

Que-Times

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Newsletter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Rho Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter



Bro. Marvin McNeil receives the chapter's highest honor "Omega Man of the Year" Award at the Founder's Day and Achievement Week Celebration.

By Bro. Milbert O. Brown, Jr. Que-Times Editor

“**W**e are here to recognize members of our great Fraternity as well as the members of the community who are striving to make a difference in the lives of Black people,” said Brother Warren Lee.

Brother Lee, Omega's First Vice Grand Basileus spoke at Rho Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter's annual Founder's Day and Achievement Week Celebration.

Over 70 Omega men neatly fit into their black tuxedos on November 19th for the evening event held at Chicago's downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel. Several Omega brothers from surrounding chapters also attended. There was a successful silent auction and NBC-TV reporter, Brother Art Norman served as the evening's Master of Ceremony.



Omega's Brother Warren Lee, the First Vice Grand Basileus with members of Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter. Brother Lee spoke at the chapter's Founder's Day.

Brother Lee challenged the audience of 200 people to look up and leap out of their set condition. Omega's Brother Lee dramatized how a group of frogs were placed in a large container and because of negative thinking, the frogs were conditioned not to look up and leap out to become free.

"It's not what I want or have that's important, it's what I think," added Brother Lee.

The First Vice Grand Basileus said that in the book titled *The Mis-Education of the Negro*, when you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his "proper place" and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit.

Omega's Carter G. Woodson wrote the *Mis-Education of the Negro* in 1933. At the Founder's Day and Achievement Week Celebration, Brother Kendall Franklin noted that Brother Woodson inspired Achievement Week. "Woodson had a vision for the Fraternity to celebrate the achievement of Black people." As Franklin also spoke about the achievement of Omega men, he pointed out that Woodson urged the Fraternity to devote more attention to the study of Negro people at the 1920 Grand National Conclave in Nashville.

After Brother Woodson's address at the Ninth Grand Conclave, the Fraternity instituted the annual observance of Negro History and Literature Week. In 1925, the observance was renamed as National Negro Achievement Week.

Herman Dreer, Omega's National Director published the Achievement Week Guide Book to assist chapters in Achievement Week preparations beginning in 1935. Brother Franklin also noted that the annual celebration of Negro Achievement Week was again renamed in 1948 as National Achievement Week.

Brother Warren Lee said "we are here today because of Brother Carter G. Woodson. Everybody adds value, but not to everything. We must find our niche and our role and get in our lane and stay in it."

Others leaders in attendance were Tenth District's Brother Glenn Matthews, First Vice District Representative and Brother Steven Watkins, Tenth District Counselor. "As leaders we must be passionate about God, compassionate with people and be ruthless with our time," commented Brother Lee.

Brother Marvin McNeil affectionately known as "Bae Bae" was awarded the chapter's "2005 Omega Man of the Year." Brother McNeil, one of the founders of Rho Gamma Gamma in 1987, served as the new chapter's first Basileus.

"Being recognized by the brotherhood is always a special occasion and this year's award is a special honor for me," said Brother Marvin McNeil. The "*Omega Man of the Year*" recipient also stated "as I looked around the room, I saw how Rho Gamma Gamma has matured as a chapter and has kept its youthful glow within Omega.

An emotional Brother McNeil also said "I looked over and saw Brother Steven Watkins, whose leadership, wisdom and humbleness will ultimately be recognized throughout Omega. I thought about Brothers like Charles Chadwell and Warren Cottrell who exemplify inspiration and motivation. I saw my line brother, Jesse Teverbaugh, an Omega who could easily be the poster child for perseverance."

"Rho Gamma Gamma selected me as an Omega beacon and I thank the Brothers for making me a better person," replied the chapter's first Basileus. Rho Gamma Gamma's Basileus Brother Melvin Jefferson, Jr. said that Brother McNeil received the award because of his undying commitment to membership reclamation and his great contributions to chapter programs. Others Omegas that received chapter awards included:

*Brother A. Kenyatta Marshall was presented the Manhood Award;
Brother Steven Hill was the recipient of the Scholarship Award;
Brother Lee Jones was awarded the Perseverance Award;
Brother Anton White received the Uplift Award.*

U.S. Senator Barack Obama (Illinois) was chosen as the chapter's "Citizen of the Year."



Brother Bernard Cale, one of the chapter's new Omega men working as the Assistant Keeper of Records and Seal. On right is RGG's Basileus Brother Melvin Jefferson, Jr.

New Oues Working For Omega

By Brother Milbert O. Brown, Jr.

“I didn’t realize how far the Fraternity reached,” said Brother Bernard Cale as he spoke about Omega Psi Phi Fraternity’s international mandated programs. “Some of the chapter’s social action programs are more intense than I had envisioned,” also commented Brother Cale.

Cale was initiated into Omega with eleven other young men through Rho Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter on August 5, 2005. After his first chapter meeting as an Omega man, Brother Cale served as the chapter’s assistant to the Keeper of Records and Seal.

Brother Michael Johnson also one of the new Omega brothers was recently appointed as the chapter’s Social Action chairman. “My vision is to have our chapter’s social action

activities become more visible throughout Chicago. When we are involved as hosts for blood drives and other social action activities, the community will remember our visibility. It's our visibility as a chapter that helps uplift our community," said Brother Michael Johnson. He also mentioned that "our challenge as a chapter is do more hands on activities in the community such as voter registration."

New member Brother Robert Anderson serves as the chief of staff for one of Chicago's City Council members. He works directly in the heart of Chicago's political scene. Brother Anderson said that he plans to work with the chapter's voter registration and voting education programs.



Brother Art Norman pins Brother Leonard Parker at Rho Gamma Gamma's 2005 Founder's Day and Achievement Week Celebration in downtown Chicago. The evening event featured Omega's First Vice Grand Basileus as the keynote speaker and NBC-TV journalist Brother Art Norman as the event's Master of Ceremony.

On November 2005, at the chapter's Founder's Day Celebration, the twelve new Omega members received their Fraternity pins from Omega's Vice Grand Basileus Brother Warren Lee. Also during the special ceremony, Brother Glenn Matthews, the Tenth District's Vice District Representative presented the new brothers with their membership certificates.

The new Omegas in attendance at their first Founder's Day Celebration included: Brothers Robert Anderson, Leonard Parker, Louis Adams, Darius Dooley, Bernard Cale, Keith Evans, Mark Bradley, Latee Bauswell, Tyrone Jackson, Julian Wooding and Michael Johnson.

Brother Corey Mays also a new Omega, is a star defensive player for the University of Notre Dame's football team. He was unable to attend the Founder's Day Celebration because of the practice schedule of his bowl bound team.

Brother Leonard Parker, one Rho Gamma Gamma's new Oues said he wants to get involved with the chapter's youth development and scholarship foundation programs. Brother Parker also said " I am still feeling my way, as I learn more about our Fraternity."

"As a new member, one of the things that I have been impressed with is Omega's brotherhood. I enjoy getting to know the older members of the chapter," said Brother Tyrone Jackson.

Rho Gamma Gamma's new Omega brothers have greatly contributed to the chapter through guidance provided by Brother Kendall Franklin, the Tenth District's Intake Chairman.

OMEGA NEWS TIPS

Send all story ideas and news items to the Que- Times staff. This may include all information about Omega events, Omega men involved in the community and promotions and awards received by members of Rho Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter.

Help us tell the great Omega story by sending information to the attention of:

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