farmer-Thompson to the world of higher education, where she has worked for more than thirteen years. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and traveling with her husband.



Alton Matice Fletcher

Alton Matice Fletcher, who is being raised by Archon Louis L. Fletcher and Archousa Jodi L. Fletcher of Epsilon Chi Boulé, Colorado Springs, recently experienced several outstanding achievements. Alton graduated from Liberty High School in Colorado Springs on May 15, 2024, after a productive track season. His accomplishments throwing the discus for four years during high school were rewarded with a track and field scholarship to the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs where he plans to study sports business.



Jessica Lee Fletcher

Archon Louis L. Fletcher and Archousa Jodi L. Fletcher of Epsilon Chi Boulé, Colorado Springs, are the proud parents of Jessica Lee Fletcher who graduated from the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law with a juris doctorate on May 18, 2024. Jessica earned a full-tuition merit award, the Robert B. Yegge Memorial Scholarship, to attend the Sturm College of Law. Jessica also holds a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of Arizona and a master's degree in international relations from Troy University.





Ailani Forde

Tampa Preparatory School student Ailani Forde, daughter of Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Archon Colin Forde and Archousa Joselynn Forde, received the prestigious 2024 Ronald Reagan Leadership Medal for her drive, humility and service before self in May 2024. She is the first student from Tampa Preparatory School to receive this honor. Additionally, Ailani is a three-time state medalist in the triple jump, long jump and high jump and qualified for the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championship held in Philadelphia in June 2024.



Perry Jude Franklin, Jr.

On June 1, 2024, Perry Jude Franklin, Jr., son of Archon Perry Franklin and Archousa Monique Franklin of Alpha Xi Boulé, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, united in holy matrimony with Peyton Hendricks of Palm Beach, Florida. The couple enjoyed a destination wedding in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and will reside in Baton Rouge.



Rhea McIver Gibbs

Archousa Rhea McIver Gibbs, wife of Archon Samuel Gibbs of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, was honored with the Outstanding Leadership in Education Award at the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators Conference at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego on March 13, 2024. This award is a testament to her commitment to excellence in education. Archousa Gibbs is currently lead strategic agent of the Rialto Unified School District and holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Redlands University.



Jaída Gillespie

Jaída Gillespie, daughter of Grapter Rodney L. Gillespie and Archousa Angela Gillespie of Beta Eta Boulé, Delaware, graduated from Howard University with honors on May 11, 2024. She graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree from the Chadwick Boseman School of Fine Arts and is pursuing a career in theater as a director, actor and writer.



Sharon S. Goodwyn

On May 13, 2024, Archousa Sharon S. Goodwyn, wife of Archon S. Bernard Goodwyn, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé, was recognized by *Inside Business* on their annual Power List for 2024. The Power List honors those who have the most influence in shaping business in Hampton Roads. Archousa Goodwyn, an attorney in Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP's labor and employment practice group, has been included in The Best Lawyers in America since 2008 and for five of those years was recognized as a Norfolk Lawyer of the Year in several practice areas.



Skylar Grace Guerrier

Skylar Grace Guerrier, 10-year-old daughter of Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé Archon Frederic Guerrier, received first place in the Violin Solo Primary II event at the Florida Federation of Music Clubs State Junior Convention at the University of South Florida in May 2024.

Donovan J. Hails

Donovan J. Hails, son of Archon Walter J. Hails, Jr., and Archousa Carine J. Hails of Zeta Zeta Boulé in Syracuse, New York, graduated from Michigan State University's Eli Broad College of Business in East Lansing, Michigan, with a bachelor's degree in finance on April 27, 2024. Donovan was one of thirty-five high scholars in the prestigious Financial Markets Institute and a student in the honors college. He maintained a 3.5 GPA and interned at JPMorgan in investment banking, Advent International in private equity and at Plante Moran.



Elijah Immanuel Hames

In May 2024 Elijah Immanuel Hames, son of Archon Charley Hames, Jr., and Archousa Michelle Gaskill-Hames of Xi Boulé in Los Angeles, graduated from the University of Kentucky with a master's of health care administration. He previously completed his bachelor of arts in communications from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and participated in the Young Adults Career Symposium at the 57th Grand Boulé.



Vanessa Haygood

Archousa Vanessa Haygood, wife of Archon A. Vernon Stringer of Greensboro, North Carolina's Beta Epsilon Boulé, was selected as chair of the annual campaign for Family Service of Greensboro Foundation in April 2024. She is a retired ob-gyn physician whose honors include being the first woman to serve as chief of medical staff of the Cone Health System, being a founding partner of Central Carolina Ob-Gyn and past board chair of Authoracare Hospice Services.



Christian & Connor Henderson

Christian and Connor Henderson, sons of Pasadena, California's Gamma Zeta Boulé Archon Raphael Henderson and Archousa Tyra, graduated from the University of Southern California in May 2024. Christian received his master of science in finance from the Marshall School of Business. Connor, an alumnus of the Gamma Zeta LAMP Mentor Program, received his bachelor of science in real estate development from the Sol Price School of Public Policy. The brothers were presented their diplomas by their father, a 1982 USC alumnus. Archon and Archousa Henderson serve on USC's board of governors as parent representatives.



Amanda Morris Henneghan

Amanda Morris Henneghan, daughter of Archon Herman Morris and Archousa Brenda Morris of Delta Boulé, Memphis, Tennessee, was selected one of the Top 40 Under 40 University of Tennessee Alumni in an announcement made by the university on March 1, 2024. The award recognizes alumni under the age of 40 for their professional achievement and outstanding service. Amanda is a senior communications manager at Amazon.



Christina Renée Hockaday

Christina Renée Hockaday, granddaughter of Archon James E. Williams, Jr., and Archousa Lois C. Williams of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's Beta Pi Boulé, made the chancellor's list (GPA of 3.75 or higher) in both the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters of her freshman year at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina. She was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, the honor society for first-year academic success, and accepted into the Honors College. Hockaday is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering.





Tysan Holloman

Tysan Holloman, daughter of Archon Anthony L. Holloman and Archousa Maisah A. Holloman of Beta Chi Boulé in Fort Valley, Georgia, graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School on May 18, 2024.



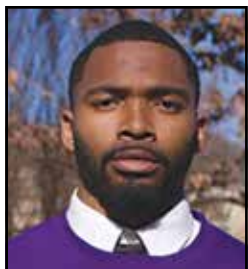
Quintin Hollomand

Quintin Hollomand graduated from Loyola Marymount University on May 4, 2024, with a bachelor of business administration with a focus on entrepreneurship. Quintin is the grandson of Pasadena, California's Gamma Zeta Boulé Archon Robert Hollomand and Archousa Nellie Hollomand and is an alumnus of the Gamma Zeta Boulé Foundation LAMP Mentor Program. Gamma Zeta Boulé extends warm congratulations to Quintin and wishes him well as he launches his career in entertainment.



Michelle D. Holmes

Michelle D. Holmes, Archousa of Archon Derrick Z. Jackson of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé, was certified as a Kripalu yoga teacher on June 14, 2024, by the Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health, the largest yoga retreat center in the United States. To earn her certification, Archousa Holmes completed a program of more than 200 hours of intensive training over four weeks in the spring.



James A. Hopson II

Archon Derrick Jackson and Archousa CaMia Jackson of Epsilon Upsilon Boulé, South Atlanta, are proud to announce the recent graduation of their son, James A. Hopson II, on May 12, 2024, from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, with a degree in public policy and two minors in African American studies and economics. James also received recognition for being named to the 2024 All-ACC Academic football team.



Myah Moore Irick

On May 15, 2024, Archousa Myah Moore Irick, wife of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé Archon Jaime Irick, was honored at the *Pittsburgh Business Times* 2024 Women of Influence award celebration. This celebration honors the Pittsburgh region's most influential women in business. Archousa Irick is the founder and senior vice president for The Irick Group, Merrill Private Wealth Management.



Jared S. Jackson

Jared S. Jackson, son of Archon Kenneth Jackson and Archousa Patricia Jackson of Columbia, South Carolina's Alpha Iota Boulé, graduated with a doctor of veterinary medicine from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in Athens, Georgia, on May 4, 2024. Jared previously earned a bachelor of science degree in animal and veterinary science from Clemson University. He will continue his training with a small animal rotating internship at The University of Tennessee Veterinary Medical Center.

Steffanie Jasper

On May 15, 2024, Archousa Steffanie Jasper, wife of Pittsburgh's Rho Boulé's Grammateus Michael Jasper, was honored at the *Pittsburgh Business Times* 2024 Women of Influence award celebration. This celebration honors the Pittsburgh region's most influential women in business. Archousa Jasper is the executive vice president and head of enterprise risk management for PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. She is responsible for the entire enterprise risk management framework including risk appetite, aggregation and reporting; governance and policy frameworks; and issues management.



Brandon H. Johnson

Brandon H. Johnson, son of Archon Ronald A. Johnson and Archousa Irene Oakley Johnson of Gamma Xi Boulé, Sarasota, Florida, was announced as a new partner at the Washington, D.C., office of Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP, in March 2024. Johnson works on matters involving high-value technology transactions and the structuring of commercial agreements. He also advises clients on the communications regulatory requirements affecting digital products.



Layla Johnson

Layla Johnson, daughter of Grammateus Reginald D. Johnson and Archousa Danné Lynette Johnson of Alpha Theta Boulé, Oklahoma City, graduated cum laude from the University of Tulsa on May 8, 2024. Layla completed a double major in psychology and Chinese studies. On graduation day, she was also inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society at a separate ceremony that included an awards dinner.



Sedona Jolly

Sedona Jolly, daughter of Archon Emmitt Jolly and Archousa Stacey Jolly of Cleveland's Tau Boulé, graduated with a B.A. in economics from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) on May 19, 2024. Archon Jolly presented Sedona her diploma. She was also given the university award for academic excellence in economics. Sedona was president of Women in Economics at CWRU and she spent three months studying abroad in Ecuador and Kenya. In June 2024 Sedona started a predoctoral program as a research assistant in economics at the University of Chicago.



Dwight W. Jones II

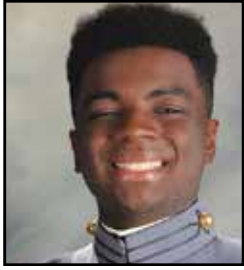
Dwight W. Jones II, son of Archon Dwight Jones and Archousa Vida Williams of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé, started a new position as a technical program manager at Amazon Devices & Services for Amazon Lab126 in Sunnyvale, California, in May 2024. Jones is a 2023 graduate of Virginia Tech College of Engineering, where he majored in mechanical engineering.



Narisse Kendrick

Archousa Narisse Kendrick M.D., wife of Regional Sire Archon Kanahl Kendrick of Gamma Chi Boulé, San Jose, California, was awarded the Compassionate Leader Award at the 2024 Women's Leadership and Policy Summit in San Jose on March 23, 2024. The award was presented by County of Santa Clara supervisors in recognition of Archousa Kendrick's "core values of empathy, kindness, transparency, flexibility, belonging, and a growth mindset." Archousa Kendrick received her medical degree from Yale School of Medicine and has been in practice for more than twenty years.





Avery Kimbrough

Avery Kimbrough, son of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Marcus Kimbrough and Archousa Helen Kimbrough, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a bachelor of science degree in international affairs on May 25, 2024. During his firstie year (senior year), Avery was the 3rd Battalion Command Sargent Major. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army and will be a field artillery officer for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team stationed at Fort Cavazos in Killeen, Texas.



Helen Kimbrough

Archousa Helen Kimbrough, wife of Archon Marcus Kimbrough of Beta Delta Boulé, Charlotte, North Carolina, was featured in *The Charlotte Ledger's* 40 Over 40 Awards. Archousa Kimbrough is the senior director, community voice for Next Stage Consulting and is also an author. She focuses her work on promoting diversity through her writing and as a member of numerous boards.



Zachyre Lane

Zachyre Lane, daughter of Archon Fleenoil Lane and Archousa Kathy Williams of Epsilon Gamma Boulé in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, graduated with honors from University of Miami's doctor of physical therapy program on May 9, 2024. Zachyre, a two-time cancer survivor, entered the oncology residency program at the University of Miami in August 2024.



Veronica R. Martinez

A heartfelt congratulations to Archousa Veronica R. Martinez, wife of Archon Geovanny Martinez, Epsilon Gamma Boulé, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, for her exceptional achievement in being awarded Duke University's prestigious distinguished professorship honor in March 2024. This achievement recognizes Archousa Martinez's impressive scholarly achievements and leadership in the academic community and beyond and as a bold thinker among faculty. Archousa Martinez's writing has been published in numerous legal journals, including in Ivy League law reviews.



Teran Mickens

Teran Mickens, daughter of Archon Johnny Newman and Archousa Velvet Mickens Newman of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé, graduated from Wright State University's Boonshoft School of Medicine with an M.D./M.P.H. dual-degree. She has matched into the ob-gyn program at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse, New York, and is excited to advocate and care for a diverse demographic population in reproductive health.



Bria M. Murray

Bria M. Murray, daughter of Past Grand Sire Archon Dwayne M. Murray and Archousa Lisa Nelson Murray of Alpha Xi Boulé, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, coauthored a case report entitled, "Application of a Malecot Drain in Management of a Vaginal Cuff-Dehiscence: A Case Report and Review of the Literature," which was published on May 12, 2024. Murray completed her residency at the University of Virginia Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology on June 21, 2024, and has accepted employment with the Ochsner Medical Center in Baton Rouge.

Angela Rose Myers

Angela Rose Myers, daughter of Archon Samuel L. Myers, Jr., and Archousa Sheila Ards of Omicron Boulé, Minneapolis–St. Paul, earned a position as a law clerk at the Minnesota Attorney General’s office in June 2024. A law student at the University of Miami, Angela received her B.A. from Barnard College of Columbia University and her master’s degree in human rights from the University of Minnesota.



Cleve Packer, Jr.

On May 18, 2024, Cleve Packer, Jr., son of Archon Cleve H. Packer and Archousa S. Michelle Packer of Epsilon Psi Boulé, Charlottesville, Virginia, graduated from Wake Forest University School of Business with an M.S. in management. Last spring, Packer graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in history. He begins his career in Richmond, where he will serve as a participant in a rotational management and leadership program.



Skylar Parris

On April 14, 2024, Skylar Parris, daughter of South Atlanta’s Epsilon Upsilon Boulé Archon Jonathan Parris and Archousa Sheraun Britton-Parris, was initiated into the Mu Delta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. A double major in international affairs and international business, she also secured an internship with Bloomberg Associates, a philanthropic consultancy that works with cities across the world to ensure that they are able to solve their municipal challenges, in New York City.



Gavin Pennington

Gavin Pennington, son of Archon Damon Pennington and Archousa Sonia of Southern New Jersey’s Delta Epsilon Boulé, was accepted into Howard University’s School of Business Summer Enrichment Program in May 2024. The program introduces high school students to college and includes instruction in accounting, information systems, actuarial science and entrepreneurship. Gavin will participate in college classes, attend company site visits and deliver group presentations as part of the program. A successful entrepreneur, Gavin owns a clothing and lifestyle brand, as well as an events and promotions company.



Marilyn Peppers-Citizen

On April 18, 2024, Archousa Marilyn Peppers-Citizen of Epsilon Sigma Boulé, Prince William County, Virginia, released her coauthored book, *Yoga in the Black Community – Healing Practices and Principles*. Archousa Peppers-Citizen and Charlene Marie Muhammad utilize their decades of knowledge to provide valuable insight into yoga as it relates to Black community. Specifically, “[the book] takes core aspects of yoga philosophy and contextualizes it within Black cultural norms, religious taboos, and historical healing practices, and teaches readers how to foster a safe haven for their clients and communities.”



Daphney Naomi Roberts

On April 15, 2024, Daphney Naomi Roberts, daughter of Archon Casey M. Roberts and Archousa Renelle K. Roberts of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, won first place in the girls storytelling category at the Robert S. Sergeant Independent School Forensics competition. Daphney enthusiastically performed an Afro-Caribbean folktale entitled “Anansi and the Tug O’ War,” paying homage to her African American and Caribbean family roots.





Velma Scantlebury-White

Beta Eta Boulé of Delaware would like to recognize and congratulate Archousa Velma Scantlebury-White, wife of Archon Harvey White, for receiving the History Makers Award for Healthcare presented by BNY Mellon and Citizens on May 16, 2024, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The History Makers Award honors those who have made an indelible mark on the history of their field. Archousa Velma is the cofounder and CMO of the Delaware Health Equity Coalition, Inc., and adjunct professor at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College.



Jessica Jean Scott

On May 28, 2024, Jessica Jean Scott, daughter of Archon Simon H. Scott III and Archousa Blythe A. Scott of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé, graduated with her A.B. in English at Princeton University. Scott completed her studies with a 3.9 GPA, graduating with high honors. The English department also awarded her the Walter C. Hughes Prize for outstanding scholarship and originality in a senior thesis.



Christian Shuford

On May 11, 2024, Christian Shuford, son of Archon Fred E. Shuford, Jr., and Archousa Veronica Shuford of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé, graduated cum laude from Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Business with a bachelor of science degree in business with a concentration in management and business administration. Christian is currently employed at Dominion Energy as a customer projects designer.



Renee Shumate

On April 11, 2024, Archousa Renee Shumate, external affairs manager at American Electric Power in Columbus, Ohio, and wife of Archon Alex Shumate of Columbus's Lambda Boulé, was one of six women who were honored as the Columbus YWCA 2024 Women of Achievement at its 39th annual recognition event. This distinguished honor is bestowed upon women who provide outstanding service and leadership in the Columbus community, and who set an example that serves to advance the YWCA mission to eliminate racism and empower women.



Elizabeth M. Smith

Elizabeth M. Smith, daughter of Archon Jimmie Smith and Archousa Y. Monique Davis-Smith and granddaughter of Archon Gordon Davis and Archousa Josephine Davis, all of Beta Chi Boulé, Fort Valley, Georgia, received her doctoral degree in the department of plant and soil sciences from the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, on May 22, 2024.



Nicola Smith

In May 2024 Nicola Smith, daughter of Archon James Smith of Delta Lambda Boulé, Nassau, Bahamas, was granted a Trebek Initiative Grant for her six-part mini podcast series with journalist Amy Romer and Dr. Florian Grond. The podcast's goal is to discuss the emotional impact of climate change and biodiversity crises through both a scientific and personal lens. Smith is currently an assistant professor of biology at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada.

Zoli Grace Smith

In May 2024 Zoli Grace Smith, daughter of Archon Kevin S. Smith and Archousa Candace Dabney-Smith of Alpha Gamma Boulé in Oakland–Berkeley, California, received recognition as a top ten graduate of the Spelman College class of 2024, distinguished for her achievements as an honors psychology major student with a minor in Spanish. Zoli intends to pursue a master's degree in public health with a focus on epidemiology and a law degree to effect policy in global healthcare.



James Spencer

James Spencer, son of Charlottesville, Virginia's Epsilon Psi Boulé Archon A. Benjamin Spencer and Archousa Marlette, along with his teammates, won the Virginia Class 3A state championship in varsity soccer on June 8, 2024. This is the second state championship for James, who won a state championship as a member of the varsity football team. Additionally, James was recently selected by his principal as the most outstanding senior. He will attend Morehouse College and pursue a major in business administration on a Navy ROTC scholarship.



Monica Wharton

Archousa Monica Wharton, wife of Archon Andre Wharton of Delta Boulé, Memphis, was named one of *Modern Healthcare's* Women Leaders for 2024 as announced by Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare on March 15, 2024. Those listed in the 2024 class are women in leadership positions at healthcare systems and insurance providers across the country. They are especially recognized for the instrumental role they play in spearheading healthcare delivery enhancements.



Kathleen Holt Whyte

Archousa Kathleen Holt Whyte, wife of Sire Archon–Elect William Whyte of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer–Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was honored in May 2024 as Small Business Owner of the Year by the National Panhellenic Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Archousa Whyte is the owner and CEO of Success Strategies, a communications consulting firm specializing in helping government agencies, federal policy makers and advocacy organizations drive more effective, strategic communications.



Christien Spencer Williams

Christien Spencer Williams, son of Archon Jerome Williams, Jr., and Archousa Adelle Anthony-Williams, Beta Delta Boulé, Charlotte, North Carolina, cofounded and became CEO of Koi, an early stage fintech startup providing a digital secondary marketplace for CRA-qualified loans, in April 2024.



Julian Armand Williams

Julian Armand Williams, son of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Jerome Williams, Jr., and Archousa Adelle Anthony-Williams, graduated from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business on May 17, 2024 in Washington, D.C.





Rosalind A. Williford

Archousa Rosalind A. Williford, wife of Archon Don Williford of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer-Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, was selected in June 2024 as one of Philadelphia's top CEOs and C-level executives for 2024, known as a Titan 100 presented by Wipfli LLP. As the chief financial officer of Esperanza Health Center in Philadelphia, Archousa Williford's dedication and passion to her field is obvious. The award celebrates the diversity of Philadelphia's business across numerous sectors.



Jillian Willis

On March 25, 2024, Jillian Willis, daughter of Sire Archon Donison Willis and Archousa Gwendolyn Willis of Beta Epsilon Boulé in Greensboro, North Carolina, joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as a partner in its litigation practice in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining Nelson Mullins, Jillian served as a federal prosecutor since 2015, most recently as assistant chief of the Health Care Fraud Unit. Jillian received her juris doctorate from Duke University School of Law and her undergraduate degree from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Alina Lianne Wilson

Alina Lianne Wilson, daughter of Archon Nathan Wilson and Archousa Sherrita Wilson and granddaughter of Archon Frank F. Wilson III and Archousa Jacquelyn Wilson, all of Alpha Theta Boulé, Oklahoma City, graduated from Stanford University in Stanford, California, on June 16, 2024, with a bachelor of arts in human biology. Alina plans to attend medical school and arranged a summer internship at a hospital in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, followed by full-time employment at Boston Consulting Group.



Sharon Wood-Dunn

In May 2024 Archousa Sharon Wood-Dunn, wife of Archon John Dunn of Epsilon Delta Boulé in Williamsburg, Virginia, was awarded the prestigious Larry and Penny Pulley Service Award for her excellent work in the Executive Partners Program by the Raymond Mason School of Business at the College of William & Mary. Archousa Wood-Dunn has been with the program for almost two decades where she offers her expertise to students in the M.B.A. program to give them insight into corporate America.



Zora Woolfolk

Zora Woolfolk, daughter of Archon Gregory Woolfolk and Archousa Andrea Woolfolk of Psi Boulé in Louisville, Kentucky, was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Kentucky in May 2024. Zora graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in psychology and minor in Spanish. She wishes to pursue a Ph.D. in psychology with a focus of research in social psychology.

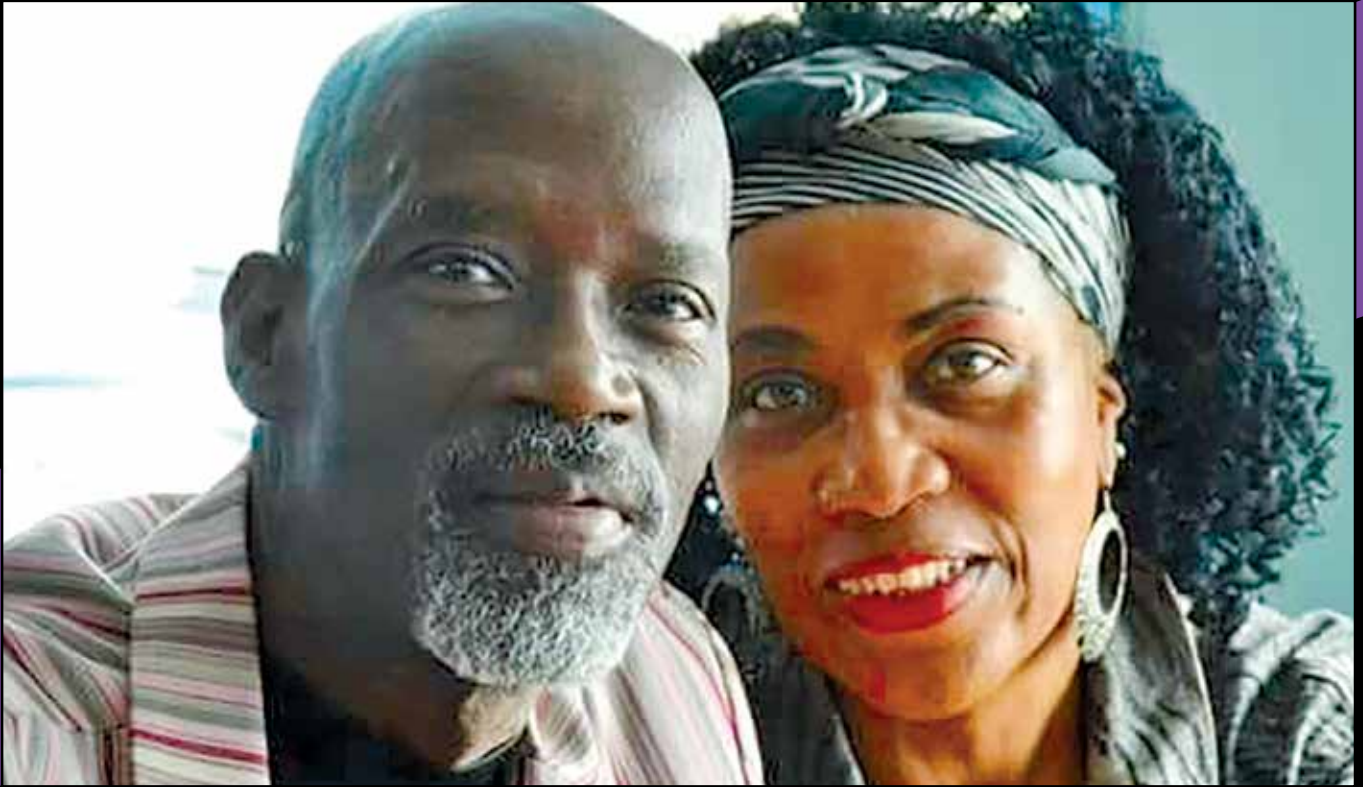


Janelle Wright

Archousa Janelle Wright, married to Archon Joseph Wright of Prince George's County, Maryland's Epsilon Phi Boulé, has been named a 2024 Woman to Watch by the *Southern Maryland* newspaper, a testament to her transformative impact as the executive director of Universal Mosaic. Under her leadership, Universal Mosaic has emerged as a pivotal force in bridging digital literacy and career gaps within Maryland, focusing on empowering a diverse range of individuals through enhanced access to technology and career opportunities.

THE MEMBER BOULÉS

Alpheus and Dawn Finlayson: 'A **Delta Lambda Boulé** Love Story!'



ARCHON ALPHEUS FINLAYSON AND ARCHOUSA DAWN FINLAYSON

A charter member of Delta Lambda Boulé, Nassau, Bahamas, Archon Alpheus “Hawk” Finlayson, who served as Sire Archon from 2006 to 2008 and most recently served many years as Grapter, was fortunate to meet a lovely, charismatic and fashionable young woman named Dawn Rolle. As fate would have it, “Cupid’s arrow” pierced both their hearts, and they had a short courtship that led to marriage.

In true Hawk fashion, Archon Finlayson told Dawn that he didn’t have much money, but he would be sure to take her all around the world. And he lived up to that promise many times over. This match was truly made in heaven. As their wedding song by Natalie Cole said, they were “Inseparable.” You never saw one without the other, friends and partners in the truest sense of the word – in travel, parenthood and marriage, they complimented each other so well.

The “it couple,” they were always traveling the globe to track meets, Olympic Games and world championships. They were always the first and sometimes only couple on the dance floor at parties or nightclubs. And, no doubt, they could cut a rug! Their marriage produced three beautiful chil-

dren: Levaughn (deceased), Wayne (deceased) and Alexis, and they were blessed to have experienced forty-three years together as man and wife.

But, in the way that life throws curve balls, this lifestyle would change for them when Archousa Dawn became ill, and Archon Finlayson, ever the loving husband, rolled with the punches and took on the role of caregiver. He still loved his “bride” fiercely, without the slightest grumble regarding the chapter in which they had found themselves. She passed away on September 7, 2023.

Along this path, Archon Finlayson encountered health challenges of his own as he advanced in age, slipping into eternity on September 22, 2023, at Princess Margaret Hospital, the night before the funeral of his beloved Archousa Dawn. Even in death, Cupid’s arrow allowed them to continue their love story in the great beyond. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

*Archon Michael A. Diggiss
Grapter, Delta Lambda Boulé*

Delta Boulé Rocks the Town With Derby Party



ARCHOUSAI IN THEIR BEDAZZLING ATTIRE MERRY MOORE, ROXANNE TURNER, LYNETTE GAILLARD, NICOLE SCARBORO, MONICA WHARTON, ELISE POLK, LATOYA WHARTON, MELANIE COLE, LATREKA SMITH AND EDITH KELLY-GREEN

Memphis's Delta Boulé Archons and Archousai were enthralled on May 4, 2024, as they arrived at the Mercedes Benz dealership in Collierville for a Kentucky Derby Party. From start to finish, the event, chaired by Archon Randelon Smith and Archousa LaTrekka, was filled with artistry, taste, style and fun that had the phantasmagoric feeling of being at Churchill Downs. The party committee included Archons and Archousai Johnny and Merry Moore, Samuel and Elise Polk, and Andre and LaToya Wharton.

Greeted by a valet and given champagne in front of a flowered wall, guests were photographed in

their Derby attire under a rose-covered arch. The venue, decorated with the event's signature colors, included fascinating facts about the Kentucky Derby. "Friendly" bets on the race were placed – all while the Trio Plus band lifted spirits and kept everyone dancing. Prizes were awarded for Best Dressed Male, Best Dressed Female and Best Hat.

*Archon Ronald A. Walter
Grapter, Delta Boulé*

Epsilon Boulé Archousai Gather for 'Chat and Sip' Tea



THE LOVELY ARCHOUSAI OF EPSILON BOULÉ

The lovely Archousai of Epsilon Boulé, Washington, D.C., gathered at the beautiful home of Archousa Yolanda Townsend Wilkinson and Archon Robert "Monty" Wilkinson for their Archousai "Chat and Sip" Tea on Sunday, June 9, 2024. The picturesque setting was made even more perfect as old friends reunited and new friendships were formed. In all cases, connections were deepened as they celebrated the

spring season. As the memorable afternoon ended, Archousai individually and collectively extended heartfelt gratitude to the host committee, which included Archousai Lisa Fauntroy, Carla Diggs Smith and Yolanda Townsend Wilkinson.

*Archon Rodney Whitmore
Grapter, Epsilon Boulé*

Theta Boulé Hosts Spring Fling



Fifty Archons and Archousai of Theta Boulé, Kansas City, Missouri, kicked off the summer while celebrating their bond at the boulé's Spring Fling, a chic open-air gathering on June 1, 2024, at the scenic Silo Modern Farmhouse, a contemporary farmhouse nestled within the sprawling Canyon Farms Golf Club in Lenexa, just outside of Kansas City.

The equally impressive culinary experience featured a menu crafted from locally sourced ingredients, showcasing the rich flavors of the region, and the smooth, melodic tunes of a talented saxophonist added an extra layer to the experience.

As the evening unfolded, guests mingled and enjoyed the scenic vistas, the rolling greens and lush landscape, a perfect blend of nature and sophistication. The night culminated with the lively beats of a deejay, and the dance floor came alive as Archons and Archousai danced under the stars, making Theta's Spring Fling a memorable event.

*Archon Stewart S. Myers, Sr.
Grapter, Theta Boulé*

'The Moral Defibrillators of Our Time': A Charge From Archon Raphael Warnock

"We are called to be the moral defibrillators of our time, to shock the heart of this nation and revive the soul of America." These are the words spoken by the U.S. senator from Georgia, Archon Raphael Warnock of Kappa Boulé, Atlanta, an honored guest of Omicron Boulé, Minneapolis-St. Paul, at a reception at the St. Paul Hotel on March 15, 2024, prior to this year's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Humphrey-Mondale Dinner.

This powerful metaphor highlighted the urgent need to tackle pressing issues through collective action and justice. Archon Warnock emphasized the importance of perseverance and unity, saying, "We must fight tirelessly because our democracy is worth it. We are stronger together than we are apart." He urged attendees to stay vigilant and engaged in the political process, emphasizing the necessity of ongoing activism and advocacy. The event was attended by other local and national dignitaries.

*Archon James Pierce
Grapter, Omicron Boulé*



ARCHON RAPHAEL WARNOCK

Alpha Alpha Boulé Hosts Ladies' Night Gala



The Archons of Alpha Alpha Boulé, New Orleans, honored their Archousai during the annual Ladies' Night Gala at the Windsor Court Hotel on June 8, 2024. Grand Sire Archon Antoine Garibaldi gave remarks about the upcoming Grand Boulé in San Diego. Archons jokingly reminded him that he was only temporarily "on loan" to Iota Boulé and he was welcome to come back home to Alpha Alpha, his inducting boulé, at any time.

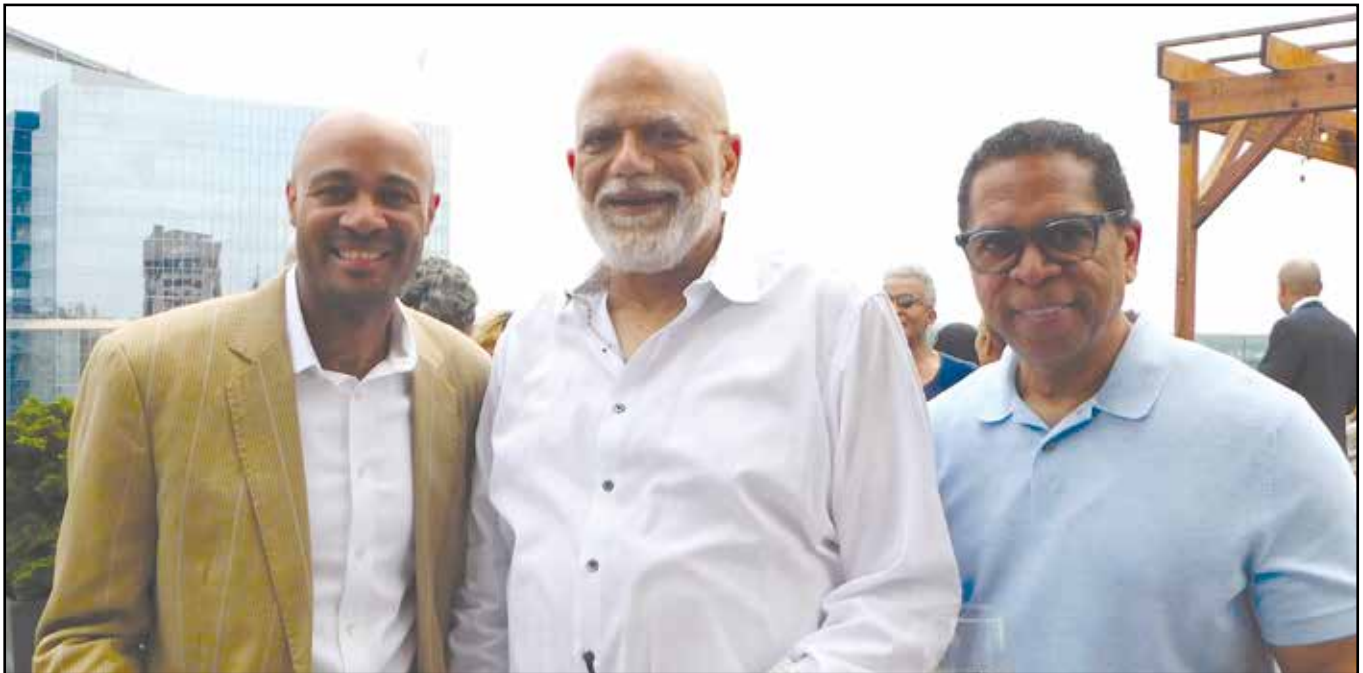
Newly inducted Archon Calvin Mackie and his Archousa, Tracy, were introduced and Archon Mackie gave inspirational remarks about his life's

journey and his vision for promoting educational achievement in our communities. His presentation was met with a standing ovation, and Grand Sire Archon Garibaldi presented him with his Minton Fellow medallion.

As is the custom for Ladies' Night, Archons wore white jackets. Archon Kern Reese gave a poetic toast as each Archon presented his Archousa with a special gift.

*Archon Brian L. Pettiford
Grapter, Alpha Alpha Boulé*

Alpha Beta Boulé Gathers for Rooftop Social



ARCHONS ANDRE DEAN, WILLIAM COOPER AND MONROE HARRIS

On May 23, 2024, Archons and Archousai of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé gathered for a social and cocktail reception at Kabana Rooftop in Downtown Richmond. Sire Archon Brian K. Jackson welcomed more than forty Archons and Archousai, who enjoyed camaraderie, libations and great food while overlooking the James River and city skyscrapers as

sunset approached. A great time was had by all in attendance as Archons and Archousai enjoyed each others company and got to know the best of one another.

*Archon Brian T. Wesley
Grapter, Alpha Beta Boulé*



Alpha Beta Boulé Celebrates 83rd Anniversary

On April 7, 2024, Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé celebrated its 83rd anniversary in the Claiborne Robertson Board Room at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Alpha Beta Archons were joined by Archons James Lockhart of Alpha Rho, Ben Spencer of Epsilon Psi and Zol Rainey of Beta Nu.

Following a delectable luncheon, Sire Archon Brian K. Jackson welcomed the Archons in attendance and Archon Roger Gregory highlighted the history and legacy of Alpha Beta as the twenty-fifth member boulé of Sigma Pi Phi, including the contributions of late Past Grand Sire Archon Oliver W. Hill. Archon Robert Grey introduced Archon Ben Spencer, dean of the College of William & Mary School of Law, who delivered stimulating remarks on the history of Sigma Pi Phi, Founder Henry M. Minton and the philosophies comprising the tenets of the Fraternity. After concluding his remarks, Archon Spencer joined the Archons of Alpha Beta in recognizing two distinguished Archons, including his father, Archon James R. Spencer, and Archon John Charles Thomas, who achieved Emeritus status.

Archon James R. Spencer was inducted into Alpha Beta Boulé in November 1989. He graduated with a B.A. from Clark College, an M.Div. from Howard University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Now retired, Archon Spencer was a U.S. district court

judge for the Eastern District of Virginia from 1986 to 2017, and chief judge from 2004 to 2011. Archon Spencer has served Alpha Beta Boulé in multiple capacities, including as Sire Archon, chair of the social action committee, and chair of the care and concern committee as well as being instrumental in setting apart Epsilon Psi Boulé during his term as Sire Archon.

Archon John Charles Thomas was inducted into Alpha Beta Boulé in December 1995. He graduated with a B.A. and J.D. from the University of Virginia. In 1983 Archon Thomas was appointed to the Supreme Court of Virginia, becoming the youngest and first African American to sit on the bench of the highest court in Virginia. Archon Thomas has served Alpha Beta Boulé in multiple capacities as well, including as chair of the membership council, host for multiple new member induction programs and architect of Alpha Beta's current bylaws.

Archons Spencer and Thomas epitomize excellence and embody the virtues and ideals of Sigma Pi Phi. The Archons of Alpha Beta Boulé thank them for their many years of service and congratulate them on achieving Emeritus status.

*Archon Brian T. Wesley
Grapter, Alpha Beta Boulé*

Alpha Gamma Boulé Hosts Four Boulés at NBA Game



Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland–Berkeley, California, hosted Archons and Archousai from Gamma Epsilon, Beta Upsilon, Epsilon Omicron and Epsilon Beta boulés to an exciting professional basketball game between the Golden State Warriors and the Sacramento Kings at the Chase Center in San Francisco. Special thanks to Beta Upsilon Archon David

Kelly, general counsel of the Golden State Warriors, who made the evening special by bringing former Warriors players to visit the luxury suite where the Archons and Archousai fellowshipped.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Alpha Gamma Boulé Archons Recharge in Vegas



ARCHONS PETER ROSS, THOMAS ARNOLD, STAN HÉBERT III, ALBERT BROOKS, MICHAEL LENOIR AND VERNON CHARLES GOINS II; SIRE ARCHON HILLIARD TERRY; AND PAST GRAND SIRE ARCHON ROBERT HARRIS

The Archons of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland–Berkeley, California, traveled to the ARIA Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, on March 9, 2024, for a weekend to recharge, refocus and, most important, to get to know the best of one another. During the weekend the Alpha Gamma Archons played golfed, dined at great restaurants and fellowshipped with the Archons of Delta Theta, who proved to be gracious hosts.

In attendance were Past Grand Sire Archon Robert Harris; Sire Archon Hilliard Terry; and Archons Peter Ross, Thomas Arnold, Stan Hébert III, Albert Brooks, Michael Lenoir, Vernon Charles Goins II, Louis Willacy and Sedrick Tydus.

Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Beta Delta Boulé Enjoys 'Night to Remember'



Beta Delta Boulé, Charlotte, North Carolina, hosted its inaugural “Night to Remember” on April 7, 2024, at the Carmel Country Club – where guests celebrated the bonds of friendship. From the moment of arrival, there was a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation. As the elegant Archousai entered the grand ballroom, it was impossible not to be captivated by their beauty. They radiated sophistication, their elegance further accentuated by the presence of equally dashing Archons, standing proudly by their sides.

All attendees exuded charm, and as they mingled, it was clear their bonds reflected deep connections

rooted in respect, admiration and support. The Archousai and their Archons danced together with effortless grace. Whether twirling across the dance floor or sharing a tender moment, they epitomized the beauty of partnership.

The image of the elegant affair remains etched in the memories of all who attended, reminding everyone of the beauty of unity and mutual appreciation.

*Archon Sidney W. Levy, Jr.
Grapter, Beta Delta Boulé*



Beta Lambda Boulé Honors Don L. Scott



ARCHONS AND ARCHOUSAI CASEY M. ROBERTS AND RENELLE ROBERTS, STEVEN D. BOND AND TAMARA W. BOND, AND LEONARD SLEDGE AND TIFFANYE SLEDGE

In celebration of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity's Founders Day and in recognition of Archon Don L. Scott for his historic election as the first Black Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, the Archons, Archousai and guests of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, gathered on May 4, 2024, at the Virginia Air and Space Science Center, overlooking the picturesque Hampton Harbor.

Following a cocktail hour and dinner, Agogos Mark C. Nisbett welcomed the Archons and Archousai of Beta Lambda, visiting member boulés and guests. Sire Archon Melvin J. Ferebee, Jr., delivered a brief history and recognition of the Founders of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and the charter Archons of Beta Lambda. The program continued with the recognition of Archon Don L. Scott.

Sire Archon Carl A. Gibson (Epsilon Delta), Sire Archon Brian K. Jackson (Alpha Beta) and Grapter A. Benjamin Spencer (Epsilon Psi) brought greetings on behalf of their respective member boulés and shared their appreciation of Archon Scott and his

historic accomplishments. Beta Lambda Archons F. Blair Wimbush, Mark T. Fleming, Johnny E. Morrison and Melvin Ferebee relayed their personal stories of Archon Scott, highlighting his integrity, generosity, tenacity and humanity.

The evening culminated with an address by Archon Scott, who spoke with humility and gratitude of his journey to the speakership. He talked about some of the challenges he faced along the way, saying that he remains ever mindful, motivated by the resilience and fortitude of our forebears. Each time he enters the capital, he said, he is aware that some of our enslaved ancestors both built and were simultaneously denied access to the very chamber where he now presides. Reminding those in attendance of their continuing obligation to fight for justice, access and equality, he ended with his vision for the future of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the work yet to be done.

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

Beta Nu Boulé Marks Forty-Three Years of Accomplishment



Grand Sire Archon Antoine M. Garibaldi joined the Archons of Beta Nu Boulé, Northern Virginia, at the St. James on May 8, 2024, to celebrate their forty-third anniversary. Beta Nu was set apart by Epsilon Boulé on November 15, 1981.

Now Beta Nu is one of the most influential member boulés of Sigma Pi Phi, with many major accomplishments. In 2016 Beta Nu cohosted the 53rd Grand Boulé in Washington, D.C. For more than five consecutive years the Office of the Grand Boulé has recognized the Beta Nu Young Scholars Program. The Beta Nu

Boulé Education Foundation has paved the way for many young men of color to graduate from college, raising more than \$800,000.

Beta Nu Archons distinguish themselves every day in their respective professions, from the highest levels of government to the fields of medicine, business, law, education and the judiciary, all while exhibiting the qualities of a Boulé man.

*Archon Kwame J. Manley
Grapter, Beta Nu Boulé*

Gamma Beta Boulé Celebrates Fortieth Anniversary



On May 18, 2024, Archons in Jacksonville, Florida, celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the chartering of Gamma Beta Boulé, which coincided with the hundred-and-twentieth anniversary of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. Archons and Archousai gathered at the palatial home of Archon Len Brown and Archousa April Brown to celebrate the momentous occasion. The program put the event in context, noting that this august body grew from one to 144 member boulés since May 15, 1904.

On this occasion, Gamma Beta gave special appreciation to its charter Sire Archon Wendell Holmes, Jr., who had the vision, conviction and connections to bring Sigma Pi Phi to Jacksonville in June 1984. There were six member boulés chartered that year. In 1984 the 37th Grand Boulé was held in Atlanta. Gamma Beta had sixteen active Archons at its chartering, including Wendell Holmes, Jr., Charles Cline, Cecil Cone, Ron Van Johnson, Gilliard Glover, Walter Harris, Earl Johnson, Rodell Roberts, Alvin White, Willard Payne, Ronald Belton and Orrin Mitchell.

Gamma Beta also applauded the three charter Archons who are still active: Ronald Belton, Orrin Mitchell and Willard Payne. Archons Belton and Mitchell offered heartfelt and inspirational remarks. Sire Archon Morris Applewhite had a fireside chat with the three remaining charter Archons, which was captured on video. Also honored and present were the widows of two charter Archons.

During the event, historical artifacts were on display as well as a presentation of a memorial video of Archons who have transitioned to Omega Boulé.

Hours of lively and stimulating conversations and dinner followed that would have made the charter Archons proud. The event was truly an exemplar of getting to know the best of one another, and of honoring our traditions and those who upheld them.

*Archon Roger M. Groves
Grapter, Gamma Beta Boulé*

Gamma Phi Boulé Lauds the Founding of the Fraternity



Gamma Phi Boulé, San Antonio, hosted a special event to celebrate, with purpose and fellowship, the anniversary of the founding of Sigma Pi Phi. The event took place on May 15, 2024, at Hotel Valencia on San Antonio's Riverwalk. Approximately fifty members of the Gamma Phi family enjoyed an uplifting experience.

Sire Archon Ron Kelley delivered a comprehensive telling of the story and contextual history of Sigma Pi Phi, from necessary protective confidentiality with strict protocols to a more outwardly recognized organization of talented professionals.

Endearing moments included the heartfelt embrace of Archousa Barbara Lawrence, wife of recently departed charter Archon Leonard Lawrence, and recognition of Archousa Joan Duncan, wife of charter Archon Joe Duncan, one of the seven women pictured as young Girl Scouts on a mural celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the Girl Scouts in San Antonio.

*Archon William T. Burke III
Grapter, Gamma Phi Boulé*

Gamma Chi Boulé Hosts a Tasty Affair

The Archons and Archousai of Gamma Chi Boulé, San Jose, California, had a very special outing in May 2024 – their Wine Country Experience. In typical Napa Valley style, the weather was accommodating, enhancing an atmosphere of romance and fellowship. The day started in St. Helena, with wine tasting at the exclusive VSG Chateau Potelle Winery, where the staff offered a presentation on the making of their legendary fine wines. After that, in high spirits, everyone eventually retreated to Yountville and the Bottega restaurant, where their fellowship simmered in some of the finest cuisine in the valley. The verdict was unanimous. The Wine Country Experience was very much a tasty affair.

*Archon Leon F. Beauchman
Grapter, Gamma Chi Boulé*



Delta Mu Boulé Archousai 'Sip, Paint & See'



ARCHOUSAI CREATING THEIR MASTERPIECES

The Archousai of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, gathered in the home of Sire Archon Keon Anderson and Archousa Aiyanna on April 21, 2024, for a “Sip, Paint, & See” event, with the purpose of demonstrating their artistic prowess on canvas and getting to know the best of one another. While sampling delicacies and refreshing themselves with the event’s signature fresh spring party punch, the Archousai were challenged to paint portraits symbolic of new beginnings.

The art instructor/entertainer, Aliyah Celeste, guided the Archousai in the creation of their mas-

terpieces. Sounds of neo-soul music enhanced the mood.

As an added bonus, the Archousai met the newest addition to the Delta Mu family – baby Adaora Chiemela Akujuo Johnson, daughter of Archon William Johnson and Archousa Onyinye Akujuo-Johnson. The newborn enjoyed her first boulé outing and helped inspire the theme of the day, which was “Rebirth.”

*Archon William E. Traylor
Grapter, Delta Mu Boulé*

Delta Mu Boulé Archons Enjoy Final Four Festivities



The Archons of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, were graciously hosted again this year by Archon Willie Houston at his personal retreat for the purpose of enjoying food, fun and the Final Four festivities on April 6, 2024. The Archons commiserated their March Madness basketball brackets and sparred with one another about the best teams remaining.

Aside from talking busted brackets and watching several big screens throughout the retreat, the

Archons entertained themselves playing pool, enjoying a catered meal and testing their mixology skills on various beverages. Delta Mu Archons shared the action and this special opportunity to fellowship with Sire Archon Keith Benn of Alpha Epsilon, Dallas, and Grammateus Mark Williams of Zeta Beta, North Dallas.

*Archon William E. Traylor
Grapter, Delta Mu Boulé*

Delta Nu Boulé Marks Twenty-Eighth Anniversary



MEMBERS OF DELTA NU RECEIVE A PROCLAMATION FROM CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION ARCHOUSA CARMEN HUGHES.

Delta Nu Boulé, Fairfield County, Connecticut, celebrated its twenty-eighth anniversary on March 16, 2024, at Blackstones Steakhouse in Greenwich. The Archons gathered with their Archousai to commemorate the occasion by highlighting Delta Nu's many achievements over the years. These include the establishment of the Opportunity Foundation, the raising of more than \$300,000 for scholarships, hosting "Couch Conversation" symposiums that address social-economic issues confronting the African American community, and supporting the

Fairfield County Divine Nine and other civic organizations that make a difference in the county.

Archon Raiford Cockfield delivered an in-depth history of Delta Nu, and on behalf of Mayor Caroline Simmons, a proclamation was delivered to Delta Nu by Archousa Carmen Hughes, director of diversity, equity and inclusion for the City of Stamford.

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

Delta Tau and Psi Boulé Celebrate Race Day at Keeneland

On April 21, 2024, Archons and Archousai of Delta Tau Boulé, Frankfort, and Psi Boulé, Louisville, both in Kentucky, kicked off the spring racing season at the second annual Ed Brown Race Day at the picturesque Keeneland race course in Lexington – Horse Capital of the World. Starting with a mini-brunch at the Keeneland Library, attendees watched the races from the elegant Keeneland Room.

Delta Tau Archons L. Clark Williams and Daryl Love are the Ed Brown Society's president and senior adviser, respectively. The Ed Brown Society partners with iconic equine organizations to celebrate the rich history of African Americans in horse racing and create opportunities for students of color to pursue professional career placement within the Thoroughbred industry.

Archons Williams and Love were joined by Delta Tau Archons James Adams, Randall Dalton, Rodney Jackson and Darryl Thompson and Psi Archons Chris Jones and David Tandy. All were in attendance with their Archousai.

*Archon Timothy A. Johnson
Grapter, Delta Tau Boulé*



ARCHONS CLARK WILLIAMS (DELTA TAU), DARYL LOVE (DELTA TAU), JAMES ADAMS (DELTA TAU), RANDALL DALTON (DELTA TAU), RODNEY JACKSON (DELTA TAU), CHRIS JONES (PSI), DAVID TANDY (PSI) AND DARRYL THOMPSON (DELTA TAU)

Delta Tau Boulé Gathers for Summer Soirée



Delta Tau Boulé, Frankfort, Kentucky, gathered for its annual summer soirée on June 1, 2024, at the stunning home of Archon Rodney Jackson and Archousa Wendy in Lexington, providing a picturesque backdrop for a day filled with exquisite food, lively music, dancing and warm fellowship and setting the stage for an unforgettable gathering.

Guests were greeted with a home-cooked brunch, while the sounds of a live deejay created a joyful atmosphere, beckoning many to the dance floor. The event was not just about the food and music; it was also a time for strengthening bonds and creating lasting memories. Conversations flowed as friends reunited and new connections were made.

As the sun set, casting a warm glow over the Jackson estate, attendees relished the final moments, knowing they had experienced something truly special.

*Archon Timothy A. Johnson
Grapter, Delta Tau Boulé*

Delta Chi Boulé Hosts Winter Gala



Delta Chi Boulé, Orangeburg, South Carolina, hosted its winter gala on February 10, 2024, at the Orangeburg Country Club, at the same time celebrating eighteen years of service and achievement. Grapter W. Franklin Evans presided, and Sire Archon Isaiah McGee, gala chairman, greeted the Archons and Archousai in attendance. The celebration included recognition of the charter members and a memorial ceremony for the deceased charter members. Participating in the gala was special guest

Southeast Region Sire Archon-Elect LeRome C. Richmond of Delta Upsilon Boulé.

The event followed the induction of four new Archons, and the dinner, dancing, fellowship and fun served as a reminder for all in attendance to get to know the best of one another.

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

Epsilon Beta Boulé Gets a Taste of the Napa Valley



The members of Epsilon Beta Boulé, Contra Costa County, California, gathered in the world-renowned Napa Valley on March 9, 2024, to enjoy a slice of heaven at Titus Vineyards near St. Helena.

Archons, Archousai and guests enjoyed a private gathering while getting to know the best of one another at the beautiful vineyard and taking in the mountain views during the coveted mustard season, when the yellow blossoms are most vibrant in the valley.

They were able to taste and toast from the award-winning wine list while enjoying gourmet

cheeses, charcuterie and a perfect pairing of hand-made wood-fired pizzas prepared on-site by Chef John Difilippo of the Culinary Institute of America in Napa and Auberge du Soleil restaurant.

The Titus team welcomed everyone with a tour of their facility and the barrel room, the winemaker recounting the history of the winery and what makes these wines so special.

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

James R. Spencer Speaks at Epsilon Delta Boulé Event

On May 10, 2024, Epsilon Delta Boulé, Williamsburg, Virginia – the 119th member boulé chartered on April 26, 2008 – enjoyed an inspirational address from Archon James R. Spencer, U.S. district judge and longtime member of Alpha Beta Boulé in Richmond.

Archon Spencer, a native of Florence, South Carolina, graduated summa cum laude from Clark College and was an All-American in track and field and tennis. He earned his J.D. at Harvard Law School, graduating cum laude, and his master of divinity degree from Howard University, graduating summa cum laude. He was an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia and for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division, and in 1986 President Ronald Reagan appointed him as the first African American member of the federal bench in Virginia.

Archon Spencer retraced the history of the founding of Sigma Pi Phi, reminding Archons to always uphold the dignity and reputation of our beloved fraternity.

*Archon Roscoe C. Roberts
Grapter, Epsilon Delta Boulé*



ARCHON JAMES R. SPENCER ADDRESSING EPSILON DELTA BOULÉ

Epsilon Zeta Boulé Celebrates Fifteen Years of Brotherhood and Service



EPSILON ZETA CHARTER MEMBERS (APRIL 2009)



EPSILON ZETA MEMBERS (MAY 2024)

Epsilon Zeta Boulé, Loudoun County, Virginia, the 121st member boulé to join Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, was chartered on April 25, 2009. Four Archons from Beta Nu, Northern Virginia, who were instrumental in the birth of the new boulé, transferred into Epsilon Zeta and, along with eleven members who were inducted, became charter Archons.

On May 10, 2024, Epsilon Zeta Boulé celebrated this milestone anniversary, recognizing the charter Archons and highlighting fifteen years of progress. Three charter Archons – Patrick Brown (first Grapter), Roy Brown (third Sire Archon) and Alonzo Fulgham (fourth Sire Archon) – shared their reflections. Charter Archon Leroy Latten, from Beta Nu, who was instrumental in setting Epsilon Zeta apart, discussed the reason and process for establishing the new boulé, and Sire Archon Bernard Mustafa read the proclamation and made a toast. Northeast Region Sire Archon David Tapscott closed the ceremony with an inspiring message about the future.

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

Epsilon Omicron Boulé Hosts Houston Area Smoker



The second annual Houston Area Boulé Smoker, hosted by Epsilon Omicron Boulé, North Houston, Texas, unfolded in style on March 24, 2024. Curated by the esteemed venue host, Archon Terry Williams, the gathering took place at Five Central Houston, a premier Black-owned restaurant and cigar lounge, renowned for its unique offering of five distinct venues within one luxurious location. The atmosphere buzzed with camaraderie and excitement as Archons from Epsilon Omicron, Zeta Alpha and Nu congregated to reconnect and celebrate their bonds as they enjoyed cigars.

The event coincided with March Madness; guests cheered for their favorite teams amidst hearty conversation and laughter. The energy was palpable as old friends reminisced and new connections were forged.

Archon Williams ensured that every detail contributed to an unforgettable experience, and it was clear that the event had succeeded in its mission to bring out the best in one another.

*Archon Calvin G. Hudson
Grapter, Epsilon Omicron Boulé*

Epsilon Tau Boulé Honors Mothers at Founders Day



The Archons and Archousai of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, gathered at the picturesque Wilson Creek Winery in Temecula on May 5, 2024, to celebrate a momentous occasion. The event marked the 120th Founders Day of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity as well as the seventh chartering day of Epsilon Tau, at the same time honoring the Archousai mothers with a special Mother's "May" appreciation brunch.

This joyous celebration offered a wonderful opportunity for members to reconnect, share and fellowship over delicious food and drinks. The program featured a heartfelt Mother's Tribute by Past Sire Archon Thomas Nosakhere, welcoming the Archousai to a day filled with love, laughter and delectable dishes.

The Founders Day portion of the program included a toast to the founding of Sigma Pi Phi offered by Sire Archon-Elect Ancel Rogers, Jr., and a toast to the chartering of Epsilon Tau offered by Archon Philip Murray. Sire Archon Joseph Paulino and Archousa Elsie Paulino warmly welcomed everyone and spoke at the end of the celebration.

Members had been encouraged to don their finest "sundress" and "seersucker" attire, complemented by fascinators and hats, adding to the charm of the occasion.

*Archon Thomas H. Fisher
Grapter, Epsilon Tau Boulé*

Atlanta Area Boulés Get Together in Fellowship



Members of Epsilon Upsilon Boulé, South Atlanta; Kappa Boulé, Atlanta; Delta Epsilon Boulé, Southern New Jersey; and Delta Psi Boulé, Athens, Georgia, came together at No. 18-Atlanta Buckhead conference center on May 15, 2024, for an outstanding evening of fellowship. This was truly an enjoyable

event, led by Archons Jonathon Parris, J. Lett and Clyde Mize. Everyone is looking forward to many more such local events in the days to come.

*Archon Pierre O. Clements
Grapter, Epsilon Upsilon Boulé*

THE REGIONAL BOULÉS



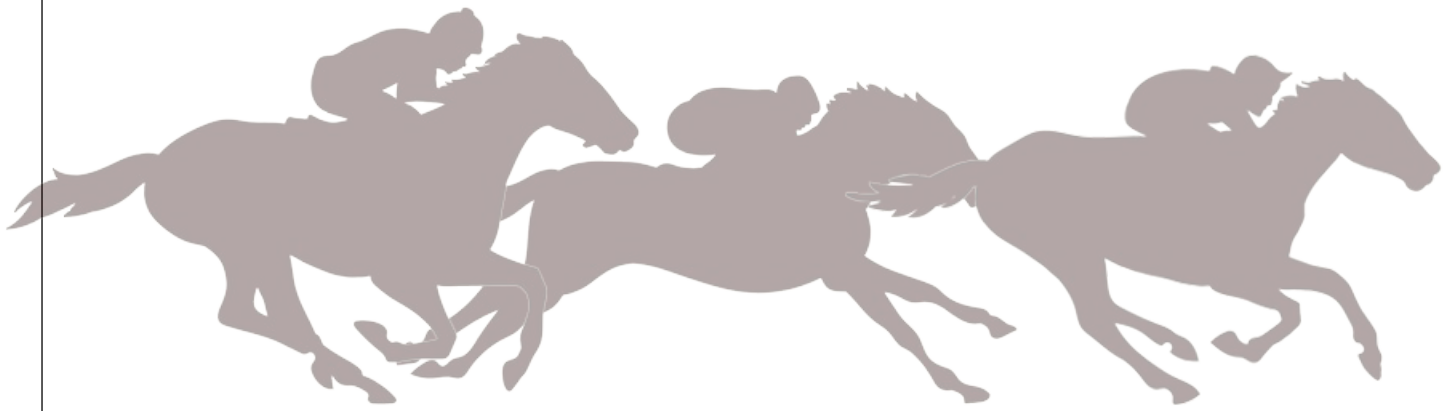
ARCHONS AND ARCHOUSAI JOIN RACING ENTHUSIASTS FOR THE CENTER JEWEL OF THE TRIPLE CROWN



By Archon Timothy A. Johnson, Grapier, Delta Tau Boulé

Wherever excellence and elegance are on display, one should expect to see both the presence and influence of the Archons of Sigma Pi Phi and their Archousai. Such was the case on May 17 and 18, 2024, during the Ed Brown Race Day Weekend at

Preakness 149 in Baltimore, as nine Archons from six member boulés and their Archousai joined a larger group of African American horse owners and equine enthusiasts to witness the center jewel of Thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown.



For the third consecutive year, the Ed Brown Society, in partnership with 1/ST, hosted an Ed Brown Race Day Weekend at Preakness, which started on Friday evening with an extraordinary meet-and-greet dinner at the Oceanaire Seafood Room in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. On Saturday, attendees enjoyed an all-inclusive Preakness experience from the Turfside Terrace at Pimlico Race Course, and that evening the setting shifted to the Canopy in Harbor Point, where guests enjoyed dinner and dancing at the "Ed Brown Supper Club."

The Ed Brown Society, based in Lexington, Kentucky, celebrates the rich history of African Americans in Thoroughbred racing and creates opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students of color to pursue professional careers within the Thoroughbred industry. Its mission builds on the legacy of its namesake, Edward Dudley Brown – a prolific African American jockey, trainer and owner of champion Thoroughbreds during the latter nineteenth century.

Delta Tau Archon L. Clark Williams is president of the Ed Brown Society, which he cofounded with the organization's chairman, Greg Harbut, in 2020. Northeast Region Sire Archon–Elect Gregg Walker became affiliated with the Ed Brown Society through

his participation in a Thoroughbred ownership group with Archon Williams and a number of others, which is managed by Harbut – an accomplished third-generation horseman who co-owned a horse that ran in the 2020 Kentucky Derby.

In 2022 Archons Williams and Walker both recognized that Ed Brown Race Days could offer Archons and Archousai a consistent Boulé-quality experience that would further the objective of getting to know the best of one another. To that end, as Northeast Region Sire Archon–Elect, Archon Walker has been working with Archon Williams, the Northeast Region and the Grand Boulé to promote Ed Brown Race Days throughout Sigma Pi Phi.

For this year's Preakness Weekend, Archon Williams and his Archousa, Jennifer Williams, were joined by Archons Walker, Trent Williams (Gamma Sire Archon), Branville Bard (Gamma), Lee Bruner (Gamma Delta), Aaron Davis (Delta Epsilon), Larry Johnson (Gamma), Tony Torain (Gamma) and Charles Worrell (Zeta Gamma). Archons Williams and Walker are encouraging Archons from the Northeast Region and beyond to mark their calendars for the Ed Brown Race Day Weekend at Preakness 150, which will take place on May 16-17, 2025.



IN MEMORIAM



Allard A. Allston III

Archon Allard A. “Al” Allston III, 79, of Alpha Iota Boulé, Columbia, South Carolina, departed this life on April 30, 2024. Born in Charleston on April 21, 1945, to Allard A. Allston, Jr., and Anita L. Wells, he was raised in Darlington. After graduating as valedictorian of Mayo High School, he earned his undergraduate degree in political science and history at Yale University, where he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and earned his J.D. at Duke University. He was inducted into Sigma Pi Phi in 1999 and served as Alpha Iota Sire Archon-Elect, Sire Archon and Immediate Past Sire Archon from 2002 to 2008.

Archon Allston’s life work revolved around issues pertaining to civil rights, community development and economic empowerment, as he held several positions that assisted in these endeavors, including assistant director of the South Carolina Council on Human Relations, director of the Foundation for Community Development in North Carolina and cofounder of United Durham, Inc.

He met his future wife, Archousa Lynette P. Lewis, in Durham, and after they married, they moved to Columbia. Archon Allston began

Continued on page 201



Nancy M.S. Anderson

Having left an indelible mark as an educator, school psychologist, special education consultant and principal, Archousa Nancy Marie Shade Anderson, 79, of Delta Beta Boulé, Greenville, South Carolina, passed away on March 13, 2024. Born in Baltimore to Robert and Flora Shade and reared amidst the lively shores of Atlantic City, New Jersey, she graduated from Atlantic City High School and embarked on a journey south, graduating with a B.A. from Bennett College and a master’s degree in education from Clemson University, with further postgraduate studies at Furman University and Converse College.

In Greenville, while cultivating a beautiful life alongside her beloved husband of fifty-four years, the late Archon Robert “Mike” Anderson III, Archousa Anderson devoted her passion and expertise to the Greenville County School District for more than thirty years.

A forty-year member and lector at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, she was also engaged with numerous civic and social organizations beyond her professional endeavors, including Jack and Jill of America, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Girl Friends, Inc., and The Links, serving proudly as its

Continued on page 201



Faye Williams Barksdale

Archousa Faye Williams Barksdale, 82, of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, passed away on November 12, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. Born on February 15, 1941, she graduated from I.M. Terrell High School in Fort Worth in 1959 and attended North Texas State College.

She was married to the love of her life, Archon Maurice Barksdale, for more than sixty-seven years, and their union witnessed countless personal and professional achievements and successes, taking them and their young family across the country as they built their careers. Archousa Barksdale supported her husband as he served in the U.S. Navy in San Diego as well as in New York, where he built his mortgage banking career on Wall Street; in Atlanta, where he was an executive officer for Citizens Trust Bank; and in Washington, D.C., where he became commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration.

Her career began with American Airlines in 1964, and after retiring in 2002, she went on to become a Fort Worth business owner and entrepreneur. She and her husband built the Fort Worth–

Continued on page 202



Natalie Stimpson Byers

A strong advocate of education, Archousa Natalie Stimpson Byers of Alpha Psi Boulé, Hartford, Connecticut, entered into eternal rest with the Lord on April 14, 2024, surrounded by her loving husband, Archon Clarence Byers, and her son, Miles Byers.

A native of The Bronx, New York, she attended Columbus High School, earned her B.A. at American International College in 1975 and later earned a master's degree in counseling from Montclair State College.

She developed an interest in music and fashion at an early age, and she loved spending time with her father, mother, and brothers Mike and Roy. A true lover of music, she excelled at several instruments, yet it was her deep love and passion for people that truly defined her character and touched the lives of all who knew her.

Archousa Byers lived in Middletown, Connecticut, with her husband for thirty-one years. She was hired as director of affirmative action at Central Connecticut State University and later devoted much of her effort in working to enrich the lives of individuals who have disabilities.

She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and The Links, Inc., volunteer service organizations dedicated to improving the lives of others, and as an active member of

Continued on page 202



Samuel Daniel Ewing, Jr.

Archon Samuel Daniel Ewing, Jr., of Epsilon Boulé, Washington, D.C., transitioned to Omega Boulé on April 5, 2024, at home, with his wife, his sister and his caregiver, Carol Crews, at his bedside.

Born in Topeka, Kansas, the eldest of three children of Samuel D. Ewing, Sr., and Jane Elizabeth Smith Ewing, he graduated from Dunbar High School in Dayton, earned a B.S. in electrical engineering at the University of Cincinnati and later earned an M.S.E.E. in electrical engineering from the University of Connecticut and an M.B.A. from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He completed additional graduate work in engineering at Wayne State University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

During the early years of his career he was employed as an engineer at the Bendix Corp. and Norden Laboratories, a division of United Technologies' Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, Massachusetts, and later served as a consultant to the laboratory.

Upon graduating from Harvard, he moved to New York City to join Gruss and Company as a stock analyst and registered representative. He later joined Salomon Brothers, a New York investment banking firm, before becoming vice president and director of

Continued on page 202



Alpheus A. Finlayson

A prominent track-and-field advocate, broadcaster and writer who was admired and loved by everybody who knew him, Archon Alpheus "Hawk" Alexander Finlayson, 76, of Delta Lambda Boulé, Nassau, Bahamas, a resident of Cable Beach, passed away peacefully at the Princess Margaret Hospital on September 22, 2023.

Born in Nassau to Alpheus Finlayson, Sr., and Diana Finlayson on August 24, 1947, he attended Eastern Junior and Senior School and was a standout track-and-field athlete at Saint Augustine's College, an all-boy's institution, where he was a coeditor of its yearbook, *The Beacon*, before matriculating at St. John's University, where he was cocaptain of the track team.

Called the "Insurance Man," Archon Finlayson began his career with Imperial Life Assurance after stints as a statistician at the recently formed Nassau Department of Statistics in 1970 as well as at Thorne Riddell accounting firm and IBM and Burroughs corporations in Nassau. He qualified for the industry's prestigious Million Dollar Round Table for the first time in 1982 and subsequently qualified five consecutive times, making him a life member, and he served at one time as vice president of the Life Underwriters Association of the Bahamas.

Continued on page 202



Dawn Iris Finlayson

Archousa Dawn Iris Finlayson, 71, of Delta Lambda Boulé, Nassau, Bahamas, a resident of Cable Beach, passed away peacefully at the Princess Margaret Hospital on September 7, 2023.

The daughter of Glenville Rolle, Sr., and Joan Rolle, she was the beloved wife of Archon Alpheus Finlayson, who passed away only weeks after she died. They had a blissful marriage for forty-three years, traveling the world together, socializing and, yes, dancing. Their special romance never wavered, and Archon Finlayson cared for her with devotion when she became ill.

Archousa Finlayson is survived by her daughter, Alexis Hanna; her son-in-law, Khalid Hanna; grandchildren Shandia Finlayson, Ebony Howell, Nasir Hanna, Sadiq Hanna, Selah Hanna and Noah Hanna; great-grandchildren Ki'Yah Major, Malachi Finlayson and Eva Howell; her sister, Glenalee Strachan; nieces and nephews Diana Wimbish, Douglas Wimbish, Victor Wimbish, Michael Wimbish, Oscar Finlayson, Laurena Finlayson, Kwame Finlayson, Misty Strachan, Kentrell Strachan and Kyle Strachan; grandnieces and nephews Chino Ferguson, Kirsten Campbell, Nathan Lewis and Kayden Strachan; cousins Donna Miller, Corlis Miller, Sylvia Miller and Jackson

Continued on page 203



Donald Horace Godbold

An educator extraordinaire, Archon Donald Horace Godbold, 95, of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland-Berkeley, California, who served as Sire Archon in the 1980s, passed away on May 25, 2024. Born on October 3, 1928, in his family home in Detroit, he graduated with honors from Northwestern High School, where he'd been vice president of his graduating class and an outstanding athlete (team captain in football and track). At Wayne State University, where he continued to excel academically and athletically, he became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, graduating in 1950 with a B.S. in special education.

Drafted into the U.S. Army in February 1951, he was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and shortly thereafter being honorably discharged, he married the love of his life, Archousa Delores Godbold, on April 5, 1953. They celebrated seventy-one years of marriage this year, 2024.

Archon Godbold, armed with GI Bill benefits, returned to Wayne State University, earning a master's degree (M.Ed.) in educational counseling while working full-time as a teacher in the Detroit Public School System (DPSS), and he also earned a teaching certificate as an educational specialist. He excelled as a classroom teacher, gaining recognition within the

Continued on page 203



William H. Harris

A man of many gifts, talents and accomplishments, Past Sire Archon William H. Harris, 79, of Epsilon Mu Boulé, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, transitioned to Omega Boulé on April 19, 2024. He was born in Fitzgerald, Georgia, on July 22, 1944, the second of six children of Robert L. Harris, Sr., and Sallie Graham Harris. He served in a number of capacities in Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity: Grand Historian; chair of the Education Committee; member of the Centennial Committee and the Centennial Book Committee; and Epsilon Mu Sire Archon from 2020 to 2022.

Two important events took place in his life in 1966. He received his bachelor's degree from Paine College, and he married the love of his life, Wanda Marie Fillmore. She remained by his side, helping and supporting him throughout their fifty-seven-year marriage. He went on to receive his master's and doctorate degrees in 1967 and 1973 from Indiana University.

Compassionate, with a love for young people and a true passion for influencing students, Archon Harris began his illustrious career as an assistant professor of history at Indiana University, later becoming full professor, concomitantly serving as associate dean of the graduate school and founding director of the Minority Fel-

Continued on page 203



Verona Mae P. Hughes

A beautiful, gentle soul who touched the lives of many people and was widely recognized as a leader in the early childhood community, Archousa Verona Mae Plummer Hughes, 76, of Theta Boulé, Kansas City, Missouri, passed away peacefully on April 17, 2024, at Brookdale Shawnee senior living home. She was born in Kansas City, Kansas, on July 13, 1947, the middle child of Louis Henry Plummer, an attorney, and Verona Mae Plummer. Her older brother, Louis, and her sister, Cheryl, affectionately called her “Tootsie.”

She attended public schools, graduated from Sumner High School in 1965 and went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in speech pathology and an M.S. in education and special education from the University of Kansas, where she was also blessed to meet her future husband, Archon Robert Lee Hughes, Jr. The couple married on May 31, 1969, at her home church, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church. Archousa Hughes kept very busy supporting their three daughters, who participated in competitive sports and other activities, and she and her husband enjoyed traveling with friends, being active in the community and church, and spending time with family.

She pursued a career as an early childhood educator, child advo-

Continued on page 204



Barbara Orange Jones

A woman of grace, intelligence and immense dedication to her family and community, Archousa Barbara Orange Jones, 94, of Theta Boulé, Kansas City, Missouri, passed away on May 31, 2024, at Brookdale Rosehill in Shawnee, Kansas. Born in Chicago on May 2, 1930, to Grady and Ruth McKinney Orange, she was raised in Louisiana, where she attended Gilbert Academy in New Orleans, graduating in 1946. After earning her degree in English at Fisk University in Nashville in 1950, she began her professional career as a secretary at the Universal Life Insurance Company.

Also in 1950, in Alexandria, Louisiana, she married the late Archon Herman Harvey Jones, a trailblazing surgeon who passed away in 2020. Their marriage epitomized mutual love, respect and a shared joy of traveling to countries around the world. They built a life rich in experience and contributions to their communities.

Throughout her life Archousa Jones was deeply involved in charitable organizations, holding significant positions. She was an active member of the Kaw Valley Medical Society Auxiliary and Club Impromptu, as well as a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She served as secretary of the Kaw Valley Arts Council and Community General Hospital,

Continued on page 204



William A. Lawson, Jr.

On May 14, 2024, Archon William Alexander Lawson, Jr., of Nu Boulé, Houston, Texas, returned to his heavenly Father, who loaned him to the world for almost ninety-six years. God gifted the world with Archon Lawson on June 28, 1928, in St. Louis, to parents Clarisse Riggs Lawson and William Alexander Lawson, Sr. Affectionately called “Billy,” the curious youngster was a gifted student with pencil and pen, intrigued by the colorful strokes of art he could create. Much like Moses, he spoke with a terrible stutter during his years in secondary school.

When his father wanted to return to Mississippi, his young wife chose to stay in St. Louis. She was a light-skinned woman and did not believe she would do well in the Deep South. The couple divorced, and young Billy and his mother relocated to Kansas City, Missouri, where she met and married a strong Christian, Deacon Walter Cade, Sr. Her 12-year-old son Billy saw his stepdad as a role model who was regularly in church and taught him important life lessons, including a work ethic, and tithing. The blended family included two children from Walter’s previous marriage: Walter, Jr., and Catherine, and the family adopted a fourth child, Joseph Williams. They attended Eighth Street Baptist Church under Pastor I.H.

Continued on page 205



Sherwood C. Lewis

A kind, humble, gentle man of great intellect, achievement and compassion, the last living charter member of Alpha Psi Boulé, Hartford, Connecticut, Archon Sherwood “Woody” C. Lewis, 92, passed away peacefully on February 27, 2024, surrounded by family members at his home in Bloomfield, Connecticut.

Born on November 7, 1931, in Derby, Connecticut, to Isaac Lewis and Hazel Johnson Lewis, he excelled academically from a young age, graduating with honors from Derby High School’s class of 1949. He went on to pursue his higher education at the University of Connecticut, where he received a B.A. in bacteriology with honors in 1953. During his time at university, he participated in the ROTC and after graduation was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He served his country honorably, deploying to Japan and Korea, and was discharged as a first lieutenant in 1955.

Archon Lewis earned a master of science degree in microbiology from the University of Connecticut in 1958, followed by a Ph.D. in molecular biology from Brandeis University in 1963. He was one of the first African American students at Brandeis to receive a doctoral degree.

His professional life was marked by dedication and excellence as he

Continued on page 205



Henry W. McGee, Jr.

After a long, distinguished career as a law professor, civil rights activist and housing advocate, Archon Henry “Hank” Wadsworth McGee, Jr., 91, of Alpha Omicron Boulé, Seattle, transitioned to Omega Boulé on March 17, 2024, passing away peacefully at home. Born in Chicago on December 31, 1932, to Henry W. McGee, Sr., the city’s first Black postmaster, and Attye Belle Truesdale McGee, he graduated from Northwestern University in 1954 with a B.S. in journalism and in 1957 earned his law degree from DePaul University, where he was editor in chief of the *Law Review*.

Following graduation, he worked as a government prosecutor, a private litigator and a regional director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity Legal Services Program. In the summer of 1964, as a National Lawyers Guild volunteer, he traveled to Mississippi to defend Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee members who’d been arrested for helping to register Black voters.

After earning a master of laws degree from Columbia University in 1969, he embarked on a storied career as a professor of law at the University of California at Los Angeles, and for decades he spent some semesters teaching in England, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa. In 1994 he moved to Seattle as a professor at

Continued on page 206



Sandra Hall Morris

A visionary who enthusiastically embraced humankind, offering her time, talents and resources, Archousa Sandra Hall Morris, 71, of Delta Boulé, Memphis, died on May 9, 2024. She was born on February 18, 1953, at Scotts Air Force Base in Illinois, the eldest of three children of Titus C. Hall, Sr., and Clarissa E. Hall, both graduates of Tuskegee University who were married on their college graduation day.

While Archousa Morris’s father was in military service, her family was stationed on bases in Tokyo; Tucson, Arizona; Kodiak, Alaska; and Los Angeles, Dayton, San Antonio and Denver, and she took on sisterly responsibilities for her younger sister and brother at an early age. She and her family also found themselves in the unique position of integrating schools, neighborhoods and organizations, most memorably integrating Kodiak High School on Kodiak Island in Alaska and Beverly Hills High School in California. In the process, she and her siblings learned to live by the values of family, cultural diversity, education and the joys of friendship. She also made history by becoming the first African American woman to integrate Junior League organizations in both Nashville and Dayton.

After graduating from Howard University with a B.S. in psychology and earning an M.B.A. from

Continued on page 206



Jerry Parnel Parker

Archon Jerry Parnel Parker, 80, of Gamma Omicron Boulé, Tampa Bay, Florida, transitioned to Omega Boulé on February 23, 2024. Roscoe and AnnieBell Parker welcomed their firstborn son on March 1, 1943, in West Blocton, Alabama. Archon Parker, affectionately called “Butch,” moved with the family to Cleveland in the late 1940s. He attended Cleveland Public Schools and graduated from Glenville High School. He went on to attend Bowling Green State University. At BGSU, Archon Parker met the love of his life, Patricia Wall. A busy year for him, 1965 saw Archon Parker graduate from BGSU and marry Archousa Patricia Wall-Parker. Five years later Archon Parker went on to graduate from the Cleveland State University College of Law.

Archon Parker enjoyed a successful career as a tax attorney, working for the East Ohio Gas Co., Ernst & Young, Sears, Eaton, and General Motors. These career opportunities afforded him and Archousa Wall-Parker the chance to live in Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit, where they developed lifelong friendships.

When he wasn’t working, Archon Parker spent his time golfing every Saturday and Sunday, playing cards every Friday, spending time with his family, and traveling. Archon Parker belonged to

Continued on page 207



Famebridge F.C. Payne

Educator and businesswoman, Archousa Famebridge Frances Cunningham Payne, 90, of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, transitioned to eternal rest on May 18, 2024. Born in Richmond on July 24, 1933, to Katherine Banks Cunningham, a domestic, and Charles Cunningham, a train porter, she graduated from Armstrong High School in 1950 and earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Virginia State University in 1954. She began working as a schoolteacher in Richmond and later studied at the University of Pennsylvania.

Archousa Payne met her future husband, fellow Richmond educator, the late Archon Osborne Payne, in 1960, during an education conference in New York City, when he surrendered his seat to her on a crowded bus. They married on March 18, 1961, at her family church, First African Baptist in Richmond.

Their first child, Famebridge Sannequille, was born the following year. Soon after, the family moved to Liberia, West Africa, where Archon Payne served as educational adviser for the U.S. Agency for International Development. In 1963, their daughter Sarita Sinyea was born in Liberia. Archousa Payne later supported her husband and assisted with the physical education program at Liberia’s Cuttington College, where

Continued on page 207



Olga A. Markham Pierre

Following a lengthy battle with pancreatic cancer, Archousa Olga Agnes Markham Pierre, 83, of Alpha Alpha Boulé, New Orleans, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2024, at the home she and her husband shared in Washington, D.C.

Born on April 19, 1940, in Chicago, the third of four children and the only daughter of Clarence and Olga Markham, she spent her childhood in a middle-class neighborhood on Chicago’s South Side. Her father was a Pullman porter, her mother a city employee as well as a precinct captain for the local Democratic Party. Archousa Pierre attended Chicago public schools, graduating from Morgan Park High School in 1958, and subsequently enrolled in the National Teachers College in Evanston, graduating in 1962 with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education.

While a student at college, she met her future husband, Percy Pierre, whose hometown was New Orleans. He had just earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Notre Dame and was about to start work toward a graduate degree. After graduating from college, Olga moved to Los Angeles, began teaching and took some time to travel the world. After a few years of courtship, she and Percy were married on August 8, 1965, in Chicago. They subsequently

Continued on page 207



Thomas L. Walker

Kind, positive, helpful and hopeful every single day, a man who appreciated every moment of life, Archon Thomas L. Walker, 66, a charter member of Epsilon Zeta Boulé, Loudoun County, Virginia, passed away on May 9, 2024. Born on May 11, 1957, in Gary, Indiana, he graduated from Fort Hunt High School in Alexandria, Virginia, and attended Hampton (Institute) University, graduating with a B.S. in finance. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Finance Corps, he later earned an M.B.A. from Florida Institute of Technology. His military service included assignments across the United States and in Belgium and Germany.

After retirement from active duty, he worked in the family business, Logistics Applications, Inc., and later pursued a career in business development. He loved teaching and was an adjunct professor for more than thirty years at the University of Maryland Global Campus, having a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of students over the years.

An active and proud life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., he was the fifteenth Polemarch (president) of the Alexandria-Fairfax Alumni Chapter, where he gave his time and talents to organizations that had a philanthropic and service focus. He was a connecting

Continued on page 208



Bernastein Caffee Winston

Leaving a mountain-size void that cannot be filled except with the lessons she left behind, Archousa Bernastein “Bernie” Caffee Winston, 58, of Theta Boulé, Kansas City, Missouri, entered into her eternal reward on May 15, 2024, surrounded by her devoted and loving family. Born in Pittsburgh to William and Lavonne Caffee in February 1966, she graduated from Newark High School in Newark, Delaware, where she was an accomplished track star, cheerleader and homecoming queen. She came to faith as a child and was baptized at Pilgrim Baptist Church, where she was a member of the youth choir.

Archousa Winston earned a B.S. in management at Goldey-Beacom College and a master’s in education (M.S. Ed.) at Newman University. Her career spanned various corporate roles, including software project manager at Navidec, Inc., and senior business consultant/analyst at Equifax in Atlanta.

After marrying Archon Richard Winston, Jr., she dedicated herself to enhancing each community where they lived. From Highlands Ranch, Colorado, to Downingtown, Pennsylvania, to Leesburg, Virginia, to Wichita and Leawood, Kansas, she engaged with community leaders in friendly, respectful, forward-thinking ways to improve the quality of life for all. Her work

Continued on page 208

Allard A. Allston III, continued

his law practice in 1987 with Ness, Motley, Loadholt, Richardson & Poole, LLC, and later with Motley Rice, LLC.

Owing to health concerns, he retired from his law practice and moved to Drewryville, Virginia, to live on Archousa Allston’s family farm. While there, he became an associate member and served as corporate counsel to the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, of which Archousa Allston is chief.

He is survived by the love of his life, Archousa Lynette P. Allston; sons Archon Adam (Sheelagh) Allston and Teague Allston; grandchildren Ayden Allston and Chase Allston; sisters Linda Shaw and Carolyn (Edward) Wright-Lewis; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Nancy Marie Shade Anderson, continued

fifteenth southern area director, leaving a legacy of extraordinary leadership and unwavering dedication to service and friendship.

She is survived by her three children, Robert W. Anderson IV, Colin W. (Allison) Anderson and Whitney A. (Damian) Pryor; five grandchildren: Wells Anderson, Miles Stribling-Anderson, Austen Pryor, Harper Anderson and Anderson Pryor; and a host of extended family members and dear friends. She was the last surviving member of her immediate family.

Archousa Anderson’s legacy will endure through the countless lives she touched, the hearts she inspired and the communities she enriched. Her spirit will forever remain a guiding light for all who were privileged to know her.

Faye Williams Barksdale, continued

based HMB Development Corp., a mortgage banking and property management company that spanned more than forty years. They owned and operated several commercial and residential properties, including one of the largest multifamily apartment complexes in the country. She also owned and operated Brian's Hair design and HMB Travel Agency, known for its many travel and fashion shows held in the 1970s at the Aquarium Supper Club – located on the historic Evans Avenue. Her passions for community and people were deep and proven.

Archousa Barksdale was a mentor to nearly everyone she knew, and she sponsored the first Miss Black Teenage America pageant for local teenagers in Fort Worth in 1971, which advanced the local Texas winner to the overall national title in its inaugural year.

Recently recognized and inducted into the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, she was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the State of Texas Judicial Review Board, and she was a charter member of the Greater Fort Worth Area Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, a platinum member of The Links, Inc., (Mid-Cities Texas Chapter), a member of the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex Chapter of The Chums, Inc., and a member of Morningside United Methodist Church.

Natalie Stimpson Byers, continued

the First Cathedral of Bloomfield, Connecticut, she continuously demonstrated and shared her love for God via gentle acts of kindness, especially when they were least expected.

She traveled the world extensively and always looked forward to spending time with her chil-

dren, grandchildren and extended family members. The very embodiment of kindness and God's love, she lived life to its fullest.

Samuel Daniel Ewing, Jr., continued

private placements at Bankers Trust Company in New York.

During the Carter administration he served as director of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation in Washington, D.C., and then became the founding president of Broadcast Capital Fund, Inc., a venture capital firm, for a brief period.

In 1981 he formed Ewing Capital, Inc., where he developed the Market Monitor investment management system and designed a proprietary computerized software system to analyze stocks, used in conjunction with commercially available computerized systems to provide financial and statistical data for publication and investment purposes.

In Washington, D.C., Archon Ewing met his future bride, Archousa Brenda Ewing, whom he married at Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ on June 29, 1985. He was active in Peoples Church, serving on the scholarship committee, the board of trustees, the church council and the diaconate board. He also served on the UCC Pension Board in New York and at UCC-affiliated Huston-Tillotson College in Houston, Texas.

He was a board member for the University of Connecticut, which honored him with the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award for outstanding accomplishments in the field of business management and engineering. He was also a member of the Academy of Distinguished Engineers at UConn and was inducted into the University of Connecticut Hall of Fame, which honors alumni for outstanding contributions to engineering

technology, innovation, education and outreach.

Aside from business, Archon Ewing nurtured other interests, including tennis, table tennis, golf, photography and poetry.

He is survived by his wife of thirty-nine years, Archousa Brenda Ewing; his sister, Joan E. Thomas; nephews Leonard Thomas, Gregory Ewing II and Jeffrey Ewing; his sister-in-law, Janice S. Ewing; goddaughters Aleya Johnson, Paris Lane and Paige Lane; and godson Preston Lane. He was predeceased by his brother, Gregory Ewing.

Alpheus Alexander Finlayson, continued

His name will forever be associated with the Bahamian tradition of excellence on the track. He served as president of the Bahamas Amateur Athletics Association from 1989 to 1997, and under his watch, the Bahamas became a track-and-field powerhouse, winning its first Olympic medals in the sport and three World Championships.

He also represented the Bahamas on the global stage, as vice president of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletic Association, and he made history when he became the first Bahamian elected to the twenty-seven-member council of the IAAF, the international governing body of World Athletics.

Inducted into the National Sports Hall of Fame, he also bears the distinction of being the only Bahamian to attend every IAAF World Championship, from Helsinki in 1983 to London in 2017.

A prolific writer, he was the author of *From Vancouver to Athens: Fifty Years of Bahamian International Track & Field Competition*, and he wrote weekly columns on Track World in *The Tribune* from 1980 to 1986, produced a television show on ZNS TV, *Track World with Alpheus Fin-*

layson, and wrote international newsletters with the same name. Since February 2013 he also hosted a weekly radio show on Guardian Radio 96.9 FM.

His beloved wife of forty-three years, Archousa Dawn Iris Finlayson, passed away just weeks before his demise. He was also predeceased by his sons, Levaugn Finlayson and Wayne Finlayson.

He is survived by his daughter, Alexis (Khalid) Hanna; grandchildren Shandia Finlayson, Ebony Howell, Nasir Hanna, Sadiq Hanna, Selah Hanna and Noah Hanna; great-grandchildren Ki'Yah Major, Malachi Finlayson and Eva Howell; brothers Roosevelt Finlayson and Spence Finlayson; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Dawn Iris Finlayson, continued

Miller, Jr.; and her aunt, Althea Johnson.

She was predeceased by her sons, Levaugn Finlayson and Wayne Finlayson.

Donald Horace Godbold, continued

system and subsequently going through the arduous selection process to become one of the first Black administrators in the DPSS.

With an intense desire to embrace personal challenges, Archon Godbold decided he wanted to further his education, and in 1963 he entered the doctoral program at the University of Michigan, earning a doctorate in educational guidance and counseling in 1967. While at U of M he was selected as a Clifford Woody Memorial Scholar, and he was the only Black individual to receive a Ph.D. in education that year. As an alum, he received the Leonard F. Saine Esteemed Black Alumnus Award from the U of M Black Alumni Association.

He obtained his first position in the community college higher education system, initially applying for a teaching position, but his administrative abilities were recognized and he accepted the position of dean of students at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College. Within eighteen months he was named provost and CEO.

His reputation as an effective administrator became known nationally, and in July 1970, at the age of 41, he moved to Denver, becoming the founding president and chief executive officer of the Auraria campus of the Community College of Denver. Under his leadership the student population grew from 1,000 to 3,000, numerous faculty and staff were hired and many innovative learning programs were developed. During this time Archon Godbold became leader of the Black caucus of the American Association of Junior Colleges. He led the Auraria community college for three years before accepting a position as president of Merritt College, part of the Peralta Community College District in the East Bay Area of Northern California.

He also founded and was the first president of the National Council on Black American Affairs, which represented the growing number of Black community college administrative leaders. In 1977 he was appointed by the Peralta board of trustees to be the district vice chancellor of educational services, and in 1980 he was named chancellor – the district's first Black chancellor and one of the first Black chancellors of a community college district in the nation. He held the position for seven and a half years, until February 1988.

After leaving the Peralta Community College District, Archon Godbold became executive director of the Scotlan Youth and Family Center in West Oakland, a community-based nonprofit that

provided emergency counseling for young people up to 18 years of age who had entered the juvenile judicial system. He held this position for ten years before retiring.

While he was in his eighties, to keep busy and keep his mind active, he was a part-time faculty member at Merritt College, where he taught a class in sociology for several years. He also served on the highly ranked Children's Hospital Oakland board of directors for two decades and was very active with the Oakland-based men's enrichment organization Brother to Brother.

In addition to authoring numerous academic and scholarly publications during his career, he wrote two books in his retirement: *A Career in Community College Administration* (2013) and *Still Waters Run Deep, Family—A Life Story* (2017). His circle of influence had a far reach, and many have identified him as a significant figure in their personal and professional lives. Until the end of his life, he continued to have a positive impact and influence on his community at large.

Archon Godbold is survived by his wife, Archousa Delores R. Godbold; his children Michelle Godbold, Archon Donald Terrence Juan (Effie) Godbold, Monique Godbold (Mark) Sanchez and Darwyn (Elaine) Godbold; his godson, David Lautaro; and a host of other family members and friends.

William H. Harris, continued

lowship Program of the Council of Independent Colleges. He inspired his students to be the best they could be, demanding excellence from each of them. In 1977 he was a Fulbright professor and visiting professor of history at the University of Hamburg in Germany.

One of the youngest college presidents ever appointed, Archon Harris led Paine College from 1982

to 1988 and subsequently became president of Texas Southern University (1988–93) and of Alabama State University (1994–2000). He entered retirement in 2000, but he left retirement in 2005–06 to serve as interim president of Fort Valley State University and, in 2008, Texas College. Later that year he returned to Alabama State as interim president and began a second term as president in 2009, engendering significant investment in facilities and programs that completed the transformation of ASU from a teachers college to a comprehensive regional university with four degrees at the doctorate level. In 2012 the board of trustees conferred the title president emeritus upon him.

Giving his time freely, he participated and headed the boards of many organizations: vice chairman and chairman of Education Testing Service; chairman of the United Negro College Fund; and a member of the board of directors of Texas Commerce Bank, the Houston Symphony and the American Council on Education. The city of Montgomery, Alabama, named a street in his honor, “Harris Way,” in 2012.

Widely recognized, he was named a Distinguished Son of Fitzgerald, Georgia, his birthplace, during the city’s centennial celebration, and he received the Paine College Alumni Association Charles G. Gomillion Award, an honorary doctorate of letters and laws from Paine College, a doctorate of humanities from Tuskegee University and Indiana University’s Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the highest honor an alumnus can receive from the university.

A committed scholar, Archon Harris was the author of numerous academic articles and two scholarly books.

Endearing memories of him will continue to be cherished by his wife, Archousa Wanda Fillmore Harris; his daughter, Cynthia

Harris; his son, William James (Ginia) Harris; grandchildren William James Harris, Jr., and Kennedy Alexis Yvonne Harris; his sisters, Gladys Ann Gary and Mary Faye Reese; his brother, Clarence Harris; and many extended family members and friends.

Verona Mae Plummer Hughes, continued

cate and grant writer for education programs in the Kansas City community. She started as a speech pathologist in the Kansas City Public School system and worked at Juniper Gardens Children’s Project before joining KCMC Child Development Corp. in 1989, and during the next fifteen years with the company she served in various roles, including Head Start program director and interim agency director, leading the agency’s commitment to providing quality early childhood programming for families. After KCMC she worked at Communities in Schools and as a consultant to Head Start programs across Kansas and Missouri.

During her tenured career, she was a member of the Council for Exceptional Children, the National Head Start Association, the National Black Child Development Institute, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Missouri Child Care and Education Association.

Archousa Hughes and her family attended St. Paul AME Zion Church, where she sang in the church choir and the Community Gospel Choir. She was a loyal member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Jack and Jill of America, Inc., as well as an active member of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of The Links, Inc., where she served on multiple committees, including services to youth and scholarship, eventually being elected for a term as chapter president. When she wasn’t busy with work or her community and philanthropic commitments, you

could find her visiting with family and friends, doing crafts, shopping, and dining out, especially at her favorite Mexican restaurants.

To know Verona was to know of her compassion and grace. Her memory will be forever cherished by her husband of fifty-four years, Archon Robert Lee Hughes, Jr.; her three daughters: Megan Hughes (Trevor) Allison and the twins Leigh K. Hughes and Courtney Hughes (Derrick) Phelps; grandchildren McCall, Declan and Kiersten; her sister, Cheryl Plummer (Joseph) Snorgrass; her niece, Teri Plummer (Roderick) McClure; her nephew, Joseph L. Snorgrass; her special sister Elma Golston; a special friend Nadine Johnson; and a host of other friends and family. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Louis Henry Plummer, Jr.

Barbara Orange Jones, continued

president of the Wyandotte County Medical Society Auxiliary, and chairman of International Health. Additionally, she contributed her time and expertise to the Providence St. Margaret Health Center Auxiliary as a board member and played a pivotal role in the Community Council for United Way as vice president and chairman.

Her commitment to the betterment of her community extended beyond health care and social services. She was a devoted board member of the Boys Club of Kansas City, Kansas, the Women’s Division of the Kansas City Philharmonic Young Audiences, and the Friends of the Philharmonic of Kansas City, Kansas. Her passion for the arts and education was also evident through her service on the national advisory board of the Professional Children’s School in New York City, where she championed the cause of young, talented individuals.

She is survived by her children, Herman H. (Connie) Jones III,

Dwayne E. (Lisa) Jones, Pamela Denise Jones and Donna E. Jones (Claudio) Badocchi; and her cherished grandchildren: Kimberly Jones, Arianna Badocchi, Camilla Badocchi, Vincent Jones, Spencer Jones, Paige Jones and Julian Jones. Her legacy lives on through her loving family.

William Alexander Lawson, Jr., continued

Henderson, and the children were active in Sunday school, the Baptist Young People's Union and other church programs.

Archon Lawson attended Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State College in Nashville, earning a bachelor of arts in sociology. Upon graduation he returned to Kansas City to attend Central Baptist Theological Seminary, earning his bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees. Archon Lawson received honorary doctorates from Howard Payne College, the University of Houston and Texas Southern University.

Archon Lawson is the author of *Lawson's Leaves of Love*, a book of 366 daily meditations selected from twenty-five years of church programs. Thousands of items from Archon Lawson's collection of family and church photos, papers, videos, and teaching material from his Texas Southern University, University of Houston and Rice University classes (1955–2001) are archived in the Woodson Research Center at Rice University.

Rice University honored Archon Lawson with the dedication of a live oak-shaded walkway: the Reverend William A. Lawson Grove. Texas Southern University honored him with the dedication of a historic marker, renaming a portion of the Tiger Walk as Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church Way after the church he helped found in 1962. The Harris County Flood Control District and Harris County Precinct One honored him and his wife by naming the Reverend William and

Audrey Lawson Park at Christia V. Adair Park after them.

In 2004 Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, the little church that was born with thirteen members, had grown to include more than 6,000 on its roll, and the nation watched as Archon Lawson retired after forty-two years as the church's founding pastor, becoming its founding pastor emeritus. Archon Lawson masterfully orchestrated the passage of the shepherd's staff to his beloved successor, Archon Marcus D. Cosby, and remained active at Wheeler Avenue, where the membership enjoyed his presence, guidance and fellowship. This pastoral succession has, like so many other works of this quiet leader, become a model unlike any seen before in the Black church.

In honor and recognition of its late founding pastor's birthday, on June 28, 2024, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church announced it will be gifting \$1 million in scholarships to continue supporting Archon Lawson's commitment to education and equality. Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University, Rice University, Tennessee State University and the University of Houston will each receive \$200,000 in endowed scholarships. Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church thanks God for the life and legacy of Archon William A. Lawson, Jr.

Upon his death Archon Lawson reunited with his parents; the love of his life, Audrey, with whom he always shared a devoted partnership; his only son, Eric Hoffman Lawson; and his siblings Walter Cade, Jr., and Catherine Cade Cruitt. His memory will be forever cherished by his devoted daughters, Melanie Cerise (John Foley Guess, Jr.) Lawson, Cheryl Grace (Thomas Robert Carter) Lawson and Roxanne Lawson. He also leaves behind two grandchildren, Robyn Nicole (Alexander David Perry Koby) Troup and Raven Justin (Nathan Lee Wilson) Troup, and two great-grandsons, Amadeus Larson Koby and Ronin Wolf Koby.

Sherwood C. Lewis, continued

served for thirty years as director of clinical chemistry and toxicology in the department of pathology and laboratory medicine at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford. Following this, he spent fourteen years as director of forensic toxicology in the Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Farmington.

Throughout his distinguished career he held various academic appointments at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Trinity College and the University of Hartford. In 1990 he received an International Fellowship award from the American Association of Clinical Chemistry, which provided an opportunity for him to travel to Africa and teach at the University of Sierra Leone College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences.

Deeply involved in professional associations, he served on federal and state panels and committees, using these opportunities to promote the best practices in clinical chemistry for the benefit of society. He received numerous honors and awards in recognition of his service and volunteer endeavors.

Archon Lewis had a diverse range of interests, including amateur radio, astronomy, photography and international travel. A dedicated volunteer with the American Radio Relay League, he served on the board of directors of the Women's League Child Development Center in Hartford and maintained strong ties to Boy Scout Troop 3 in Derby, where he'd become an Eagle Scout in 1948 and was honored with the special "3 for Life" Award in 2014. An avid supporter of Amistad America, Inc., he worked on the restoration of the ship and also served as a tour guide. A long-standing member of Faith Congregational Church, UCC, he sat on its board of trustees, sang with the men's

choir and participated in the men's ministry, and he was an associate member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church, participating in Boars Heads and Yule Log Festivals as well as in the adult education ministry.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-four years, Archousa Gwendolyn Huguley Lewis; sons Mark (Erinn) and Christopher (Karina); seven grandchildren: Isoke, Indira, Michael, Noelle, Spencer, Blake and Celeste; a sister, Betty Anderson; and a host of nieces, nephews and close friends. He was predeceased by his sister, Marguerite Washington; his brother, David Lewis; and his beloved daughter, Jacqueline Lewis Peters. He touched the lives of many near and far and will be deeply missed.

Henry Wadsworth McGee, Jr., continued

Seattle University. Part of a distinguished cohort of Black law professors who were the first Blacks hired at their law schools, he was twice awarded Fulbright Fellowships, and he lectured extensively abroad, speaking and publishing in both English and Spanish. He was a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University in 1973 and served as a Fellow of the Mexican Academy of Private International and Comparative Law. He retired from teaching in 2015 at the age of 82.

In addition, in the midst of his professional pursuits and civic work, he found time to pursue his love of music, excelling as an accomplished violinist with the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra.

Archon McGee is survived by his wife, Archousa Victoria Kill; his sons, Henry W. McGee III, P. Byron K. McGee, Kevin T. McGee, Gregory R. McGee and Erick C. McGee; his daughters by marriage, Kristin Lo Conte and Melanie Kill; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sandra Hall Morris, continued

Central Michigan University, she began her professional career in the field of communications and was later recruited as a community affairs director. She worked in media sales, receiving numerous awards and accolades, and she enjoyed an exceptional twenty-year career as a marketing and sales consultant at radio and TV stations in Dayton, Nashville and Memphis.

In Memphis, she transitioned from media marketing to heading up the communications department at the Memphis Housing Authority and the Division of Housing and Community Development. Prior to her retirement, she also enjoyed such leadership positions as vice chancellor of public relations at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and she later served part-time at the Memphis Theological Seminary as director of the Henry Logan Starks Scholarship Dinner.

Her travels and experiences yielded a plethora of interesting stories that she shared with family and friends. One special story was that she'd been maid of honor in the highly publicized 1973 wedding of Jermaine Jackson of the Jackson Five and Hazel Gordy, the daughter of the legendary Motown founder Berry Gordy. Through the years, Archousa Morris and Hazel remained close friends.

An empowered woman of abiding faith, she exuded kindness, always maintaining that the years in our lives are not as important as the life in our years. She worked passionately, lived thankfully, shared generously and laughed freely. A member of the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, she believed that "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Archousa Morris was blessed with a beautiful life of love with her husband, Archon Albert W. Morris, Jr., a radiologist and the

107th president of the National Medical Association. Together, they shared a love of travel, connecting with family and friends, and spending time with their adult children and grandchildren.

Archousa Morris's unwavering commitment to community service included being an active member of the Memphis chapter of The Links, Inc., for twenty-seven years, serving as chapter president, member of the national foundation Grants-in-Aid Committee, member of the national strategic partnership linkage for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, national cochair of the protocol committee, chair of the area and chapter protocol committees, and cotillion chair. She was also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, where she'd pledged under the Alpha Chapter while matriculating at Howard University.

Her community involvement included service on the University of Memphis College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board as well as boards of the World Cataract Foundation and the FBI Memphis Citizens Academy Alumni Association. She held memberships with Women in Radio and Television and Jack & Jill of America (Memphis chapter). An avid reader and passionate supporter of women authors, she was also instrumental in organizing the First Friday Book Club in Memphis.

Archousa Morris leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Archon Albert W. Morris, Jr.; her daughter, Clarissa (Derrick) Betts; grandchildren Howard Brown-Betts and Denton Betts; a sister, Pamela (Glenel) Bowden; a nephew, Titus C. Hall III; blended family members Stephanie Morris and Albert Morris, Jr.; and dear friends Pamela Arrindell, Hazel Gordy and RoNita Hawes. She was preceded in death by her parents, Titus C. Hall, Sr. (a major general in the U.S. Air Force), and Clarissa E. Hall, and her brother, Titus Hall, Jr.

Jerry Parnel Parker, continued

multiple golf groups and tax organizations. He was a member of Blacks in Management, Tau Boulé and later Gamma Omicron Boulé. He also volunteered for Junior Achievement.

Archon Parker was proud of the life he provided for his children, Jerry “Buddy” II and Jennifer, and he made sure they did not want for anything. Archon Parker wanted everyone to reach their highest potential. He would often give unsolicited advice to Buddy, Jennifer and their friends about their future and making wise decisions. While he never hesitated to tell someone they had made a bad decision, he was always willing to help them correct it or get back on their feet. He spared no expense when it came to his grandchildren and took them on multiple trips across the country. He was so proud of the young adults they have become.

Archon and Archousa Parker retired to Tampa, Florida, where they lived for eighteen years, returning home to Cleveland in 2022 to be close to family.

Archon Parker was preceded in death by his parents, Roscoe and AnnieBelle Parker; his brother, Ronald Parker; and his son, Jerry “Buddy” Parker II. Archon Parker will be missed by his wife of fifty-seven years, Patricia; his daughter, Jennifer (Kenneth); his grandchildren, Kenny and Jayla; his sister, Deborah; his niece, Natasha; a host of cousins; and many dear friends. Archon Parker’s family and friends celebrated his life well lived at a memorial service at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church on March 2, 2024.

Famebridge Frances Cunningham Payne, continued

Archon Payne served from 1963 to 1965 as acting dean of instruction.

When the family returned to Virginia in 1965, Archousa Payne taught in Roanoke schools, and her husband went to work for Total Action Against Poverty. In 1967 he accepted a job with the National Education Association in Washington, D.C., where the family ultimately moved, and Archousa Payne taught at Sherman Elementary School.

While attending a principal’s convention in Miami, Archon Payne met a McDonald’s owner-operator, which spurred him to apply for a McDonald’s license, and the family opened their first McDonald’s in 1974, on Broadway between North Avenue and Harford Road in East Baltimore. They spent the next two decades opening and operating McDonald’s franchises throughout the area. Before settling in Columbia, Maryland, in 1976, they lived in Silver Spring. The family was widely recognized for training and employing thousands of Baltimore City youths, and they remained active in community and charitable circles.

Archousa Payne had begun teaching in 1969 in Maryland’s Montgomery County, including at Four Corners Elementary School. She last served as a reading teacher at New Hampshire Estates Elementary School, retiring in 1977 to work for the family restaurant business.

She was a member of the NAACP, the Columbia (MD) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Columbia chapter of National Epicureans, the Columbia chapter of The Links, the Red Hat Society and the Que-ettes, wives of members of the Tau Pi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. A long-time active member of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Ellicott City, she taught Sunday school, played

in the Handbell Choir and served on the altar guild and the antique show committee.

She is survived by her daughters, Famebridge Sannequille (Gary) Witherspoon and Sarita Sinyea; grandchildren Astarte (Joshua) Barnett, Jordahn (Priscilla) Witherspoon, Ahmadee Witherspoon, Clark Witherspoon and Jackson Witherspoon; great-grandchildren Londyn, Aubri and Linkyn Barnett and Vanessa and Jeremiah Witherspoon; and many friends. She was predeceased by her husband, Archon Osborne Payne, who died in 2012, and her stepdaughter, Andrea Kyles, who died in 2004.

Olga Agnes Markham Pierre, continued

moved to Baltimore, where Archon Pierre earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering at Johns Hopkins University, becoming the first African American in the United States to earn such a degree. The Pierres then moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where Archousa Pierre earned a master’s degree in early childhood education.

During a one-year stint in Washington, D.C., while her husband served as a White House Fellow, Archousa Pierre made such an indelible impression on the program organizers that later she was hired as the assistant director for education programs for the White House Fellows program. She served in this capacity from 1977 until 1981.

Her career is highlighted by her service in the field of childhood education. She taught in the metropolitan Baltimore public school system and was the director of a day-care center in a Baltimore public housing project. She worked with A Better Chance, which aimed to increase the number of minority college students. She also served as first lady of Prairie View A&M University while Archon Pierre was president from 1983 to 1990. During the 1990s, as her husband served

as vice president of research and graduate studies at Michigan State University, Archousa Pierre worked at the MSU College of Education, where she helped develop charter school programming. After Archon Pierre's retirement, the couple began spending winters in New Orleans and the rest of the year in Washington, where their daughters live.

Archousa Pierre is survived by her husband of fifty-eight years, Archon Percy Pierre; her daughters Kristin, a former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency employee, and Allison, an attorney and former prosecutor who now owns her own criminal justice reform consulting firm; her brother, Melvin "Chuck" Markham; a niece, Juliet Markham Texidor; nephews Christopher and Allen Markham; and a number of cousins, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Thomas L. Walker, continued

link of The Links, Inc., a member of the ROCKS, Inc., the Baggers, and Birdies & Bogeys golf groups. Starting out as a caddy when he was a youngster, Archon Walker's love of golf was unmatched. He intro-

duced the sport to many friends and family members and enjoyed traveling to golf courses across the country. Cycling was also one of his beloved activities, and he worked hard organizing group participation in fundraising cycling events such as the Tour de Cure for the American Diabetes Association.

A devoted husband, father and grandfather, he is survived by his wife of twenty-seven years, Archousa Suzanne Walker, lieutenant colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.); their son, Malachi J. Walker (Jordan Dudley Walker); two children from his first marriage: Thomas L. Walker II (Cindy Najhram Walker) and Brittney L. Walker (Rob Blanchard); and a host of family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate expressions of sympathy to be made in memory of Thomas L. Walker to the Kappa Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Bernastein Caffee Winston, continued

primarily involved pressing for educational equity and unity among people of diverse backgrounds.

A valuable contributor in all that she undertook in her many civic

and social endeavors, she especially treasured activities that involved her beloved daughter, Lauren, including Jack and Jill of America. She was beautifully active in the lives of people, deeply concerned about their well-being and ability to thrive. Among her other activities, she was a member of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of The Links, Inc., and, in 2015, a founding committee member of the Greater Kansas City Princeton Prize in Race Relations. At St. James United Methodist and Old Mission United Methodist churches, she served as cofounder of the Teen Summit on Race and Privilege, a Missouri/Kansas collaboration between these churches, and she successfully led efforts to establish a diversity, equity and inclusion position in the Shawnee Mission School District in Kansas.

Her memory will be deeply cherished by her husband, Archon Richard D. Winston, Jr.; their daughter, Lauren M. Winston; her mother, Lavonne Debbie Caffee; her father-in-law, Richard D. Winston, Sr.; and a vast group of family and friends across the nation. She was preceded in death by her father, William G. Caffee.



BLOOD FLOW

By Archon Leon Beauchman, Gamma Chi Boulé

Our blood flowed from African soil.
From a source beyond both space and time
It flowed from the wars that enslaved us
And brought destruction to our homeland.
Our blood flowed across the Atlantic in slave ships
Filled with brutality and horror.
And it flowed in a New World
That built empires for others and poverty to ourselves.

Can you feel it, our blood flow.
It's a River longer than time,
A deeper than we'll ever know.

Our blood flowed from the overseer's whip
Intent on crushing our humanity.
It flowed along the underground railroad
As our people rushed to be free.
Our blood flowed in foreign lands fighting for freedom.
While at home we struggled for equality
It flowed when we marched in the streets
From Selma to Ferguson to Minneapolis
To be recognized as a human being.
And our blood flowed when our brothers,
Filled with self-hate,
Attacked us trying to kill their shame.

Can you feel it, our blood flow.
It's a River longer than time.
A deeper than we'll ever know.

Our blood flowed in the songs of Billie Holliday
From a heart longing for love but drowning in pain.
It flowed from the poems of Langston Hughes
Because he longed to become one with the River.
Our blood flowed from the prose of Maya Angelou
Because she knew that the Spirit would rise.
It flowed from the horn of Miles Davis
Because he knew life moves in shades of blue.
Our blood flowed in the rhyme and rhythm of Tupac.
Caught in a riptide of violence he never gave up hope.
It flowed in the sermons of Martin Luther King
And like the River the struggle goes on and on.

Can you feel it, our blood flow.
It's a River longer than time.
A deeper than we'll ever know.
We're a people crying for a vision.
But we'll only find it in the flow.



Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity
ESTABLISHED 1904

Office of the Grand Boulé
260 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1604
Atlanta, GA 30303