

The Boulé Journal

SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY

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Archon Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron

UPHOLDING OUR MISSION AMIDST CHANGE AND CHALLENGE

As we close the books on 2024, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity stands as a beacon of resilience and progress in a time of profound societal change. The recent U.S. Presidential election has introduced shifts that promise to test our values of equity, justice and service. In the face of these challenges, our commitment to unity and proactive engagement remains steadfast. Upholding our mission demands that we draw inspiration from our collective achievements and act with purpose to shape the path forward.

Among our members are Archons who exemplify the Fraternity's ideals of excellence and adaptability. Some of whom have excelled in sports, both as executives and athletes – a field that demands resilience, discipline and teamwork – and later transitioned to remarkable achievements in business, philanthropy and public service. Their journeys serve as powerful reminders that excellence transcends individual fields and that every challenge is an opportunity to lead and inspire.

Embracing Excellence Beyond Boundaries

Athletic excellence, like the leadership Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity values, is rooted in persistence and vision. Our fraternity has been privileged to count among its ranks Archons who achieved prominence in sports before transitioning their focus to other domains of impact. Their success exemplifies the adaptability required to navigate life's inevitable changes while staying true to one's values.

These Archons remind us that leadership is not confined to any single arena, but instead reflects a commitment to continuous growth and service. As Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity faces the challenges of an evolving political and social landscape, their example encourages us to apply the same principles of discipline and resilience to our efforts within the Fraternity and our communities.

Unity: The Foundation of Our Strength

The strength of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity has always been its unity. In times of uncertainty and change, our bonds as Archons become even more critical. Unity allows us to leverage our collective resources, perspectives and experiences to confront the most pressing issues of our time.

By fostering collaboration within the Fraternity and partnering with organizations that share our vision, we reinforce the foundation necessary to drive meaningful change. It is through these connections that Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity continues to be a powerful force for good in a rapidly changing world.

Proactive Engagement: Turning Challenges into Opportunities

Our mission calls us to not only observe, but also to act. Throughout its history, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity has demonstrated a commitment to addressing societal challenges through education, advocacy and economic empowerment. As we move forward, this proactive engagement must remain central to our efforts.

The shifting political landscape presents opportunities to amplify our impact by advocating for policies that align with our values, mentoring the next generation of leaders and expanding initiatives that promote equity and opportunity. To navigate these challenges effectively, we must approach them with strategy, collaboration and unwavering determination.

Looking Ahead: Resilience and Renewal

As we step into 2025, let us reaffirm our dedication to upholding Sigma Pi Phi's mission amidst change and challenge. The Archons who have achieved success in the sports industry and beyond demonstrate that excellence is not merely an end, but a way of approaching every endeavor. Their resilience and adaptability inspire us to lead with purpose and to strive for impact in all we do.

Together, we can navigate the complexities of our time while ensuring that our fraternity remains a beacon of progress. Let us embrace this moment as an opportunity to strengthen our unity, deepen our commitment to service and reaffirm the values that define Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

This is our time to act – to uphold our mission and turn today's challenges into tomorrow's triumphs.



ARCHON JERLANDO F. L. JACKSON
GRAND GRAPTER

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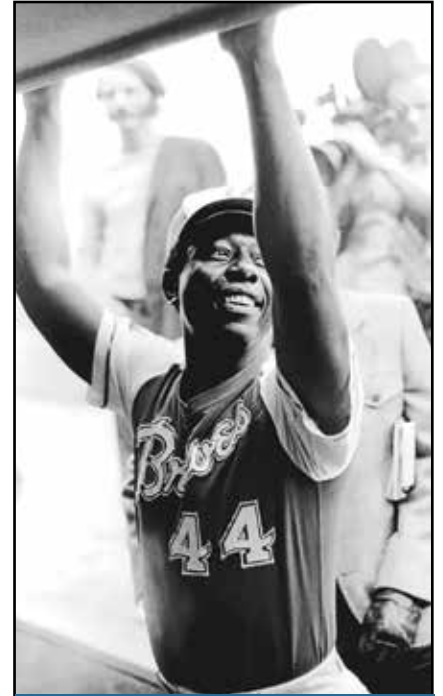
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ARCHON HENRY LOUIS "HANK" AARON
1934 – 2021

“There is no shortcut in life. You have to take it one step at a time and work hard. And you have to give back.”

On the Cover: Renowned photographer and journalist Archon Derrick Z. Jackson of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé photographed Archon Hank Aaron in Milwaukee for Hank Aaron Day in 1973, the year before Aaron set the home run record. Archon Jackson said, "I was a college journalism student then, and I was in the dugout snapping pictures of him for a Green Bay newspaper. For a split second, he looked upward back toward the field, with an ebullient smile."



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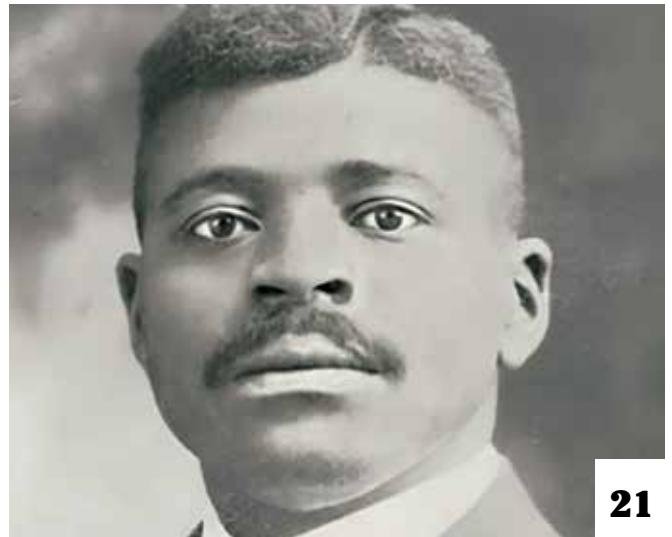
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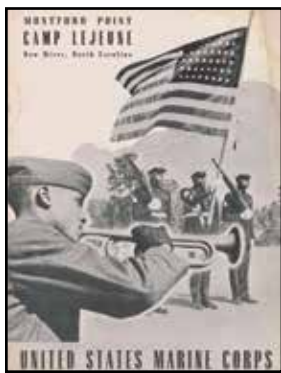
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Montford Point Marines Awarded Congressional Gold Medal Posthumously



On August 23, 2024, at the 15th Annual Montford Point Marine Day Ceremony at Camp Montford Point in North Carolina, Archon Breck D. Cook, major, U.S. Army (retired), of Gamma Mu Boulé and his son, Archon Brett D. Cook, commander, U.S. Navy (reserve) of Delta Mu Boulé, accepted the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of their respective father and grandfather, Joseph Lee Cook, private, U.S. Marine Corps (deceased). Private Cook served in the South Pacific Theater of War from 1942 to 1943.

This year's celebration marked the eighty-second anniversary of the first African American recruits' entry into the U.S. Marine Corps. The Congressional

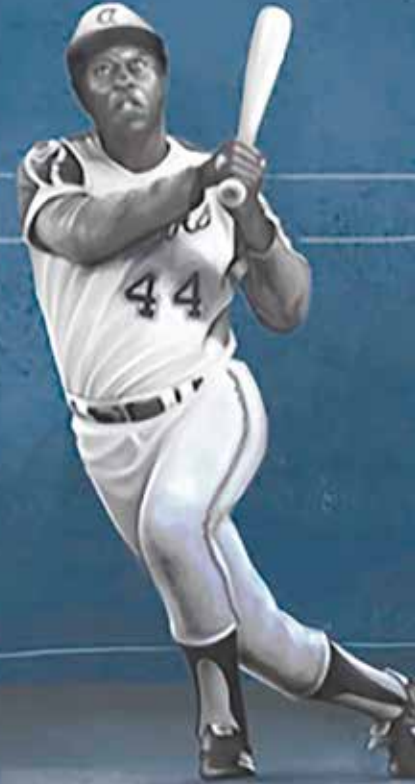
Gold Medal, authorized by Public Law 112-59, was awarded to the Montford Point Marines in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country during World War II. Thirty Montford Point Marines were recognized posthumously. The keynote speaker was Calvert L. Worth, Jr., lieutenant general, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

As a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, I cannot overemphasize the importance for all of us to increase our efforts to market this and other award opportunities to our fellow Archons. At your boulé meetings we should ask if anyone has a grandfather, father, uncle or cousin who may have served in the Marine Corps during World War II. They may also be eligible to receive this prestigious acknowledgement. For further information visit: www.montfordpointmarines.org.

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

Hank Aaron

1934 X 2021



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AND ATLANTA BRAVES HONOR HANK AARON

By Archons Willie Clemons, Gamma Xi Boulé, and Derrick Z. Jackson, Beta Beta Boulé

On July 31, 2024, the United States Postal Service and the Atlanta Braves honored one of baseball's most legendary figures, Archon Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron of Atlanta's Kappa Boulé, with the issuance of a commemorative stamp. The Hank Aaron Forever postage stamp captures the essence of Archon Aaron's spirit and strength. The stamp features a portrait of Archon Aaron in his 1968 Atlanta Braves uniform with a backdrop of a baseball diamond. His uniform is similar to what the Braves wore in their former home of Milwaukee, where Aaron earned his only World Series championship ring in 1957. The vibrant colors and intricate details of the design pay homage to Archon Aaron's dynamic presence both on and off the field. The un-

veiling ceremony, a celebration of Archon Aaron's enduring legacy, took place at the iconic Truist Park, home of the Atlanta Braves.

A giant on and off the field from humble beginnings, Archon Aaron, fondly known as "Hammerin' Hank," went on to rewrite the record books while prevailing in the face of racism. Archon Aaron was not only a baseball icon but also a symbol of perseverance and grace in the face of adversity. His career was marked by numerous achievements, including breaking Babe Ruth's long-standing home run record on April 8, 1974, a feat that cemented his place in sports history. The State of Georgia proclaimed April 8, 2024, Hank Aaron Day in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of this achievement.



The home run record stood until it was passed by Barry Bonds in 2007 under the suspicion of his using performance-enhancing drugs. As Archon Derrick Z. Jackson, a former sportswriter noted, Archon Aaron hit his 755 home runs with “focus, concentration, discipline – and nothing else.”

Archon Aaron died in 2021 at the age of 86. Aaron-biographer Howard Bryant wrote, “Over the course of his 86 years, America asked him to do everything right ... No special favors. No handouts. America asked him to believe in meritocracy, the meritocracy of the record books and the scoreboard.”

Archon Aaron, who today still holds the record for his twenty-five All-Star Game selections, believed in an American future beyond his athletic achievements. He turned personal trauma into social action. Born in 1934, Archon Aaron sometimes hid under his bed in his hometown Mobile, Alabama, during marches of the Ku Klux Klan. As the most famous Black man in Wisconsin in the late 1950s and early 60s, he campaigned for John F. Kennedy. After Kennedy won the state’s presidential primary over Hubert Humphrey, the future president wrote Aaron to say there was “no doubt” that Aaron’s endorsement helped.

As he approached Babe Ruth’s record, Archon Aaron was showered with so much hate mail, he said he lost any joy associated with his 715th home run. He once wrote, “The Ruth chase should have been the greatest period of my life, and it was the worst. I couldn’t believe there was so much hatred in people.”

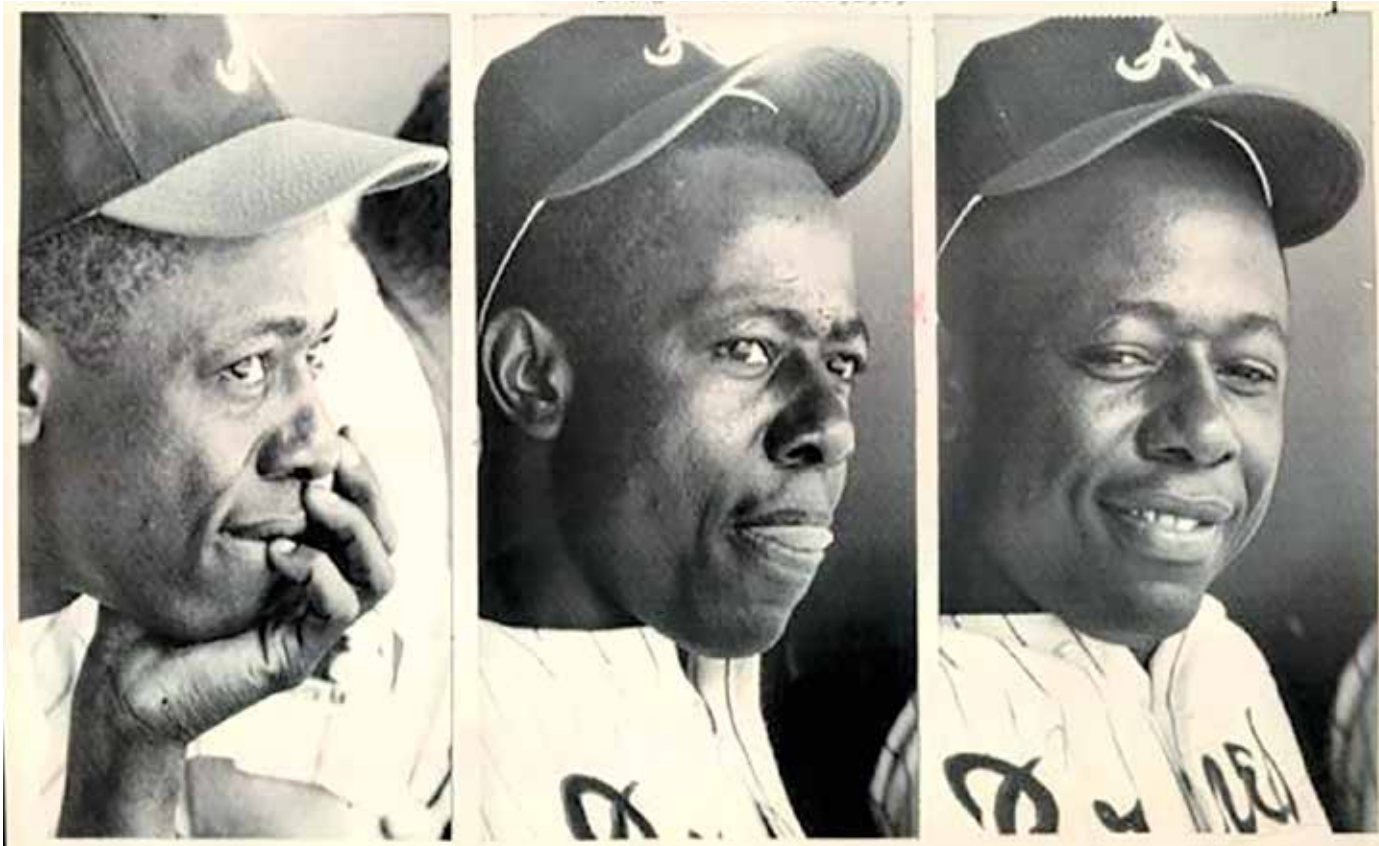
After he retired, he and Archousa Billye Aaron dedicated their lives to expand economic and educational opportunity for underserved communities in Atlanta and Milwaukee, where he finished his career with the Milwaukee Brewers. Grand Sire Archon–Elect Jesse J. Tyson of Epsilon Omicron Boulé and Archon Thomas Moorehead of Beta Nu Boulé, longtime friends of

Archon Aaron, confirm that his impact extended far beyond the diamond. A philanthropist, a beacon of hope and an inspiration during the Civil Rights Movement, Archon Aaron used his platform to advocate for equality and justice. He took social action to another level with his Chasing the Dream Foundation, where his passion for education provided a give-get in excess of \$10 million for students’ college tuition. The foundation provides scholarships and grants to young people, particularly those pursuing higher education and dreams of excelling in fields such as sports, music and the arts. Through the foundation, Archon Aaron championed education as a path to empowerment, recognizing the transformative power of scholarships for students facing financial hardship. To this day the foundation continues to inspire countless young people to “chase their dreams” in honor of the life lessons Archon Aaron imparted. The Aarons also gave a \$3 million gift to Morehouse School of Medicine.

At Archon Aaron’s funeral, Quiana Lewis, a beneficiary of the Chasing the Dream Foundation talked about how the help of the Aarons led her to be trained in music by the principal harpist of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and propelled her to a career as a public health research scientist. Lewis said, “It is one thing to be told that anything is possible, but it’s completely different when you’re shown.”

In 2017 Sharmen Gowens, former CEO of the YWCA of Greater Atlanta, said the Aarons were “right at the top” of the city’s philanthropic community. “They give so generously and purely from their heart. They are the most down-to-earth people you ever want to meet.”

In addition to his philanthropic work, Archon Hank Aaron was an astute businessman. After retiring from baseball, he remained active in various industries, most notably as a successful franchisee of fast-food chains such as Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen,



Krispy Kream Doughnuts and Church's Texas Chicken. He also owned a BMW dealership in Atlanta, one of the first African Americans to do so. Archon Aaron's illustrious career earned him induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, in 1982. His achievements, including 755 career home runs, were celebrated, not just for the numbers but for the resilience, humility and grace with which Archon Aaron conducted himself throughout his life.

The postage stamp unveiling ceremony was a star-studded event attended by Archon Aaron's family, former teammates, dignitaries and fans. Sigma Pi Phi's attendance was led by Grand General Counsel Caesar Mitchell and Kappa Boulé Archon Clyde Mize as well as Archons from Kappa, Delta Upsilon and Epsilon Upsilon. The event opened with a speech by Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, who highlighted Archon Aaron's contributions to baseball and his unwavering commitment to social justice. Atlanta Braves chairman Terry McGuirk and Archon Andrew Young, a former United States ambassador and former mayor of Atlanta, shared their personal memories of Archon Aaron, underscoring his profound impact on the sport and society. The ceremony also featured a video tribute showcasing Archon Aaron's philanthropic efforts. Archousa Billye Aaron gave glowing remarks honoring her husband.

"It is my desire that Henry's legacy continues to inspire generations, reminding us of the power of per-

severance, integrity and the importance of fighting for what is right," said Archousa Aaron.

The issuance of the Hank Aaron stamp is more than a tribute to a baseball great; it is a celebration of a life that transcended sports. From his humble beginnings in Mobile, Alabama, to his enshrinement in Cooperstown, Archon Aaron's journey is a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

Archon Aaron himself said his goal was to be remembered as "the kid that helped send somebody to school, helped somebody to get through college." And he tried to help others right up until the end of his life. He and Archon Young made a point of getting their COVID-19 shots in public, urging others to get their shots. "It's just a small thing that can help zillions of people," Aaron said.

Because he helped "zillions" of people, there is much more to the Hank Aaron Forever postage stamp than meets the eye in the depiction of a man wielding a baseball bat.

Grand Sire Archon-Elect Jesse J. Tyson said, "As fans and collectors alike began to add the Hank Aaron stamp to their collections, they do so with a sense of pride and admiration for a man whose impact will be felt for generations to come."

Sigma Pi Phi is honored to commemorate this historic occasion and to celebrate the life and legacy of an American hero.

STATUES OF DECORATED RUNNING BACK ARCHIE GRIFFIN UNVEILED AT ROSE BOWL AND OHIO STADIUM

By Sire Archon Steve Francis, Lambda Boulé



THE HERMAN MEMORIAL TROPHY
A MEMORIAL TO
ARCHIE GRIFFIN
OF THE
OHIO STATE FOOTBALL TEAM
1956

THE HERMAN MEMORIAL TROPHY
A MEMORIAL TO
ARCHIE GRIFFIN
OF THE
OHIO STATE FOOTBALL TEAM
1956



ARCHON ARCHIE GRIFFIN IN ACTION AT OSU

Archon Archie Griffin of Lambda Boulé, Columbus, Ohio, is the only two-time Heisman Trophy winner in the history of college football. Archon Griffin was born and raised in Columbus, where he still lives and where he rose to stardom at The Ohio State University.

Archon Griffin and his brothers Raymond “Ray” Duncan and Keith attended Eastmoor High School in Columbus, and each was a decorated football star at Eastmoor in his own right. After playing at Ohio State University, Archon Griffin and Ray went on to play with the Cincinnati Bengals in the NFL.

Now, in essence, Archon Griffin is also a permanent resident of Pasadena, California. On August 17, 2024, the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation unveiled a statue of the decorated running back at the Rose Bowl Stadium, honoring Archon Griffin as has been done previously with statues of professional baseball player Jackie Robinson; University of California, Los Angeles head coach Terry Donahue; iconic broadcaster Keith Jackson; and the 1999 U.S. women’s World Cup team.

“It means so much it’s indescribable,” said Archon Griffin, one of only two players to start in four consecutive Rose Bowl games. “I was very fortunate to be in the right place at the right time with the right people to allow me to be on great teams that did so well. With me having a statue, I look at it as an honor to the teams that I played on.”

Archon Griffin, who turned 70 on August 21, 2024, helped the Ohio State University Buckeyes win four

Big Ten titles from 1972 to 1975. Ohio State went 1–3 in those Rose Bowl games, going 1–2 against the University of Southern California and losing the last game to UCLA.

“This place has special memories,” Archon Griffin said about the Rose Bowl Stadium. “Every time I come out here, what comes to mind is the Rose Bowl because we would always come out two and a half weeks early and train here because back in Ohio it was not set up for training in the winter.” He continued, saying, “We got a chance to do a lot of things, enjoy all the attractions around, and that was good sometimes, and sometimes it was bad because you couldn’t concentrate on what you were trying to do. But we enjoyed it out here.”

The Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation also gifted an identical statue of Archon Griffin to Ohio State University. On Friday, August 30, 2024, that statue was unveiled at Ohio Stadium a day before the 2024 season-opening football game against the Akron Zips. The statue was dedicated in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of Archon Griffin’s first Heisman Trophy-winning season at Ohio State University.

To further celebrate the unveiling of Archon Griffin’s statue at Ohio Stadium, Archon Griffin was given the special honor and privilege of “dotting the i” during the performance of the world-famous “Script Ohio” by “The Best Damn Band in the Land” – the Ohio State University Marching Band – during the



ARCHON ARCHIE GRIFFIN STRIKING THE HEISMAN POSE AT THE OSU OHIO STADIUM STATUE UNVEILING



ROSE BOWL STATUE

season opener's halftime on Saturday, August 31, 2024. Lambda Boulé Archon W. Ted McDaniel, a now retired professor of African American music at the Ohio State University College of Arts and Sciences, also wrote a unique arrangement of Earth, Wind & Fire songs for the marching band to perform during the halftime show. Grand Sire Archon-Elect Jesse Tyson was on hand to witness the opening game day events, including the celebration of Archon Griffin during halftime.

"Obviously, Archie is one of one," Ross Bjork, Ohio State's athletic director, said. "Nobody else has ever won two Heismans, so he's one of one. That's obviously rarefied air." He continued, "It's easy to pull up the stats and the numbers and the accolades. But it's really about how Archie makes you feel when you're around him. He's genuine. He's a people person. He's never met a stranger. There's a quote from Woody Hayes that says, 'He's a better young man than he is a football player, and he's the best football player I've ever seen.'"

During his time at Ohio State, Archon Griffin ran 5,589 yards and 26 touchdowns. He later returned to the university as assistant athletic director and president of the OSU Alumni Association. Married to Archousa Bonita Griffin, a former vice president of human resources for Nationwide in Columbus, Archon Griffin, along with Archousa Griffin, established the Archie and Bonita Griffin Master of Sport Coaching Scholarship through Ohio State University to help coaches in all sports master the art of making champions. The scholarship will ensure that a new generation of coaches has all that it takes to bring out the champion in athletes like Archon Griffin.

"As a coach, you've got to realize players are going to remember you, probably for the rest of their lives," Archon Griffin said.

Archon Griffin's heart and desire to give back in so many ways post-football has affected countless lives. His statues will stand for a man who represents how we can all pay it forward in life.

MAX SIEGEL LEADS USA TRACK & FIELD

By Archon John H. Hale III, Grapter, Alpha Eta Boulé

In the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, held July 26 through August 11, 2024, USA Track & Field (USATF) had a remarkable and legendary performance, earning an astounding 34 medals, which placed the United States at the top of the track and field medal table, ahead of the nearest competition by 23 medals. In fact, USATF's 14 gold medals in Paris accounted for 35 percent of all Team USA's gold medals. Archon Max Siegel of Indianapolis's Alpha Eta Boulé has been the CEO of USATF since May 2021. Reflecting on his tenure as CEO, Archon Siegel said, "I am proud to lead the world's number one track and field team for the last twelve years. I attribute USA Track & Field's dominance to an incredible group of athletes, coaches and staff."

As CEO, Archon Siegel oversees 250 staff and volunteer leaders at USATF, which sanctions more than 8,000 running-related events annually. He has led the world's number one athletics team to unprecedented financial growth, programmatic evolution and inclusive representation, generating more than \$600 million in revenue, from nineteen new sponsors, and expanding its annual budget threefold to a record \$40 million. Prior to Archon Siegel's arrival, USATF had no new sponsors in eleven years.

Archon Siegel's pipeline investment in athletes, trainers and coaches continues to bear fruit. This enables USATF to identify, support and develop athletes, educate coaches, train officials, and establish regional medical providers and concierge medical services for athletes. In addition, USATF is able to develop state-of-the-art sports medicine, sports science, biomechanics and other programs to optimize athletes' performance. Most importantly, Archon Siegel emphasized, "Our amazing staff and our passionate volunteers have transformed USATF into an organization that not only achieves athletic results but also an organization that has tremendous cultural impact globally."

Intentional and deliberate, Archon Siegel and Archousa Renee Washington, COO of USATF, work to ensure that USATF is a diverse and inclusive organization. Under Archon Siegel's leadership, USATF has become the most diverse and inclusive national governing body in the U.S. Olympic Movement – on and off the track. In fact, USATF has the only two African American C-suite executives of the fifty governing bodies for U.S. Olympic sports. Likewise, USATF's C-suite is 56 percent female, and the staff are 43 percent minorities. Archon Siegel shared, "Our unwavering commitment to the pursuit of excellence, diver-



ARCHON MAX SIEGEL

sity, equity and inclusion has made USATF a world leader on and off the field of play."

Archon Siegel also lends his talent and passion for social equity to other endeavors. Since 2010 he has been the owner of Rev Racing, which is part of NASCAR's Drive for Diversity program and is partnered with Chevrolet. Archon Siegel is the manager of the NASCAR Drive for Diversity program and has helped recruit and develop more multicultural and female talent in the sport. The program has produced a competitive force on the racetrack, producing stars such as William "Bubba" Wallace, Jr., Kyle Larson, Daniel Suarez and Nick Sanchez.

Furthermore, Archon Siegel serves as a member of the board of directors of the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE), the executive board of the Boy Scouts of America, the diversity council for Points-Bet, and the diversity, equity and inclusion committee for NASCAR.

Archon Siegel is the first African American to graduate with honors from the University of Notre Dame Law School and is an accomplished author of three books and a film producer. He is a native of Indianapolis and resides there with Archousa Jennifer Siegel and three children.



ALBERT E. DOTSON, JR.: TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE ORANGE BOWL COMMITTEE AND BEYOND

By Western Region Grammateus Leonard James III



ARCHON ALBERT E. DOTSON, SR., DWAYNE WADE AND ARCHON ALBERT E. DOTSON, JR., WITH ALBERT E. DOTSON III STANDING IN FRONT

Archon Albert E. Dotson, Jr., a trailblazing figure in South Florida's civic landscape, has a distinguished record of accomplishments within the Orange Bowl Committee (OBC) and beyond. The OBC was established in 1935 to promote tourism in South Florida through an annual football game – now the Capital One Orange Bowl – and has evolved into a critical regional nonprofit that promotes youth engagement, community involvement and economic growth through premier sporting events and year-round initiatives. Archon Dotson's impactful tenure within the OBC underscores his commitment to diversity, leadership and community development.

In the tapestry of Miami's vibrant community, few threads shine as brightly as that of Archon Dotson. His story is one of breaking barriers, building bridges and leaving an indelible mark on the communities he serves. His journey began in the footsteps of his father, Archon Albert E. Dotson, Sr., a trailblazer in his own

right. The elder Dotson served as the first Black store manager for the renowned Sears Roebuck and Company, a role that eventually brought the family to Miami. Archon Dotson, Sr., quickly became a stalwart engaged citizen, guiding some of South Florida's premier health-care and educational institutions, notably overseeing the establishment of Florida International University's schools of medicine and law.

In 1993, Archon Dotson, Jr., joined the OBC, following in the footsteps of his father, Archon Dotson, Sr., and becoming only the second African American to serve on the committee. He was instrumental in broadening the committee's focus beyond football, incorporating events such as youth sports programs, scholarship banquets and a sailing regatta, which expanded the committee's reach and impact across South Florida. By 2006, Dotson's contributions had led to his election as president of the OBC, a position he held through 2007.

During his presidency, he oversaw the successful Orange Bowl Festival and managed the organization's transition to a new television partnership with FOX, ensuring the bowl's continued visibility and influence.

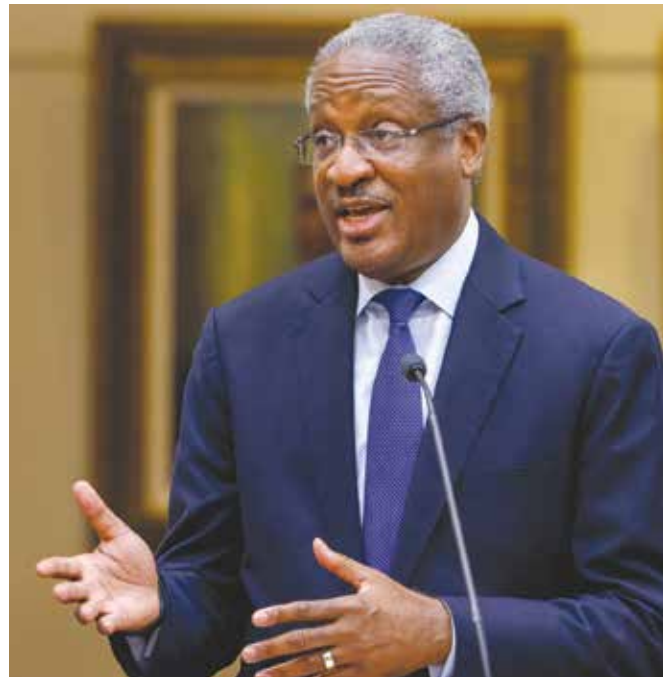
Under Archon Dotson's leadership, the OBC faced the challenging task of maintaining a multimillion-dollar budget while also expanding its community-focused programs. His presidency marked a pivotal moment in the committee's history, as Dotson's forward-looking approach emphasized inclusivity and broadened the OBC's legacy of public service. He championed partnerships with local youth initiatives, notably the First Tee Drive for Excellence Golf Program, which teaches girls values of integrity, perseverance and confidence.

Today, the OBC's influence extends from Lake Okechobee to the Florida Keys, with programs and events that engage diverse communities and inspire young athletes. Through Dotson's example, three more African American leaders have served as OBC presidents, including the committee's first Black female president. His mentorship and leadership have cemented the Dotson family legacy within the OBC, demonstrating the lasting impact of service and dedication on the South Florida community.

"Archon Albert Dotson, Jr., has had and continues to have a significant impact nationally and in the South Florida area on African Americans and the communities in which they live. Through his role as president of the OBC, his efforts to ensure diversity and inclusion serve as a role model for all of us," said Archon Vincent Berkeley (Beta Delta Boulé).

Archon Dotson's outstanding engagement with statewide and local organizations is mirrored by his national involvements and appointments in public service. In 2014 he was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans, to advise the President and the Secretary of Education on ways to advance federal programs that improve educational opportunities for African Americans, increase participation of the African American community in federal agency programs and engage stakeholders in a national dialogue on the mission. Since 2009, and with regular appointment by various United States Senators, he has served on the Florida Federal Judicial Nominating Commission, the panel charged with selecting finalists for presidential appointments to district judgeships, U.S. attorneys and U.S. Marshals.

Among the most cherished organizations to which Archon Dotson devotes himself is 100 Black Men of America, an international mentoring organization whose goal is to educate and empower African American children and teens. In his twenty-eight years of engagement with 100 Black Men of America, he has served in many leadership positions, including board vice chairman, chairman and chairman emeritus. His leadership contributions and guidance to the organization has covered



ARCHON ALBERT E. DOTSON, JR.

new expansion and sustainability models, governance policies, investment strategies, fund raising approaches and human resource policies.

Today, Archon Dotson, Jr. serves as the CEO and managing partner of Bilzin Sumberg, a preeminent Florida commercial law firm that is unrivaled in the South Florida legal community for its embeddedness in the local business environment and in the depth of its connection to the various communities that make up the rich tapestry of South Florida society. From a young boy in Miami to a respected leader in law and community service, he has never lost sight of his father's legacy or his own mission to build bridges and create opportunities for others.

In every role he assumes, Archon Dotson embodies the principle of investing in future generations. He frequently underscores that a leader's true success lies not only in personal achievements but in the mentorship and opportunities provided to others. His work with the Orange Bowl Committee exemplifies this belief, leaving a powerful legacy that has transformed the organization and its service to the community.

Archon Dotson's dedicated leadership within the Orange Bowl Committee continues to serve as a beacon of progress and unity, affirming the importance of community-driven initiatives and the power of diverse leadership in South Florida.

"In every decision he makes, Archon Dotson, Jr., demonstrates his commitment to the broader community of family and brotherhood. He is a live example of doing good and well at the same time." ~ Grand Sire Archon-Elect Jesse Tyson

Features

INTERVIEW WITH AN ALPHA*: EMERITUS ARCHON NOLAN N. ATKINSON, JR.

By Archon Anthony E. Gay, Grapter, Alpha Boulé

As we close out this year marking the hundred and twentieth anniversary of the founding of Sigma Pi Phi, I thought it would be appropriate to share a conversation I had with Alpha Boulé Emeritus Archon Nolan N. Atkinson, Jr. Archon Atkinson has the rare and distinct honor of being a living member of Sigma Pi Phi who had the opportunity to meet two of our founders. I heard about this from other members of Alpha Boulé, and Archon Atkinson spoke briefly about it at a spring orientation session Alpha held for incoming Archons. My interest piqued, I reached out to him to learn about his experience of meeting two of our founders.

By way of a brief biography, Archon Atkinson has had a distinguished legal career. He is the former, and first, chief diversity and inclusion officer of the City of Philadelphia. He was a partner in the Duane Morris law firm where he also served as chief diversity officer while engaging in a robust legal practice. Prior to that he was a name partner in the firm of Atkinson & Archie. He has received numerous awards and his career would warrant an article itself. The purpose of this piece is to focus on one of his key experiences, meeting two of the founders of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

The discussion that follows resulted in my learning a treasure trove of information about how our forebears in the Fraternity “got to know the best of one another” and, indeed, relied upon one another. I also gained newfound respect for one of our distinguished and valued Emeritus Archons. Here is our conversation.

Anthony E. Gay: Tell us about your family’s history with the Boulé.

Nolan N. Atkinson, Jr.: My father was an Archon. He was inducted in 1946, and at that time my father’s medical practice was in Bryn Mawr [an affluent, predominantly white, suburb of Philadel-

**Interview With an Alpha is an occasional series of interviews with Alpha Boulé Archons and Archonsai in an effort to get to know the best of one another as members and family of Sigma Pi Phi.*



ARCHON NOLAN N. ATKINSON, JR.

‘It’s not a club, not a group of guys. It’s a fraternity where other men care about you, and you care about them.’



THE BOULÉ JOURNAL, APRIL 1948, VOLUME 14, NUMBER 7, PAGE 33.

SEATED AROUND TABLE, LEFT TO RIGHT:

ARCHONS JOHN A. DAVIS, WILBUR H. STRICKLAND, LANCESS McKNIGHT, HORACE MANN BOND, TANNER G. DUCKERY, JOHN P. TURNER AND RAYFORD W. LOGAN OF EPSILON BOULÉ, GUEST SPEAKER OF THE EVENING; SIRE ARCHON DeHAVEN HINKSON; AND ARCHONS RAYMOND PAGE ALEXANDER, RUSSELL F. MINTON, EUGENE T. HINSON, ARTHUR T. BOYER, RICHARD WARRICK AND CHAUNCEY HARLLEE. STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT: ARCHONS FORREST H. BATTIS, JOHN R. LOGAN, JR., DAVIS B. ASBURY, MACEO W. HUBBARD, WILLIAM R. VALENTINE, FRANCIS T. JAMISON (HOST), EDWARD E. HOLLOWAY AND HORACE C. SCOTT. SEATED, EXTREME RIGHT: ARCHONS JAMES H. DUCKERY AND NOLAN N. ATKINSON.

THUS, IT WAS THAT ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 6, 1948, WE BETOOK INTO OUR FOLDS, ARCHONS JOHN A. DAVIS, JOHN R. LOGAN, JR., EDWARD E. HOLLOWAY AND MACEO HUBBARD. THE INITIATION CEREMONIES WERE SPIRITEDLY BUT SAFELY CARRIED OUT AND WERE CONSIDERED MOST IMPRESSIVE. FOLLOWING THIS PHASE OF THE EVENING'S PROGRAM, WE SAT DOWN TO A BANQUET "BEFITTING THE GODS," HAVING AS OUR HOST, ARCHON FRANCIS JAMISON. THE HIGHLIGHT AND PIÈCE DE RÉSIDENCE OF THE EVENING WAS THE BRILLIANT SPEECH GIVEN BY ARCHON RAYFORD LOGAN, EPSILON BOULÉ, WHO HAD BEEN INVITED TO GRACE OUR PRESENCE ON THIS MEMORABLE OCCASION.

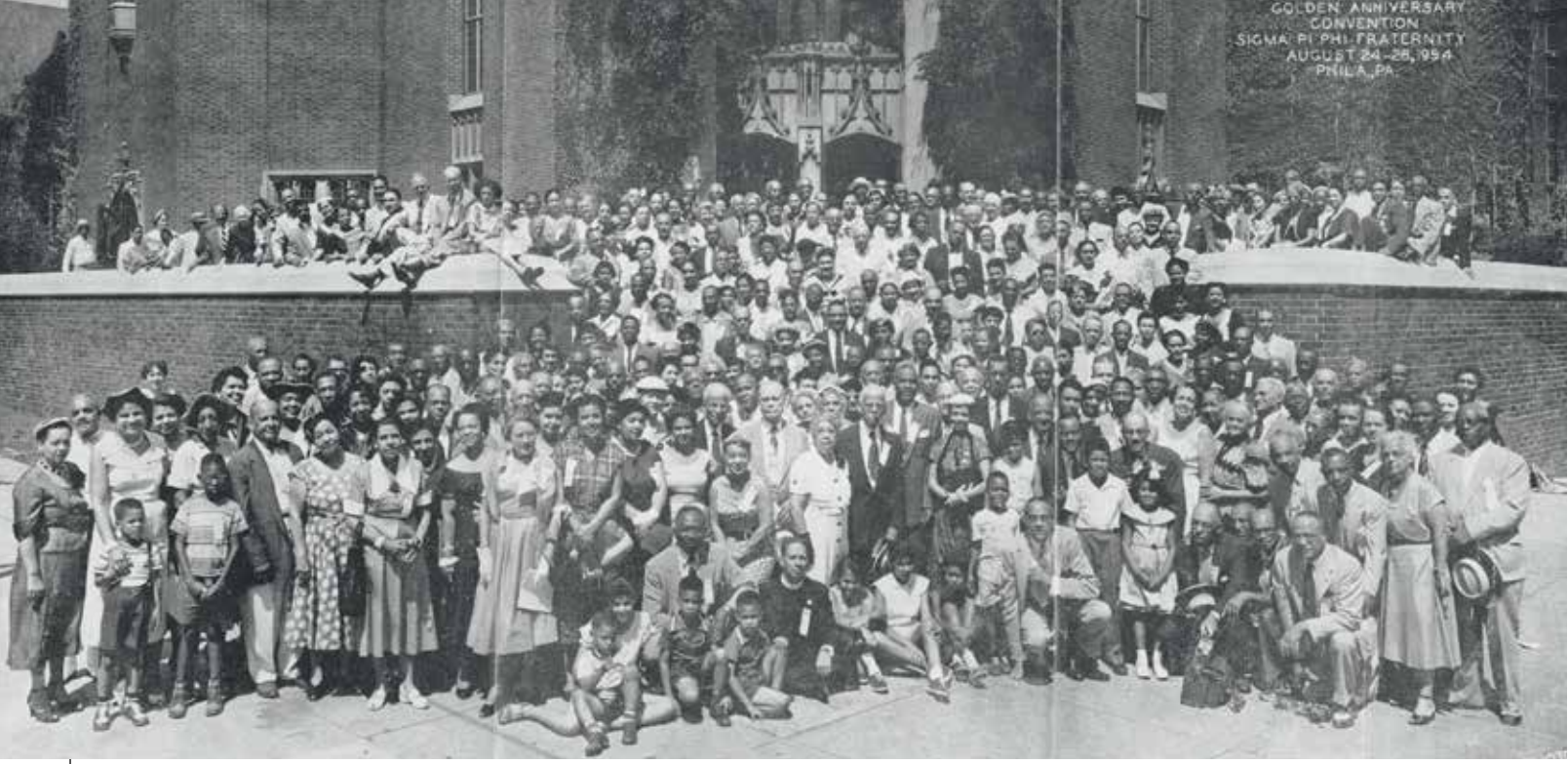
~ Archon Horace C. Scott, M.D., Grapier

phia.] I would say 90 percent of my father's patients were the working people who lived on the Main Line. People think of the Main Line, and they think of big homes and a lot of wealth, but he did not have that. He was serving those people who were maids and gardeners and that sort of thing, during his practice. He moved to Bryn Mawr because his older brother, Whittier Atkinson, founded a hospital in Coatesville, Pennsylvania. He wanted to be close enough to help his brother when he needed another doctor but also to be independent, and that is why he chose Bryn

Mawr as a place where he would practice. He became friendly with Archon Russell Minton, who was the nephew of Founder [Henry McKee Minton], and Minton proposed my father for induction into the Boulé.

A.E.G.: I just did a quick search in my computer to learn more about your uncle. It's very interesting story. But please, go on.

N.N.A.: My father ultimately brought [my uncle] into Alpha Boulé, as he had been in the Boulé prior



TWENTY-SECOND GRAND BOULÉ IN 1954 IN PHILADELPHIA, CELEBRATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRATERNITY

to his eldest brother. So the family of Boulé was very important to my father, because it was the only time he really got to associate with African American professionals since he lived in Bryn Mawr. He did not have professional relationships with other doctors or dentists or lawyers who were in the Bryn Mawr area at that time. This is going back to the early and mid-forties. So the Boulé became, for my father, his major social outlet. He enjoyed it very much and because of that family history, I knew about Boulé, I think, since I was about 8 or 9 years old.

A.E.G.: Growing up, what were the conversations about the Boulé around your home?

N.N.A.: At that time, as you may know, most meetings were held in the homes of Archons, and that was something that I experienced several times when a Boulé meeting was in our home. As a young man, still under 10 years old, I used to watch the Boulé men come to our home. Meetings then were on Saturday night, and Archons wore tuxedos. The Archons would go down in

our basement. I used to listen at the top of the steps to the men discussing issues and what have you. So it just was sort of embedded in me that this was something that I should aspire to, and I always did.

I went to my first Grand Boulé convention when I was 9 years old, I believe, in 1952, in Cleveland, and followed that up in 1954, when I think the Grand Boulé was in Philadelphia. So all through those early years of my life, the Boulé was something that I experienced almost like family. As I got older, my father would have various roles in the Fraternity. He would give me a report or something that he would have to make, and he would ask me to edit it or to take a look at it and see how I could make it better for him. That was another way that I began to know about the Boulé and what it did. It was always a very positive organization throughout my life.

A.E.G.: When I hear this, I have to ask, What was it like to see men of excellence like that – doctors and other professionals – at a time when it was difficult for Black people to achieve those roles?

N.N.A.: For me, it was the only outlet to see African American men of excellence. It was something that I experienced – let me put it this way – at that time, a little bit different than you might expect.

Those men who came to our home were the same men I would see at various times throughout the year. For example, Archons used to just knock on our door on Christmas Day and come in. I was used to seeing

‘The Boulé was something I experienced almost like family.’



ARCHONS EUGENE T. HINSON AND RICHARD J. WARRICK, JR., BOTH OF ALPHA BOULÉ, THE LAST TWO SURVIVING FOUNDERS OF SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY AT THE TWENTY-SECOND GRAND BOULÉ IN 1954, CELEBRATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRATERNITY, SHOWN WITH GRAND SIRE ARCHON S. TANNER STAFFORD

Archons from those years in non-Boulé roles because they were my parents' friends, not only as part of the Boulé – that's who their friends were. It was much closer in that era than I think it is today and there are many reasons for that, which aren't really relevant now, but I've felt, as I've said before, that Boulé was like a part of the family.

A.E.G.: Tell us about the founders you met. You referred to sitting at the top of your basement stairs and folks coming. Who were the founders you met and what was it like?

N.N.A.: I met the two founders in 1954, when Alpha Boulé hosted the fiftieth anniversary convention, which was held on the University of Pennsylvania campus. Prior to 1954, most of the Grand Boulé conventions were on the campuses of African American schools, because we couldn't really have access to the major hotels. So in 1954 I would have been 11

years old. They were having the, I think, the closing banquet, and my father took me up to the head table and introduced me to Archon Richard Warrick, who was one of the founders, and me being a kid of 11, I didn't really have much conversation about the significance of the Boulé, but I recall him as being a very nice and kind gentleman. I was also introduced to another founder, and he would have been at the same table and I'm reluctant to call the name because I'm not exactly sure which one it was. So I wouldn't want to misspeak, but those were the two founders I met.

A.E.G.: When you think back on having met them, just what kind of an impact did that have on you? I ask that because for Archons in my generation, the founders are basically legends. We know they lived, but we only read about their accomplishments, not having had the opportunity to meet them. You had the opportunity to engage with two of the men who started Sigma Pi Phi in 1904.



ARCHON NOLAN ATKINSON, SR., (CENTER) WITH FELLOW ARCHONS AT THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY GRAND BOULÉ

N.N.A.: I really think, and I've said this before, that the secret of this organization has always been to know the best of one another. As I've met two of them, I recall that these were men who wanted to know others like them, that they would feel like they could have a conversation and then grow from it. To me, and this is answering one of your other questions, the most important thing about Boulé is the Boulé meetings. It's how you get to know other Archons, what their issues are. Maybe they're plus, maybe they're minus, but it's a real time to learn about other African Americans who have all had similar journeys, in terms of achievement, but have also had issues and how they have grown or would be able to grow. So, that to me is the most important point about the Boulé. Founder Richard Warrick, Jr., impressed me as a person who would sit down with you and not talk about just what he has done but want to know what was interesting about you, to have you know what was interesting about him.

A.E.G.: That's very impactful. Did you ever have the chance to meet him again or meet any of our other founders?

N.N.A.: No, I didn't. That was the only time. In 1954, they were pretty much along in years.

A.E.G.: That was a unique experience. You gave a little history of your father and your uncle. You are now one of our Emeritus Archons. When were you inducted into the Boulé?

N.N.A.: 1971.

A.E.G.: I have two questions in that regard. First, do you remember being inducted? Second, do you recall some of the members in your class who really impressed you, who were all of a certain status? Maybe just tell me about some members in your class who come to mind.

N.N.A.: Going into Boulé was equivalent in my mind to, at a minimum, graduating from college. Those kinds of events your family is involved in in some way is how I considered Boulé. This was big stuff for me, and I almost felt like it was expected for me to be able to go into Boulé. So it was another accomplishment that I was very happy about. It was a very good time.

The Boulé induction ceremony was combined with the Christmas party. It was at the Barclay Hotel in downtown Philadelphia. I recall that every new Archon had to give a full ten-minute speech to the entire body, including Archons and Archousai, and those who

‘When I played an active role, I was getting a lot more out of Boulé than when I was just sitting in the room.’

were in my class including Bernie Watson, who, of course, distinguished himself in the field of education at Temple University. Don Stewart, who was then the executive assistant to the president of the University of Pennsylvania and went on to have many, many achievements in his life in both Philadelphia, and I believe, Chicago. Winston Bryant, who became my ophthalmologist, who was just a great person as well and a very, very well qualified eye doctor and physician. So, yes, I remember those that were in the class. I remember that whole time as being a real opportunity. I had just been married for about a year at the time of this induction. So, it was the first time I could introduce my bride to the Boulé, which was something I was very proud of. It was always a high point in my life.

A.E.G.: Wonderful. Having come into the Boulé in 1971, you’ve seen the Boulé grow and change over the years. I noted that you mentioned how, in the past, Archons really saw each other a lot more than we see each other now – going over to each other’s homes and things like that. Again, having come in 1971, I’m curious about how, in your view, the Boule has changed.

N.N.A.: Well, it has certainly grown in numbers. It’s grown in the manner that its events are held. The meetings are held at good locations. The meetings now are planned by the executive committee or other officers. When I came in, the meetings were planned by an Archon. If you were going into an Archon’s home, the Archon would plan the menu and buy the food. Your membership fee didn’t cover the cost of the meeting, so when you hosted a meeting, you were paying whatever the cost was. It was very much a different kind of interaction than it is now. But I understand that things change all the time.

We talk a lot about how we elect our officers and our Sire Archon, which was different when I came in.

Your name was picked out of a hat and if you were at the meeting and it said “Sire,” then you would be Sire Archon, whether you have been in the Boulé for five years or five months. Those are just some of the ways that the organization has changed. We have, I believe, seventy-plus members in Alpha Boulé. When I came in, the goal was probably thirty or thirty-five members. I remember once I went to a meeting, and there was a long discussion as to whether we should have more than forty Archons. And, ultimately, everyone decided that yes, we should have more. But I think that there is a certain danger in growing. I think growth is necessary to keep the Fraternity healthy and vibrant, and we’ve got to bring in new people all the time. But if you’re so big that you must put a name tag on when you go to a meeting then you need to think about how you can either change your programming or keep your size to a place where everyone can get to know each other.

A.E.G.: Have you served as an officer? If so, what roles did you have?

N.N.A.: I was Sire for one year. But I had a lot more fun and enjoyment in having the role of chairman of various events. I had the privilege of being the induction chairman for both the seventy-fifth anniversary convention and the hundredth anniversary convention. For the seventy-fifth, the Philadelphia chapter was hosting the convention and we brought in seventy-five new Archons in Philadelphia. That induction took place in the United States Courthouse in the ceremonial courtroom.

In 2004 the induction ceremony was held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. We brought in one hundred men for the hundred years we have been in existence. I had the role of planning that ceremony. So that was another event I enjoyed where I had a leadership responsibility.

The third was that I was picked by the Grand Sire to be on a committee that produced the history book for the hundredth-anniversary convention, and that was the committee that worked for approximately two years in gathering the information and the pictures necessary to put that book together. I really enjoyed that. We would go to New York about every three months and meet in the Boulé office, which was then in New York. I thought it was a good opportunity to really see how the national office at that time was functioning. I got to know Archon Khephra Burns, then the editor of THE BOULÉ JOURNAL, well, and enjoyed the assignment.



THE CENTENNIAL BOOK COMMITTEE (2002–04): PAST GRAND HISTORIAN WILLIAM H. HARRIS, PAST SIRE ARCHON NOLAN N. ATKINSON, JR., PAST GRAND SIRE ARCHON RICHARD I. MCKINNEY, PAST GRAND GRAPTER KHEPHRA BURNS, PAST SOUTHEAST REGION SIRE ARCHON JAMES E. CARTER III, CAROL MITTELSDORF OF FRED WEIDNER & DAUGHTER PRINTERS AND PAST GRAND AGOGOS WINFORD A. QUICK.

To really be good in Boulé, you have got to find an opportunity to do something. And just as you are taking on this role of Grapter, I found that when I played an active role, I was getting a lot more out of Boulé than when I just was sitting in the room. That was meaningful, but it's more meaningful if you are doing something.

A.E.G.: That's something every Archon needs to hear. I'll go to my last question. What has it meant for you to be a member of Alpha Boulé and Sigma Pi Phi? I distinguish the two because Alpha was the first Boulé, and Sigma Pi Phi is now a much larger organization, maybe even larger than our founders thought it would become.

N.N.A.: I consider being a member of the Boulé an opportunity to meet other men of color who are doing interesting and important things. I have always made Alpha Boulé meetings, and, to a certain extent, responsibilities in the national fraternity, an important part of my life. If I can go to a Boulé meeting, I will, unless I'm sick or have some other kind of family emergency because I want to be a part of that brotherhood, which I think has been of real importance

to most Archons I have known. I recall that [Emeritus] Archon Wilson Goode, Sr., who I sponsored into Alpha Boulé, never missed a meeting during his term as mayor of the city of Philadelphia, even when there were all sorts of crises going on throughout the city. He may have missed one but I'm not sure, and he will probably remember. But he always came and that's really sort of how Boulé has been for me throughout my life. You just go. It's not whether you're going to watch the football games or go to Boulé. It's pretty much I'm going to Boulé. And it's that kind of organization. It's not a club, not a group of guys. It's a fraternity where other men care about you, and you care about them. So yes, it has been a very meaningful organization. Things change, new issues come along. New officers come in. Some are better than others, but it's still a steady shift as it goes throughout time that all of us who have had the opportunity to be in the organization respect and honor.

A.E.G.: That's an amazing summary and a great way to close this interview. Thank you, Archon Atkinson.

N.N.A.: Thank you.

LAMBDA BOULÉ CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION:

100 Years of Wisdom, Faith and Brotherhood

By Archon Stephen S. Francis, Sr., Lambda Boulé



CHARTER ARCHON ALBON LANGSTON FOSTER



CHARTER ARCHON WILLIAM ARTHUR METHOD



CHARTER ARCHON D.L. BROWN

On June 21, 1921, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity chartered Lambda Boulé in Columbus, Ohio, as its eleventh member boulé in the country. Grand Sire Archon Henry Pace, with the assistance of Archons W.H. Bentley and A.L. Thompson of Delta Boulé and T.K. Gibson of Kappa Boulé, arrived in Columbus to set apart Lambda Boulé. The chartering of Lambda was part of African American prosperity and growth in Columbus during World War I. Lambda was the first member boulé in Ohio. The charter Archons were Arthur Wesley Hardy, Sire Archon; Albon Langston Foster, Grammateus; George Wade Mosby, Thesauristes; William Arthur Method, Agogos; Archon Roy C. Carter, Rhetoricos; and John A. Bailey, John P. Bowles, D.L. Brown and G.A. Steward.

The induction ceremony for the charter Archons was held at the Spring Street YMCA, a common gathering place on the East Side in Columbus for prominent Blacks. An induction celebration followed for Archons, Archousai and family members at the Ogden

Theatre Hall, now known as the historic Lincoln Theatre, which is located on historic Mount Vernon Avenue, a thriving area of commerce for Columbus Blacks at the time. From 1930 to 1960, the Ogden Theatre Hall was a well-known stop on the “Chitlin Circuit,” featuring many famous Black entertainers who were not able to perform in other facilities because of Jim Crow segregation and racism.

LAMBDA BOULÉ CENTENNIAL

Because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, Lambda could not commemorate its centennial anniversary on the actual hundred-year date of June 21, 2021. Now that COVID-19 is less of a public health threat, Lambda was finally able to celebrate its centennial in Columbus on Saturday, September 14, 2024, with a centennial celebration gala. The gala was held at the exclusive Hilton Columbus Downtown with more than 400 people in attendance. A bevy of local digni-



SPRING STREET YMCA

taries, elected officials, and both Grand and Central Region officers were on hand. The keynote speaker was American academic, author, Baptist minister, television commentator and radio host Michael Eric Dyson.

Archon William Hicks, Sr., cochair of the Lambda Boulé centennial committee, put tireless effort into keeping the vision for the celebration alive before, during and after the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. He provided these personal reflections on the history of the boulé: 'I'm very proud to be an emeritus member of Lambda Boulé and have been a member for more than thirty-nine years. Lambda Boulé has a rich history in the Central Ohio community, with leaders in all aspects of career and community advancement, education, health care, law, politics, entrepreneurship, social justice, government, finance, and corporate America.'

Archon David Montgomery, the other cochair of the committee, took the vision of Archon Hicks to the next level by applying his outstanding planning and execution skills to help ensure that the celebration was a huge success. Archon Montgomery is also chair of the Lambda Boulé Foundation, which did a great job generating corporate sponsorships that will help continue to fund Lambda's social action agenda, and worked closely with vendors to make the celebration an occasion to be remembered for many years to come. He is proud of the Lambda Archons who stepped up to help get things done: "Lambda Archons displayed the best of one another during the planning for our centennial. They answered the call when they were needed most."

LAMBDA BOULÉ'S HISTORIC MILESTONES

The following brief list of highlights of Lambda's hundred-year history gives you an idea of the significant impact it has had on our august fraternity:



THE ALPHA HOSPITAL AND PROFESSIONAL BUILDING

- 1921: Lambda Boulé was chartered in Columbus as the first member boulé in the state of Ohio with the induction of nine members at the Spring Street YMCA.
- 1921: The Alpha Hospital and Professional Building was built in a place known as the Bronzeville Community at the corner of 17th Street and Long Street. It was the first Black hospital in Columbus and was established by Lambda Archons William Method and R.M. Tribbitt for the African American community. In the thriving Bronzeville Community area, there were ten Black physicians, six dentists, ten churches, two undertakers and more than one hundred African American-owned homes.
- 1925: Lambda Boulé helps start new charters in Ohio: Wilberforce-Dayton (Sigma) and Cleveland (Tau).
- 1925: The Midwestern Football Classic was held in Wilberforce with a large afterparty in the Columbus Crystal Slipper Ballroom.
- 1929: The Grand Boulé was held in Columbus with events at Ogden Theatre Hall, the Crystal Slipper Ballroom and the Big Walnut Country Club.
- 1948: Lambda Boulé helps start a new charter in Cincinnati (Alpha Delta).
- 1954: The Big Walnut Country Club becomes one of the first Black-owned golf clubs in the United States, with six of its eight founding members being Lambda Boulé Archons.
- 1971: Lambda Boulé hosts the first Regional Boulé in Columbus. Sigma Pi Phi later adopts the 1971 Regional Boulé in Columbus as the model for all of the Sigma Pi Phi Regional Boulés.
- 2005: Lambda Boulé hosts the Central Regional Boulé at the Hilton Columbus at Easton.



ARCHONS ROBERT M. DUNCAN AND WILLIAM "BILL" WILLIS FROM THE 1971 BOULÉ JOURNAL

LAMBDA BOULÉ'S NOTABLE ARCHONS

Several outstanding members of Lambda Boulé have made an indelible mark in the history of not only Lambda, but also Sigma Pi Phi on a local, state and national level. The following are examples of Lambda's history-making Archons:

- 1940: Archon George Boston was a Tuskegee Airman.
- 1942: Archon William "Bill" Willis was a member of the 1942 Ohio State University college football championship team, one of the two first Blacks to play in pro football, and a member of the 1950 Football World Championship team of the Cleveland Browns. Archon Willis was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1971 and the NFL Hall of Fame in 1977.
- 1969: Archon Robert M. Duncan was the first Black to serve on the Ohio Supreme Court. He also served on the U.S. district court in the Sixth Circuit and decided the landmark case that ordered desegregation of Columbus Public Schools. This case set legal precedent for the practice of busing students to better-funded schools in various areas of Columbus, thus evening the playing field for urban youths in pursuit of quality education.
- 1973–75: Archon Archie Griffin was a college football All-American at Ohio State University. In 1974 and 1975 Archon Archie Griffin won the Heisman Trophy. He is the only two-time Heisman Trophy winner in history. In 2024 Archon Griffin had his statue unveiled at both

the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, and at Ohio Stadium in Columbus (See Sports Feature on page 8).

- 1980s: Archon Clark Kellogg was a college basketball All-American at Ohio State University and made the NBA All-Rookie First Team. Archon Kellogg played for several years with the Indiana Pacers and was a longtime commentator for the team. Archon Kellogg is one of the most well-known college basketball analysts in the country and is a regular with his CBS TV broadcasting team of Greg Gumbel, Charles Barkley and Kenny Smith.
- 2000: Archon Michael Coleman was the first Black mayor of the city of Columbus and one of the longest-serving mayors, for sixteen years. Archon Coleman was a big part of why Columbus is now the fourteenth largest city in the United States.
- 2013: Archon William "Ted" McDaniel was the music choreographer for the opening of the MLK, Jr. Monument in Washington, D.C. In 1972, Archon McDaniel was the founder of the National Association for the Study of Performance of African American Music (formerly National Black Music Caucus). In 2018 Archon McDaniel was the chair of the Grand committee on music.
- 2018: Archon Curtis Moody was CEO of Moody Nolan, the largest Black-owned architectural firm in the United States. His son, Jonathan Moody, now heads the company.
- 2018: Archon Lewis Smoot, Sr., was CEO of Smoot Construction, the largest Black-owned construction company in the United States. One of Smoot Construction's most notable construction projects was the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.
- 2024: Archon Jordan Miller opened Adelphi Bank, the only Black-owned bank in the state of Ohio and, according to the FDIC, one of only twenty-one Black-owned banks in the country. Archon Miller is a longtime banking executive and regional president. Archon Miller had a vision to reopen and honor the legacy of Adelphi Loan and Savings Co., which was central Ohio's first Black-owned bank in the 1920s and folded during the Great Depression.

LAMBDA BOULÉ SOCIAL ACTION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

In the early 2000s, the leadership of Sigma Pi Phi increased the Fraternity's focus on social action and encouraged member boulés to engage more directly in new social action efforts. To answer the call, the



LUCIEN WRIGHT SCHOLARS WITH MEMBERS OF THE LAMBDA BOULÉ SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Lambda Boulé Foundation was established in 2008 to serve as the philanthropic arm of Lambda Boulé and to support its social action agenda, programs and initiatives. The foundation’s mission is to assist academically gifted high school students who are underrepresented in institutions of higher education by awarding college scholarships. Lambda named its college scholarship program after Archon Lucien Wright, who was one of the most highly respected educators in Central Ohio and one of the first Black principals in the history of the Columbus City Schools system.

The foundation also provides grants to and partners with community organizations that share our commitment to addressing the social and educational issues that promote the advancement of disadvantaged and underserved young people in our community. Working closely with the Lambda social action committee, under the longtime leadership of Archon Ted McDaniel, it strives to ensure a brighter future for African American and other diverse students through financial support, mentoring activities, culturally based educational programs, and programs and events for at-risk youths.

One flagship social action program over the years has been in partnership with the Columbus City Schools to form an early-intervention, career-men-

toring and life-skills program for disadvantaged students in elementary schools called the Careers and Aspirations Mentoring Program. Archon McDaniel said about the program, “We mostly work with fourth and fifth graders to help drive them to be successful and plan for their futures. Although the program is career-driven, we also help provide examples of success from African American men and teach life and social ‘soft skills’ that will not only help them matriculate through school but also prepare them for their future adult lives.” This Columbus City Schools program and the other Lambda Boulé social action programs and initiatives have been recognized at both the Grand Boulé and Central Region Boulé levels with financial and other awards over the years.

LAMBDA BOULÉ ARCHOUSAI

No history of Lambda would be complete without special mention of our Archousai. About a year before we hosted the 1929 Grand Boulé in Columbus, the Archousai began to hold meetings to prepare for the event. The feeling of closeness that came from that experience caused them to continue their informal organization, which was later known as Ladies of Lambda. Lambda Archousai now are leaders and



LAMBDA ARCHONS AND OTHER ARCHONS ATTENDING CHRISTMAS IS FOR THE ARCHOUSAI WITH GRAND AND CENTRAL REGION OFFICERS

pillars of the central Ohio community in the fields of law, medicine, politics, education, entrepreneurship and corporate America.

A few examples of Lambda Archousai who help to uplift and serve the central Ohio community are:

- Archousa Joyce Beatty, U.S. Congress, Ohio 3rd District
- Archousa Shari Hicks-Graham, dermatologist
- Archousa Karen Morrison, president, OhioHealth Foundation
- Archousa Bernice McDaniel, senior academic counselor, Ohio State University
- Archousa Renee Shumate, external affairs manager, American Electric Power

The Christmas Is for the Archousai event is always the highlight of each year for Lambda Boulé. One longtime Archousa, Carole Smithers, reflected on this special Christmas event over the years, and on what the Lambda Boulé centennial celebration means to her: “Christmas Is for the Archousai is always the highlight of our holiday season. Lambda Boulé Archons make it an event to remember. My husband, Archon Ralph Smithers, Sr., and I have not missed a Christmas Is for the Archousai event in more than thirty years. I always look forward to meeting with

other Archousai from all over the country when I attend Grand and Regional Boulés. Sigma Pi Phi has been a source of special sisterhood for me for many, many years.”

FINALLY, THE LAMBDA BOULÉ CELEBRATION

The Lambda Boule Centennial Celebration Gala was much anticipated by Lambda Archons, Archousai and the Columbus community at large. Because of delays caused by COVID-19, members had to start, then stop, then restart planning for the celebration and gala over the span of five years. Several Grand Boulé, Regional Boulé and member boulé officers attended the gala, including Grand Sire Archon Loren Douglass, Grand Sire Archon–Elect Jesse Tyson, Grand Grammateus Darrell Searcy, Regional Grapter John Williams, Regional Sire Archon–Elect Kenneth Harris and Sire Archon Xavier Johnson (Sigma Boulé, Dayton).

The gala emcee was Archon Clark Kellogg, who did an excellent job of “shooting, scoring and rebounding” from the podium all evening. Archon Kellogg joined Lambda in 2016 and is very active when he has breaks from his busy college and professional basketball TV broadcasting schedule, his philanthropy work, and the time he devotes to his church and family.



LAMBDA BOULÉ ARCHOUSAI AT THE 2023 CHRISTMAS IS FOR THE ARCHOUSAI EVENT



LAMBDA SIRE ARCHON STEPHEN FRANCIS, GRAND SIRE ARCHON LOREN DOUGLASS AND PAST SIRE ARCHON NELSON MARSHALL

The keynote speaker was Michael Eric Dyson, who delivered a very timely message about the challenges that our communities of color face across the nation in the backdrop of the 2024 election season. Dyson is a noted academic, author, Baptist minister and radio host, who is also a highly sought-after cable TV news commentator for various TV networks on social, political, cultural and religious issues. He challenged the Lambda centennial audience with his humorous yet important speech about the responsibility of Sigma Pi Phi: “Yes, you are the Talented Tenth, but as you lead and ascend, you must uplift the other ninetieth percentile of our people with you, never forgetting where you came from. It will take more than the financial resources of Archons to save our communities. Sigma Pi Phi must use all its collective human capital, network of connections, resourcefulness, authenticity and courage to redeem our communities across the country.”

The gala was also a fundraiser for the Lambda Boulé Foundation. Remarks, videos and other programming were featured during the evening that showcased the outstanding work the foundation is engaged in to address the needs of youth in our community. Parents of the scholarship recipients were in attendance, along with teachers from elementary schools where

Lambda Archons had mentored students. The fundraising efforts at the gala were a huge success and will go a long way toward continuing Lambda’s social action impact in Columbus and central Ohio for many years to come.

The gala on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at the Columbus Downtown Hilton Hotel was followed by a church worship service on Sunday at the historic Second Baptist Church. Second Baptist is on the National Register of Historic Places for the role it played in the Underground Railroad and the slave abolitionist movement. One of the early pastors of the church was James P. Poindexter (1819–1907), who was also an abolitionist, civil rights activist and politician. At his death, Poindexter was noted as the second-longest-serving advocate for African American rights after Booker T. Washington.

Second Baptist Church was also pastored by Archon Charles F. Jenkins, who became a member of Lambda Boulé in 1948. He was pastor of Second Baptist Church for thirty-five years and baptized the current Lambda Sire Archon, Stephen Francis, in 1967 when he was 9 years old. Archon Francis never knew that his pastor was an Archon until he became a member of Lambda. “It makes sense to me now,” he said. “Second Baptist Church had many Black pro-



LAMBDA ARCHON CLARK KELLOGG AND GRAND SIRE ARCHON-ELECT JESSE TYSON

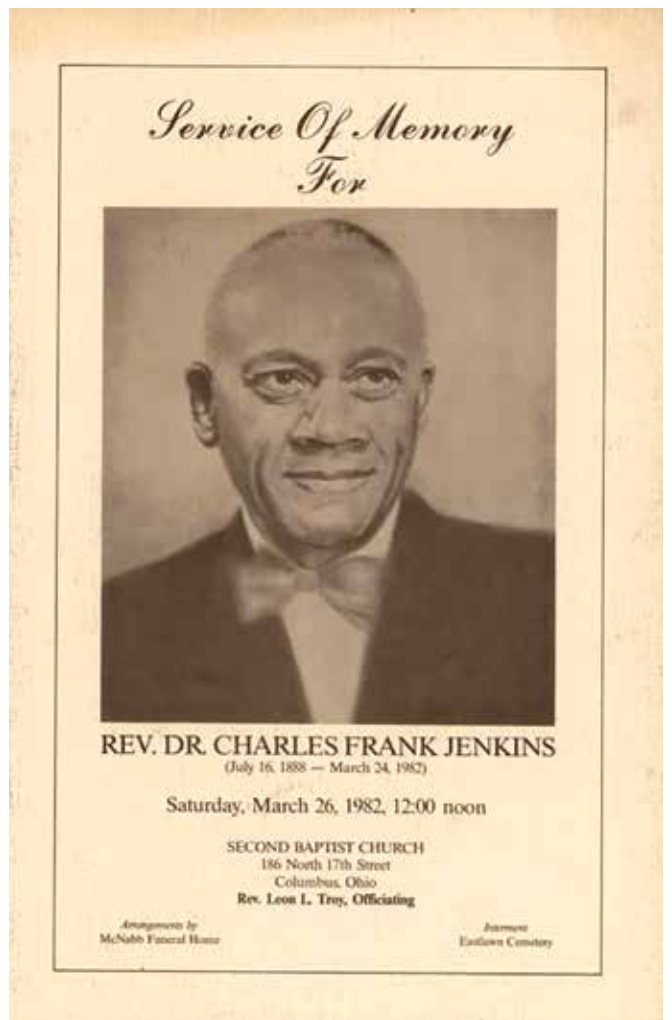
professionals as members of its congregation ever since I can remember. Back in the 1950s, Second Baptist was one of two churches where Black students could worship freely as they attended Ohio State University. Many of those Black students upon graduation chose to stay in Columbus to advance their professional career pursuits, and they wound up worshipping at Second Baptist Church.”

GRATITUDE AND KUDOS

In closing, Archon Francis thanked the entire centennial committee for an outstanding job with the planning and execution of the long-awaited Lambda Boulé centennial celebration: “I’d like to express my gratitude and give kudos to everyone that contributed to make this weekend a huge success. In particular, I’d like to offer a special recognition to Archon William Hicks, Sr., centennial committee chair; Archon David Montgomery, foundation board chair; Archon Ivery Foreman, centennial corporate sponsor subcommittee chair; Archon Ted McDaniel, centennial speaker and entertainment subcommittee chair; Archon Christopher Boyd, Lambda Grammateus; Christopher Graham, Lambda Sire Archon-Elect; and Archon Ralph Smithers, Jr., Lambda Boulé social action committee chair, for stepping up big time when they were needed most. A debt of gratitude is also owed to all Lambda members who helped meet the financial commitment it took to make this centennial celebration weekend happen. Thanks for allowing the very best of one another to come through under pressure, and here’s to the next one hundred years for Lambda Boulé!”



MICHAEL ERIC DYSON



FUNERAL PROGRAM FOR LAMBDA ARCHON CHARLES F. JENKINS

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE: ANNOUNCING THE HARVEY C. RUSSELL, JR. INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND STRATEGIC COALITIONS

By Grand Sire Archon Loren R. Douglass

For months, we have been contemplating the future of our fraternity in these pages. We've made ample mention of Archons' wants and desires for a fraternity value proposition that makes sense for them. We have examined the Fraternity's unshakable resolve as it persevered through key moments in American history. We've also conducted a thought experiment of how the Boulé could extend its reach and influence efficiently and cost effectively into capabilities and networks to which we do not have access today.

Despite the Fraternity's 120-year history and the changing circumstances surrounding us, the Boulé has remained steadfast in its mission in providing that social and personal refuge our founders envisioned. The need has remained as the generations passed. As we face the precipice of a new era where interest in self-determination, wealth creation and community impact is rising, Archons have expressed a desire for bolder leadership, innovation and tighter fraternal bonds along with more networking and collaboration. It is leadership's job to understand that which Archons want and need for themselves and for their families, and it is also leadership's job to provide it.

In the spirit of honoring our past while seizing the future, it is with immense pleasure and enthusiasm that we announce the launch of the Harvey C. Russell, Jr. Institute for International Business and Strategic Coalitions. The Russell Institute will be a dedicated institution focused on enabling Boulé proactive strategic and collective action in advancing business and economic empowerment. These objectives will be achieved by organizing and transforming the Boulé's vast resources into access to information and into various forms of capital (for example, social, financial, investment, intellectual) along with enhancing access to business growth opportunities.

Named after Past Grand Sire Archon Harvey C. Russell, Jr., the Russell Institute is being established as the fourth pillar of the Fraternity, where the "second half" of our credo (that is, collective action) will be manifest. Through the institute, we will organize and deploy our collective energies, talents and gifts to create wealth, gain access to opportunities and information, and collaborate with each other with the purpose of improving lives for ourselves, our families and the communities in which we live. We will use the power of business and the free markets to support and amplify our efforts in achieving the



GRAND SIRE ARCHON LOREN R. DOUGLASS

Fraternity's fraternal and social action goals and objectives. Past Grand Sire Archon Russell said in his inaugural speech in 1978 as he took office in New York City, "A knowledge of economics and of free enterprise can create more opportunities for work, for future improvement of one's life, than any number of nonproductive and inflationary federal agencies."

Past Grand Sire Archon Russell, the first Black corporate officer of a major U.S. corporation, believed in and helped perpetuate the nexus between the Boulé's public policy and business agendas as one of the founding influences of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. He was also active in international business as PepsiCo's representative to the African American dialogues in Tunisia, Lesotho and Khartoum.

Having examined the Boulé's evolution and having recognized the need to change along with it in previous articles, these pages will focus on how we are going to change, when we are going to change and what that change means for you.

The Harvey C. Russell, Jr. Institute for International Business and Strategic Coalitions is an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank and publisher dedicated to being a resource for its members, the Archons and Archousai of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and interested collaborators in creating environments where free enterprise and market-based solutions can support the advancement of Archons, their families, and Black and Brown communities domestically and in African diaspora countries.

Archons will have access to benefits, including the following:

- Special programs
- Networking opportunities and resources
- Investment opportunities
- International business and investment missions
- Specialized research
- Roundtable discussions, seminars and workshops
- Business growth opportunities

The Russell Institute will launch its mission by reorganizing existing fraternity programs and launching innovative new programs for Archons and Archousai and their families, business leaders, and professionals. They will be moved to the institute so that greater funding, structure and staffing can be applied, thus enhancing their breadth and effectiveness. The transition will start immediately and will be completed by December 2025.

Archons will benefit in the institute's inaugural year via access to a reimagined Blacks on Corporate Boards program and an enhanced Boulé Economic Empowerment Summit with robust wealth-management and business development opportunities. Additionally, the institute will launch its Trade Ambassador Program for Archons interested in international business. Among the innovative initiatives it will investigate is the development of an Archon Investment Portal. It will also make considerable progress on a Boulé Coinvestment Fund that will be offered to Archons able to participate in this specialized investment vehicle. These offerings will be business oriented but will have a social component to them, also. As I indicated in my recent article, "Let's Make a Deal: Creating Archon Wealth Through Innovative Collaboration," no mutually beneficial business relationships can be formed without the care and feeding of personal relationships. In fact, they are mutually reinforcing. As we learn together and do business together, we will also get to know the best of one another.

We will amplify the results and effectiveness of the Boulé's public policy agenda through intentional and disciplined execution of our existing Memoranda of Understanding that were negotiated with the National Urban League and the NAACP during Past Grand Sire Archon Wes Coleman's administration. Already, we

are teaming with the leadership of the National Urban League in discussions with a major global franchisee on creating business access and capital to Archons as a source of creating generational wealth. As Black business is by far the largest employer of Black people in the United States, we are leading from the front by being intentional in getting behind building Archon-owned businesses. Additionally, we've privately started discussions with a major private-equity firm in collaborating in sourcing talent to fill board seats and executive positions for its portfolio companies. The Boulé has a deep bench of energetic and experienced talent, and it is time for us to be intentional and proactive in staking a claim to our "piece of the pie." Cultivating strategic coalitions with like-minded organizations, as I've written in these pages, is a shortcut to realizing our intended goals and objectives.

These are the types of arrangements and associated Archon membership benefits that can be conceived, planned, negotiated and consistently executed through a permanent affiliate to the Fraternity, such as the Russell Institute. Although the launch of the Russell Institute may seem to be a big idea, it is a logical evolutionary next step in the Fraternity's development. Past Grand Sire Archon Harvey Russell foreshadowed it, and Past Grand Sire Archons expertly led us through the tectonic shifts of the 1980s and Y2K, the Great Recession, and the Obama years. Past Grand Sire Archon Wes Coleman brought C-suite-trained focus, discipline and clarity to leadership as we organized for growth and met the critical challenge of "helping our boys become men." The Russell Institute simply compartmentalizes the magnificent work that all have done into logical groupings and makes it easy for an Archon to identify his "preferred lane." Also, organizing it in this manner allows the work to be funded and managed for maximum effectiveness as the benefits are delivered to Archons, Archousai, their families and their respective communities.

This is an exciting development for the Fraternity. It marks the beginning of a new era for Sigma Pi Phi as we embark in an increasingly interconnected world as global collaboration drives innovation. The ability to forge strategic partnerships and alliances in the realms of domestic and global commerce has never been more critical. Through the Russell Institute, the Boulé will harness its vast array of gifts and be at the forefront of this transformative landscape. It will serve as a catalyst for Archons to work together, transcend geographic boundaries, exchange knowledge, and generate and receive actionable insights and thought leadership that will guide Archons, Archousai and their families towards a prosperous and sustainable future.

As previously declared, the innovation has begun! Be a part of it as we seize the future!

BLACK THRIVING IN AMERICA: MEASURING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY

By Archon M. Christopher Brown II, Delta Theta Boulé



In an era marked by both profound challenges and unprecedented opportunities, the pursuit of social justice and racial equity has reached a critical juncture. The pioneering collaboration between the Dr. N. Joyce Payne Research Center and the Gallup Center on Black Voices represents a transformative advancement in this field. This joint initiative has intro-

duced the world's first comprehensive quantitative metric of racial progress, aimed at delivering a clear, data-driven understanding of Black life experiences in America and driving meaningful change.

The Payne Research Center, established by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, is a distinguished think tank dedicated to advancing social justice through rigorous, independent research. Its mission is to inform public policy that enhances the lives of Black Americans and other marginalized groups, focusing on creating a more equitable society. The center's research spans diverse areas including civic participation, economic wealth and educational equity, all approached through a lens of data-driven social science.

In a groundbreaking partnership, the Payne Center has embarked on an ambitious project to develop a robust quantitative metric of racial progress. Gallup, with its extensive history of global opinion polling and research, brings unparalleled expertise in examining societal issues, including race and racism. This collaboration fuses the Payne Center's deep commitment to social justice with Gallup's exceptional research capabilities to produce *Black Thriving in America: 2024*, the second report in a commitment to release annual data for one hundred years.

Social justice, inherently tied to the principles of fairness and equality in a democratic society, demands rigorous and precise measurement to transition from an aspirational ideal to a lived reality. *Black Thriving in America: 2024* builds on more than eighty years of Gallup survey data to offer a nuanced evaluation of Black Americans' well-being and life satisfaction. This initiative extends the analysis

introduced in the inaugural *Black Thriving in America: 2023* report, which utilized Gallup's Net Thriving metric to classify life experiences into three states: suffering, struggling and thriving.

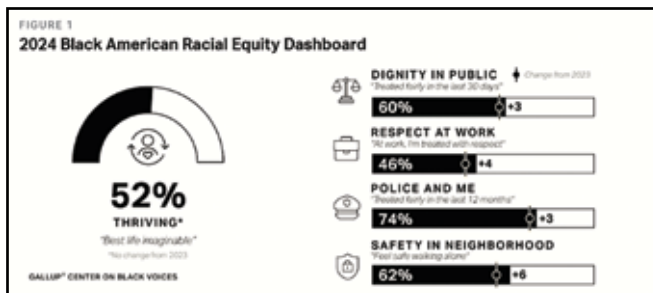
While the 2023 report indicated that Black and white Americans were thriving at comparable rates, it also revealed underlying disparities that aggregate figures often mask. The 2024 report deepens this exploration, highlighting both the progress made toward equity and the persistent barriers that continue to impede true equality.

This collaborative effort not only enhances our understanding of racial equity but also underscores the importance of empirical observation and self-reporting in the quest for social justice. Through rigorous measurement and analysis, the *Black Thriving in America: 2024* report provides invaluable insights into the realities of Black life in America, setting the stage for informed policymaking and actionable change.

THE BLACK AMERICAN RACIAL EQUITY DASHBOARD

The Black American Racial Equity Dashboard stands as a monumental advancement in tracking and measuring social justice metrics. This dashboard, often referred to as the Dow Jones of racial equity and the NASDAQ of Black American experiences, provides an empirical lens through which we can scrutinize the progress and setbacks in the pursuit of racial justice (Williams, 2020). By capturing data across various dimensions, including dignity in public spaces, workplace respect, interactions with law enforcement, neighborhood safety and overall life satisfaction, the dashboard offers a comprehensive and quantitative measure essential for understanding and addressing disparities (Harris, 2021).

This innovative tool allows for a granular analysis of social justice, moving beyond surface-level metrics to uncover deeper insights into the lived experiences of Black Americans. It serves as both a mirror reflecting the current state of racial equity and a compass guiding future efforts toward genuine social reform (Parker *et al.*, 2022). At its core, the pursuit of racial justice is a quest to realize the philosophical ideals of fairness, equality and human dignity that underpin democratic societies. The notion of justice, as articulated by John Rawls in *A Theory of Justice* (1971), posits that a just society is one where individuals have equal opportunities and are treated with fairness, regardless of their social standing. Yet the lived reality for many Black Americans starkly contrasts with this ideal, reflecting systemic inequities that



2024 BLACK AMERICAN RACIAL EQUITY DASHBOARD

permeate various facets of life, from economic opportunities to social recognition.

In contemplating the historical journey of Black Americans, one cannot ignore the profound impact of centuries of systemic oppression and the enduring struggle for civil rights. The abolition of slavery, the Civil Rights Movement and subsequent legal reforms were pivotal milestones, yet they represent only the beginning of an ongoing struggle to dismantle institutional racism and ensure genuine equality (Coates, 2015). The legacy of slavery, segregation and disenfranchisement has left an indelible mark on the socioeconomic landscape, influencing contemporary disparities in wealth, education and political representation (Alexander, 2012).

UNDERSTANDING THE LIFE EVALUATION INDEX

Thriving: The Pinnacle of Human Experience. The 2024 data reveal that 52 percent of Black Americans report thriving – a figure that aligns with the previous year's findings and surpasses the rates reported by white (50 percent) and Hispanic Americans (48 percent) (Gallup, 2024). This statistic suggests a relative advantage in life satisfaction among Black individuals. However, this figure masks significant disparities that are deeply rooted in historical and structural inequities. The disparities based on income, age, education and geography illustrate the multifaceted nature of social inequality and the ongoing need for comprehensive reforms (Wilson, 2012).

Economic factors play a critical role in determining thriving rates. The stark contrast between Black Americans with annual household incomes exceeding \$120,000 (67 percent thriving) and those with incomes below \$48,000 (43 percent thriving) underscores the persistent influence of economic disparities on quality of life (Smith *et al.*, 2023). This income-related disparity is a testament to the urgent need for systemic economic reforms aimed at addressing the financial inequities that continue to impede progress (Edin and Shaefer, 2015).

Age and educational attainment further compound these disparities. While younger Black Americans face significant challenges, older individuals and those with higher educational attainment report higher rates of thriving. This variation highlights the

critical role that education and age play in shaping life satisfaction and underscores the need for targeted interventions to address these gaps (Foner and Dreby, 2011; Cohen and Nisbett, 1994).

Geographical disparities in thriving rates further illuminate the complexities of social justice. Higher rates of thriving in the South and West compared with the Midwest and Northeast suggest regional differences that warrant further investigation. These variations may reflect historical and structural factors unique to each region, emphasizing the need for localized strategies to address regional disparities (Kling *et al.*, 2007).

Career Well-being. A crucial component of overall life satisfaction, career well-being has shown modest improvement, with 56 percent of Black Americans reporting enjoyment in their daily work, an increase from 53 percent in 2023 (Gallup, 2024). This rate aligns with that of white Americans (58 percent) and exceeds that of Hispanic Americans (52 percent) (Smith and Turner, 2017). Despite this progress, disparities based on income, gender and education persist, revealing ongoing challenges in achieving equitable workplace environments (Kalleberg and Vallas, 2018).

Income disparities remain a significant factor in job satisfaction. Black Americans in higher-earning households report greater job satisfaction compared with those in lower-income brackets, reflecting the broader impact of economic stability on career well-being (Harris, 2021). Although job satisfaction among lower-income Black Americans has improved, it remains lower compared with their higher-income counterparts, highlighting the need for policies that promote economic equity (Edin and Shaefer, 2015).

Gender disparities in job satisfaction also persist. Black men report higher levels of job satisfaction compared with Black women, although satisfaction among Black women has improved. This gender disparity underscores the need for continued efforts to ensure equitable treatment and opportunities in the workplace (Kalleberg and Vallas, 2018). Regional and educational differences further illuminate the need for targeted interventions to address these gaps (Williams, 2020).

Social Well-being. Social support is a fundamental aspect of overall well-being, and more than 60 percent of Black Americans report receiving positive energy from family and friends daily (Harris, 2021). However, this support varies significantly by income, with those in higher-earning households more likely to experience positive reinforcement (Parker *et al.*, 2022). Age also influences social support, with older Black Americans reporting higher levels of support compared to younger individuals (Foner & Dreby, 2011).

Regional variations in social support further complicate the picture. Black Americans in the West, South and Northeast generally feel more supported by their social networks compared to those in the

Midwest (Kling *et al.*, 2007). Educational attainment also affects perceptions of social support, with Black adults holding college degrees more likely to receive positive energy from their social networks (Cohen & Nisbett, 1994).

Financial Well-being. Financial well-being remains a critical area of concern, with a stark disparity between higher- and lower-income Black Americans. While 37 percent of those in higher-income households report comfortable living, only 22 percent of those in lower-income households feel the same (Smith *et al.*, 2023). This divide highlights the urgent need for equitable economic policies that address financial instability and promote economic justice (Edin and Shaefer, 2015).

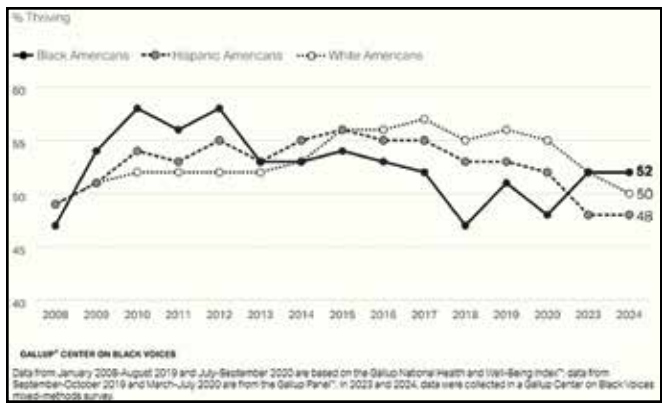
Community Well-being. Community satisfaction among Black Americans varies significantly by income and region. Less than half of Black Americans (47 percent) consider their city or area the perfect place for them, with notable regional disparities (Wilson, 2012). Satisfaction is higher in suburban areas compared with urban, town and rural settings, reflecting broader trends in community satisfaction (Kling *et al.*, 2007). Income and age also influence community satisfaction, with higher-income individuals and older Black Americans generally expressing greater contentment (Foner and Dreby, 2011).

Physical Well-being. Physical well-being among Black Americans has shown improvement, with 39 percent rating their health as near perfect, surpassing national averages (Gallup, 2024). This positive trend is particularly notable among Black women, who now rate their health more favorably than in previous years (Harris, 2021). Despite these improvements, age and regional differences continue to affect health perceptions, with younger Black Americans and those in rural areas generally reporting lower health ratings (Smith and Turner, 2017).

DIGNITY IN PUBLIC AND RESPECT AT WORK

The experience of racial discrimination remains a significant barrier to achieving social justice. Approximately one in five Black Americans report encountering racial discrimination in various settings, including shopping, at work, dining out and in health-care environments (Williams, 2020). These rates, though slightly increasing in dining contexts, reflect a persistent issue that undermines the dignity and equality of Black individuals (Coates, 2015). Compared with Hispanic Americans, Black Americans face higher levels of discrimination, and they are more than three times as likely as white Americans to experience unfair treatment in these contexts (Smith *et al.*, 2023).

Respect and recognition in the workplace have seen incremental improvements, with 46 percent of Black American employees strongly agreeing that they are treated with respect at work (Gallup, 2024). This rate



THRIVING: THE BEST LIFE IMAGINABLE

aligns with the national average but reveals ongoing disparities. More than one in three Black employees strongly agree that there is someone at their workplace who supports their professional development (37 percent) and that their opinions are valued (35 percent) (Smith and Turner, 2017). However, gender disparities persist, with Black men reporting higher levels of respect than Black women. These findings highlight the need for continued efforts to ensure equitable treatment and opportunities in the workplace (Kalleberg and Vallas, 2018).

POLICE AND ME, NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Interactions with police remain a critical area of concern. About 27 percent of Black Americans reported having an interaction with police in the past year, a rate consistent with 2023 and comparable with that of White Americans (Gallup, 2024). Hispanic Americans reported the highest rate of police interactions (33 percent). While reporting of police interactions among Black Americans is now more uniform across income and gender subgroups, disparities in respect and overall satisfaction persist. Among those who interacted with police, only 74 percent of Black Americans felt they were treated with respect, and 69 percent considered the experience positive (Smith & Turner, 2017). These figures underscore the need for ongoing reforms to address issues of police respect and accountability (Alexander, 2012).

Feelings of safety when walking alone at night have improved among Black Americans, though their sense of safety still lags that of other racial groups (Harris, 2021). Income and gender disparities significantly influence perceptions of safety, with higher-income individuals and Black men feeling more secure compared to their lower-income and female counterparts (Parker *et al.*, 2022). Despite these improvements, ongoing efforts are necessary to ensure a uniformly high sense of safety across all demographics (Foner and Dreby, 2011).

Confidence in educational opportunities remains strong, with approximately 75 percent of Black Americans believing that children in their area have access

to quality education (Gallup, 2024). However, this perception varies by income, with those in higher-earning households expressing greater confidence compared with those in middle- and lower-earning households (Edin and Shaefer, 2015). Gender and age also have an impact on perceptions, with older Black adults generally more optimistic about educational opportunities than younger individuals (Wilson, 2012).

RACIAL JUSTICE AND THE PATH FORWARD

The quest for racial justice in America is not merely an academic exercise. It is a deeply emotional and moral endeavor that speaks to the core of our collective humanity. It is an ongoing struggle to rectify the injustices of the past and ensure that the promises of democracy are realized for all its citizens. The philosophical underpinnings of racial justice involve not only addressing the historical wrongs but also actively dismantling the structures of inequality that persist in the present (Sen, 2009).

The concept of reparations, for instance, represents a critical aspect of this dialogue. Reparations are not just about compensatory measures but about acknowledging and rectifying the enduring impact of historical injustices. They are a means of addressing the systemic inequities that have left a legacy of economic and social disadvantage for Black Americans (Alexander, 2012). The debate over reparations is deeply intertwined with the broader struggle for racial equity, highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach to justice that includes both symbolic and material redress (Coates, 2015).

In the realm of politics, the fight for racial equity extends beyond legislative reforms to encompass the broader struggle for representation and inclusion. Political participation is a fundamental right, yet the historical and ongoing disenfranchisement of Black Americans underscores the need for systemic changes to ensure equitable access to political power and influence (Wilson, 2012). Ensuring that Black voices are heard and valued in the political arena is crucial for achieving meaningful and lasting change (Kalleberg and Vallas, 2018).

The pursuit of wealth and economic stability is another critical dimension of racial justice. The disparities in wealth and income between Black and white Americans are stark, reflecting a long history of exclusion from economic opportunities and systemic barriers to wealth accumulation (Smith and Turner, 2017). Addressing these disparities requires not only targeted economic policies but also a broader rethinking of the structural factors that perpetuate economic inequality (Edin and Shaefer, 2015).

At the heart of these issues is the fundamental hope that Black Americans will be recognized and treated as full human beings with all the rights and privileges that America promises to its citizens. This hope is

rooted in the belief that true equality is attainable and that, despite the challenges, progress is possible through collective action and commitment to justice (Sen, 2009; Williams, 2020). The journey toward racial equity is long and arduous, but it is one that must be pursued with unwavering dedication and resolve.

A CALL TO ACTION

The *Black Thriving in America: 2024* report reflects both significant progress and enduring challenges in the pursuit of racial equity. While advancements are evident in areas such as physical health, career satisfaction and community safety, substantial disparities remain in economic stability, educational access and experiences of discrimination (Smith and Turner, 2017). Addressing these issues requires a sustained commitment to equitable policies and practices that support all Black Americans in achieving their fullest potential (Harris, 2021; Parker *et al.*, 2022).

As we move forward, the insights provided by this report must serve as a guide for policymakers, community leaders and advocates. The data and analysis presented here offer a roadmap for understanding and addressing the multifaceted dimensions of racial justice, highlighting both the progress made and the ongoing work required to build a more just and equitable society for all (Parker *et al.*, 2022). The hope for a future where Black Americans are treated as full equals with all the rights and privileges of American citizenship remains a powerful and enduring aspiration that drives our collective efforts toward social justice (Sen, 2009; Williams, 2020).

As we move forward, it is crucial to recognize that our efforts to advance racial equity must be guided by evidence and driven by a commitment to continuous improvement. The partnership between the Payne Center and Gallup exemplifies this approach, demonstrating that through rigorous research and a shared dedication to social justice, we can make meaningful strides toward a more equitable society.

In the words of Charles Dickens, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” This sentiment resonates deeply as we navigate the complexities of social justice in America. By embracing the insights provided by the *Black Thriving in America: 2024* report and committing to ongoing dialogue and action, we can transform the landscape of racial equity and build a future where all individuals thrive.

Together, let us forge ahead with a commitment to measuring progress, addressing disparities and fostering a society where Black Americans, and indeed all marginalized groups, can thrive.

Archon M. Christopher Brown II is executive director of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund's Dr. N. Joyce Payne Research Center and author of the Black Thriving in America: 2024 report.

MEDIATING LIKE A STAR

By Archon Louis L. Fletcher, Epsilon Chi Boulé



ARCHON LOUIS L. FLETCHER

Most people are familiar with litigation through personal experience, dramatic depictions on television or in movies, or media reports. However, most people do not have the same familiarity with mediation. Litigation is a public process that puts disputes “on the record” for all interested individuals to review and scrutinize. The legal process of “discovery” increases the amount of information added to the public record.

Alternatively, mediation is a private process that keeps disputes out of the public record. Parties meet with the mediator to resolve disputes in private without the intrusions from public opinion or the necessity to put “dirty laundry” in public records that could be cited in the media or be used as a screenwriter’s backstory. There are multiple methodologies for conducting mediation, but I will outline the STAR mediation model as an illustration of what to expect in a typical mediation. The intent is to increase consideration of mediation as a strategy in lieu of filing lawsuits and running directly to court.

The STAR mediation model is a five-stage tool that diagrams a systematic approach to mediation. The acronym STAR spells out as Stage, Tasks, Actions and Results, which are the taxonomic headings that frame the process. The five stages of STAR are Convening, Opening, Communicating, Negotiating and Closing. The headings and the stages interact to constitute a 5-by-4 matrix (see Figure) where results have desired notional end states. The five desired results of STAR

are Willingness, Safety and Hope, Expression, Flexibility and Innovation, and Informed Decision.

The stages and results are dependent variables in the matrix, so tasks and actions are quasi-independent variables that operate within a range of degrees of freedom in the STAR mediation model. The tasks represent what will be done during each stage, respectively, and actions represent how it will be done during each stage, respectively.

CONVENING

The first stage of STAR mediation is convening, and the desired result for this stage is fostering a willingness in all parties to begin the process of mediation. Building the client’s trust in the prospective mediator and the mediation process are key objectives. There may be an aspect of marketing involved in this step, but when clients reach the evaluation phase, the highest priority is to establish rapport. The mediator will make phone calls or, alternatively, engage in video conferencing, with the parties to establish why mediation might be a better option than other alternatives like arbitration or litigation.

Arbitration requires each party to give up the control they would have in mediation because the arbitrator has decision authority after hearing each party. The arbitration could be either binding or non-binding, which means that the parties could ignore the decision when the nonbinding option is chosen. If lawyers or parties have hit an impasse in negotiations, there may not be an appetite to hand over control to an arbitrator so quickly. Litigation is another option, but it is even more restrictive than arbitration and there is no option to simply ignore the decision. If arbitration seemed overly controlling to the parties, then litigation would feel like a straitjacket.

Tasks and Actions: Once mediation is established as the appropriate course of action, the mediator will facilitate the logistics of the pending mediation with a premediation conference call or teleconference. The purpose of the activity is to create an environment of mutual understanding about the purpose of the mediation, discuss related details and phenomenology, establish the mediator’s compensation, and finalize other terms of the mediation agreement. Ostensibly, the convening step lays the foundation for an orderly mediation process.

OPENING

The second stage of STAR mediation is opening, and the desired result of this stage is fostering a feeling of safety and hope in the parties, so that they will be more transparent about the issues to be resolved. Prior to the opening, the mediator may arrange the room based on information gathered during the pre-mediation conference. For example, if the parties are very contentious, then the seats will not be situated next to each other. In the opening stage each party gets to make an opening statement, which sets the tone for progress and civility. The mediator listens to the opening issues and establishes the rules of engagement for the process.

Tasks and Actions: The purpose of the opening is to engage the parties in a negotiation process where they are active participants, not passive observers. The mediator facilitates introductions between the parties and reaffirms their willingness to participate from the convening stage. The mediator ensures the parties are comfortable (for instance, regarding room temperature, seating options, knowledge of bathroom locations) in the physical environment of the mediation. The mediator should explain and establish their neutrality in the mediation process. The mediator should discuss the limitations on mediation confidentiality during this stage as well. The mediator should also give an overview of the mediation's process steps and articulate the social contract that constitutes the ground rules for the mediation.

The mediator couches all the aforementioned in their opening remarks, then they invite the parties' opening statements. Once the parties make their opening statements, the mediator summarizes each party's statement. The mediator reframes emotional or threatening statements into productive neutral statements. This is where the mediator starts to determine their approach to reach an eventual resolution. The mediator must define the core issues that are within their power to mediate and mitigate attempts to attack or derail the mediation. Once the rules of engagement are accepted in the opening, it increases the probability of a mediated outcome.

COMMUNICATING

The third stage of STAR mediation is communicating, and the desired result of this stage is fostering expression. Once the mediator facilitates a successful opening, the rules of engagement that are the outcome of the opening will guide all follow-on commu-

STAGE	TASKS (WHAT)	ACTIONS (HOW)	RESULTS
Convening	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	Willingness
Opening	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	Safety and Hope
Communicating	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	Expression
Negotiating	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	Flexibility and Innovation
Closing	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.	Informed Decision

FIGURE

nication. The mediator keeps dialogue moving by actively listening, summarizing the conversation and reframing expectations. The mediator paves the path from problem to solution by promoting the parties desire to clarify their positions and interests. The goal of the mediator is gaining an understanding of each party's issues as they relate to the dispute.

Tasks and Actions: The mediator gives both sides an opportunity to state their issues as well as the opportunity to listen to each other's issues. The mediator keeps the dialogue moving by asking over-head questions. The mediator asks questions that build understanding, but the secondary objective is inspiring empathy in the parties with respect to their counterpart's issues. The mediator's active listening skills become crucial during this stage because their accuracy when summarizing issues and positions builds trust with the parties.

This is the stage when the mediator decides if the parties can communicate in the same room or need to caucus separately to achieve more effective communication. The caucus provides an opportunity for private conversations with the mediator. It is also an effective tool when parties get heated or bring unresolved negative emotions to the table. The mediator usually gives the party that is not caucusing a task to complete while they caucus with the other party. The purpose of the task is to advance the mediation; therefore, it will be discussed when the mediator returns to that party. The mediator holds information gained caucus confidential unless the caucusing party expressly gives permission to share the information.

NEGOTIATING

The fourth stage of STAR mediation is negotiating, and the desired result of this stage is fostering flexibility and innovation. Once the mediator facilitates an effective communication process, the process of nego-

tiation can begin. The focus of negotiation is reaching settlement as an outcome. The mediator initiates the negotiation to get the parties energized to participate in the process. The mediator also coaches the parties through the negotiation with the goal of fostering resolution. The mediator tries to get the parties to surface their interests and hidden agendas. The mediator gets the parties to look at their desired negotiated outcomes realistically.

Tasks and Actions: The mediator endeavors to be perceived as neutral, but negotiation requires some outwardly directive behaviors. The function of coaching is to get the parties to begin bargaining with respect to their issues. The mediator promotes moving beyond active listening to a place where they can begin brainstorming solutions. The mediator participates in reframing and summarizing to help the parties see the viability of their hypothetical outcomes. The mediator asks validating questions to mitigate the effect of cognitive biases. The mediator will practice “shuttle diplomacy” with each caucus by carrying offers between the parties with goal of shrinking the zone of possible agreement (ZOPA). The mediator will help the parties to do reality testing on the strength of their best alternative to a negotiated agreement (BATNA) and the severity of their worst alternative to a negotiated agreement (WATNA).

The mediator is embroiled in the heart of the dance during the negotiating stage, which may require near seismic shifts from caucuses to joint sessions. The mediator may hit an impasse while negotiating, so the mediator must remain fleet of foot to get derailed negotiations back on track. This is where the mediator may ask to present a “mediator’s proposal” to both parties or propose “hypothetical offers.” The negotiating stage is where a mediation could die due to a failure of the parties to reach resolution, but a good mediator preserves the artifacts just in case the process can be resurrected at a later date. Hence, the ashes of a failed negotiation could become an attraction on the way to convening a revived mediation.

CLOSING

The fifth stage of STAR mediation is closing, and the desired result of this stage is reaching an informed decision. The mediator is trying to reach a point of culmination in the closing stage, but all will be for naught if the mediation outcomes are not accurately

captured in a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The parties may be exhausted by this point, so it is important to keep them engaged with good summaries of understanding achieved during the negotiation process. Clearly it would be an unfulfilling experience to plant the seeds, nurture the growth, but neglect to gather the harvest.

Tasks and Actions: The mediator should produce a durable agreement and a MOU to outline the action steps of the settlement. The agreement should be technically sound, substantively sufficient and psychologically pleasing to all parties to create satisfaction. The mediator may assist the parties in writing the agreement or may allow a lawyer or lawyers to complete the task. It may be productive to have all parties in a joint session review and affirm their understanding of the document before execution. The document should include background information and implementation steps. Finally, the parties need to countersign the document to make it a legally binding vehicle that gets them to their mediated destination.

CONCLUSION

The STAR mediation model represents a bona fide systematic approach to mediation, which can be used by any mediator to bring order to the mediation process. The stages build on each other logically, and the tasks and actions plausibly lead to the desired results. The STAR mediation model is not a laundry list for a mediator to work through perfunctorily. It requires the mediator to actively listen and make tactical moves at appropriate junctures. I believe that mediators could arrive at a similar *modus operandi* after years of practice without the STAR mediation model, however, it makes professional sense to arm novice mediators with a functional framework from the start. I did not invent the STAR mediation model, but I have found it to be a valuable tool to both serve clients and maintain my sanity throughout the mediation process.

Unquestionably, litigation is a familiar option for dispute resolution. Litigation is often threatened when parties have disagreements. However, if you do not desire having potential reputational damage memorialized in the public record, then mediation just might be the private alternative that allows you or your organization to keep your “business out of the street.”

Archon Louis L. Fletcher is the founder and president of Fletcher Mediation Services headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

AFTER THE GRAND BOULÉ: INTERPRETING OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

By Archon Kenneth E. Harris, Jr., Gamma Tau Boulé, Central Region Sire Archon–Elect

The 57th Grand Boulé in San Diego, California, occurred several months ago. It is crucial to evaluate the beliefs, values and vision of each new Grand Sire Archon in relation to our regional and member boulés as we navigate this biennium with prudence. This biennium is no exception.

Sigma Pi Phi's objectives of cultivating camaraderie and promoting intellectual and professional growth have remained consistent since its inception in 1904. Strengthening fraternal ties, modernization initiatives, strategic planning, wealth generation, community effect and policy influence are among the numerous compelling reasons for Archons to support Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

I have held numerous roles in a member boulé, including Sire Archon, Grammateus and Grapter, since my induction into this august body of men in June 2012. I have held the positions of Regional Grapter, Regional Grammateus and now Central Region Sire Archon–Elect in the Central Region Boulé. In sincere service to the Archons in the Central Region, my counterpart Regional Sire Archon–Elects, and the Grand Boulé as a whole, I submit this article.

I retired as a command officer after thirty years of law enforcement. I have since assumed the role of department chair and associate professor of justice and public policy in higher education. Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity is an example of how these experiences have enabled me to connect disparate pieces of information to form a comprehensive understanding of the Fraternity and the world around us. As Grand Sire Archon Douglass presented his vision for this organization during the business meeting, these seemingly diverse experiences and occupations, interspersed with life experience, resonated with his words.

I have learned through my leadership experiences that it is insufficient to merely uncritically adhere to a vision; one must also recognize oneself in the vision. The individual must be connected to the vision. The Fraternity's foundation is the strength of the connections uniting our membership. Sigma Pi Phi is dedicated to the establishment of robust, enduring relationships among African American professionals through the member boulé. To establish a network of support across industries and for professional and personal development, it is essential to establish these connections. By forging stronger connections among Archons, a unified group is established that can surmount challenges and commemorate triumphs, thereby establishing an unpar-



CENTRAL REGION SIRE ARCHON–ELECT KENNETH E. HARRIS, JR.

alleled sense of solidarity and belonging. However, one element was absent.

Having attended the 57th Grand Boulé business meeting and the subsequent evening gala, I endeavored to comprehend the speech delivered by Grand Sire Archon Douglass. I requested and received a copy of the speech and am now able to prioritize precision over accuracy. I am extremely grateful to Grand Sire Archon Douglass for entrusting me with this document. In the following, I offer my modest comprehension of his vision from the perspective of Central Regional Sire Archon–Elect and highlight sections of the presentation that resonate with me. I believe these segments should be further investigated.

MODERNIZATION

Modernization is not only advantageous but also indispensable in a world that is perpetually evolving. Contributions to the Boulé Foundation and Sigma Pi Phi enable the Fraternity to adjust to technological and societal modernization advancements. This involves the implementation of state-of-the-art communication methods, the renewal of digital infrastructure, and the provision of Archons with access to cutting-edge materials and instruction. By embracing modernization, the Fraternity can better engage Archons, Archousai and our families, thereby remaining relevant. This is particularly important for younger Archons, who are digital natives and anticipate seamless technological integration in all aspects of life.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Every organization aspiring to success and impact must implement strategic planning. We can assist the Fraternity in the development and execution of a robust strategic plan, thereby enabling it to achieve its objectives and maintain its core principles. The Fraternity has implemented strategic planning to establish precise objectives, distribute resources efficiently and monitor progress in a systematic manner. Future planning will enable the Fraternity to anticipate and address challenges, thereby ensuring sustainability and growth.

GENERATING WEALTH

Our capacity for sustained success is contingent upon our capacity to expand and sustain our financial resources. The organization should be supported in order to invest in initiatives and programs that promote wealth creation among Sigma Pi Phi's member boulés. The impact of a circular logic trace is significant. This encompasses the provision of support for entrepreneurship, investment organizations and the exchange of information essential for our families to generate, preserve and transfer generational wealth. Building wealth is beneficial to Archons on an individual level and facilitates the Fraternity's ability to provide support for charitable initiatives such as the Boulé Scholars Program, the Parity Project, social action, scholarships and other related initiatives. It ensures that Archons, families and member boulés can achieve financial independence and make greater contributions to the Fraternity and society.

EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY

Sigma Pi Phi has a longstanding tradition of community engagement and charitable donations. We

will enhance its influence in our communities by providing assistance. Health and wellness, educational activities, mentoring programs, and economic development initiatives are all potential areas of social action. We are addressing significant issues that African American communities confront while simultaneously promoting equity and empowerment by contributing to these initiatives. The Fraternity's impact on the community extends beyond its immediate benefits; it fosters enduring change and inspires current and future Archons to continue the service tradition, all while fostering a deeper understanding of one another.

POLICY INFLUENCE

Sigma Pi Phi is now in a distinctive position to advocate for change and influence legislation, in addition to its impact on the community. Its capacity to engage in policy discussions, advocate for legislative modifications and collaborate with other organizations such as The Links on issues that affect African Americans is improved by its contributions through the member boulés, regions and the Grand Boulé. This effect is indispensable for the establishment of a more inclusive and egalitarian society. By providing support to Sigma Pi Phi, we guarantee that African American professionals' perspectives are acknowledged, and they are present in the legislative process promoting equality.

Without transparency, none of these segments can be realized. It is imperative that recent errors are not replicated. Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity's extensive intellectual and financial capital must be employed to mitigate potential future errors. Despite the presence of congeniality, it is imperative that we adhere to the adage, Trust but verify. In order to improve transparency, I propose that three-person teams of Archons be established to evaluate and investigate financial, strategic and policy decisions.

Through this next biennium, we are guided by the vision of Grand Sire Archon Douglass and the Grand Board to invest in the work of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and the community as a means of ensuring a stronger future. He is currently engaged and dedicated to the preservation of our objectives and the promotion of constructive change through the implementation of modernization, wealth development, strategic planning and enhanced brotherhood.

By uniting to support the leadership of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, we as Archons can by concerted action bring about those things that seem best for all that cannot be accomplished by individual effort. In this case, we cement a legacy of service, excellence and empowerment.

THE TIME TO OVERCOME IS NOW

By Archon Ernest W. Kinchen, Jr., Alpha Xi Boulé

When it seems that morality is abandoned by those who feel that they have divine rights as they obsessively, without conscience, deceive a fading majority that whatever their problems, Blacks and other people of color are the cause, the time to overcome is now! Our resilience has taught us that success in life does not depend as much on a cloak of impenetrable armor as it does on how many times we can dodge the bullet, the hangman's noose, how many times we can walk through the fire and not get burnt, how prudent we can be in facing threats, no matter how critical.

My major objective is to stimulate and to inspire in all of us a fervent desire to overcome – to overcome injustice, inequality of opportunity, oppression, suppression, sarcasm and ridicule. My objective is to bring us inseparably together as African Americans, a Black family. Knowing well that there are those of us who, because they feel that they have arrived, do not have time for brotherhood, I wish to admonish them who have that attitude that it should not take their personal tragedies for them to realize that we are all in the same boat. They should not be blind and deaf to the fact that when they say “you people,” none of us, regardless of the height of our attainment, are left out.

The time to overcome is now! Procrastination must always be recognized as a destructive enemy. We must begin now because our present predicament proves that whatever we have done has not been enough. However, as in any fight, this being our fight for survival, if we are to win, we must be stronger, smarter and more effective than our enemies, who are poisoned by their racism. We can always use as an excuse to cop out a lack of resources, a lack of opportunity – the shocking things that happen to us as a people. These deplorable acts – efforts that seem



ARCHON ERNEST W. KINCHEN, JR.

directed at our annihilation – are the reasons why the time to overcome is now. From these threats to our existence, we must be determined to derive our infrangible strengths.

To overcome, we must be committed to caring for each other and sharing with each other – to keeping our family unit intact, not only as the foundation of ultimate love by which to attain excellence, but also as the way we sustain excellence through our chil-

dren. Having unimaginably, of all races, the highest incidence of stroke, heart attack, diabetes, kidney failure, sickle cell anemia, AIDS and homicide, there are also more school dropouts and more college-age Black males being destructive rather than constructive and instructive, more in the jailhouse than the schoolhouse. The only way we can overcome, that we can survive, that we can compensate for these devastating deathlike sentences is by the togetherness, unity, love and respect that will give us strength through challenging times.

We must be determined not to accept ill fate, but, more important, not to do anything that will result in ill fate. We must love each other enough to do the right thing because of the beauty and peace of purity and not because of the fear of punishment.

And, if for whatever reason, someone misses the mark, forgiveness and support for the downtrodden and the downhearted must prevail. We cannot afford

We will overcome when we stop just wishing for but start working toward what were once thought impossible dreams.

to be unforgiving. Failure to forgive is the cause of eternal damnation. But when seeking a service or providing a function, we must overcome by being so aboveboard, so genuine, so honest, so perfect and so giving in all our endeavors that we will have nothing for which we need to be forgiven.

Our focus must be on giving – making a contribution – and our preparation and discipline must be such that we will have something to give. Preparation and discipline will enable us to have dollars, but most of all give us the sense without which our wealth of dollars, talent and blessings will be short lived. The greater our blessings, the more determined we must be to make possible opportunity for those who are not so fortunate. We must be like James Rosser, an internationally renowned African American endoscopic surgeon, who early one morning looked in the mirror and saw someone who could not feel fulfilled because he had not done all he could to make certain that his African American brothers would not be excluded from this new adventure in surgery.

For Rosser, who was from Mississippi, the superficial success that was reflected from that mirror could

not hide the deep pain, suffering and dehumanization of his foreparents. He had only to reflect on the past briefly to understand that we are all in the same boat and that if any one of us is left without a paddle, that boat will not go anywhere, and we will all hang worthlessly in shame. Each of us must have the soul-stirring awakening that James Rosser had, which will enable us to realize that without the investment of time, energy and resources by those of us who have achieved, there will be no growth, no progress, no respect for any of us as a people.

Although our acclaimed superiority in athletics, song and dance could be marginalized, we *must* make our brain our most formidable resource. Each person has a brain that has 14 billion cells and connections. Few, if any of us, use as much as 10 percent of this great resource. We will overcome when we develop our brain power to take advantage of such an intimidating unused resource. We must use our brain as

well as our hearts to have the mental toughness, the nerves of steel that will enable our bodies to step outside of what might be conceived as limitations, outside of what might be conceived as shackles, to

higher and higher levels of accomplishment. It is not unreasonable to believe that we have much more in both mental and physical capacity than we choose to cultivate.

We will overcome by cultivating all our resources. It becomes more apparent daily that help must come from within because we live in a society that tries to justify discrimination and prejudice and claims that it is not against us by saying that it just wants to be fair to everybody. The only problem is that we never seem to be included in that “everybody.” We concede that it is impossible to have a world without some good people of all races, but, because of the shenanigans of our white brothers, more often than not we have to wonder who those good people are, where they are, and why are they so easily snookered to take actions that seem immoral.

Nevertheless, we will overcome by awaking each morning praying to help someone and retiring each night asking for forgiveness if we have not accomplished that goal. We will overcome by finding challenge and the opportunity to reach for our greatest possible potential filled with profound excitement.

We will overcome when we understand that challenge is simply an opportunity to attain greater respectability. We will overcome when our efficiency is so unexcelled that it will keep us out of harm's way. We will overcome when we have the compulsion to make things right, when we develop a "fix it" attitude, when we truly feel that no challenge is too great, when we refuse to be frustrated. That frustration, through which hopelessness abounds, is a creation of the devil. We must have the resolution that we will not permit hopelessness – falling asleep – to keep us from recognizing opportunities.

We must train ourselves never to fall asleep in the face of adversity, never to have a blind side, but instead to have a panoramic appreciation of every situation with both our minds and our eyes, seeing the consequences of every action in detail and then taking a second look to confirm that all our *I*s are dotted and our *T*s are crossed. Those who are truly great are those who do not fall asleep, who do not lose hope, or fail to aspire, or fail to think at critical moments. We will overcome when we are obsessed with finding the beauty and not the shortcomings in each other, when we find true pleasure in the success of our brothers and sisters and are big enough to have spirits that are free of envy.

We will overcome when we realize that the success of our brothers and sisters is an asset to avenues of opportunity for all of us and that if any of us fail there are people eager to use that failure as an excuse to close down those avenues. We will overcome when we stop just wishing for but start working toward what were once thought impossible dreams. We will overcome when we stop to think whether or not we might be that "so and so" that we sometimes envision others as being. When we realize, if our mission is truly about helping others, who the more recalcitrant individuals are, we realize the more they need our help because unscrupulous behavior exemplifies that those individuals really have a problem. We will overcome when we reach out with our hearts rather than lash out with our tongues. It is more important to show the way than to have our way. More succinctly, we will overcome in our interpersonal relationships by kindness, caring, sharing, understanding, giving and forgiving.

However, our overall quest for equality must be an active process. We cannot let fear of what others might think or say preclude sound thinking and responsible

actions. Because, let us not fool ourselves, we will be actively, at times maliciously, left out or cut out if we do not have a sense of assertiveness. God helps those who help themselves. The key to that assertiveness is promptness – the completion of projects, the finding of solutions, and the realization of dreams before anyone can discover our agenda, let alone torpedo that agenda with obstacles.

We will overcome by making certain that our common goals overshadow our individual differences. Our concern must be that each person find his or her niche where the greatest productivity and fulfillment of purpose and the most contributions to overcoming can be fulfilled. Our determination must always be to find lasting elation in the fulfillment of the purpose of overcoming, of advancing the dignity of Black people, by lifting as we climb.

If we approach every problem looking for the answer, serving as a source of inspiration for those who think they have not as well as for those who think they have, determined to enrich every life and accepting nothing less than perfection, we will be well

We will overcome by making certain that our common goals overshadow our individual differences.

on the road to overcoming. Anything less than perfection is not enough. For the success to which that road irrefutably leads, we must commit ourselves to the understanding that a rush to excellence is urgent if we are to make the time to overcome now. Because, with Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Archon Arthur Ashe, Kobe Bryant, Len Bias, Ernie Davis, Jerome Brown, Stewart Bluford, Archon Charles Drew, Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, Emmett Till, we have no promise of tomorrow. However, I am a witness that by faith we will be able to crawl through any hurricane at any time, with the whole world on our backs, and get to the other side of the ocean because the God of our forefathers, the God of Noah, the God of David, the God of Daniel, the God of Moses, the God of Lazarus, is our refuge – "Our help in ages past, our hope for years to come."

To God be the glory!

William “Bill” Finlayson: A RICH LIFE AND CONTINUING LEGACY

By Archon Kenneth E. Harris, Jr., Gamma Tau Boulé, Central Region Sire Archon-Elect



PHOTO: ROBERT BELL

ARCHON WILLIAM E. FINLAYSON AND HIS DAUGHTER SHEILA

Archon William “Bill” Finlayson, a distinguished member of the medical and civil rights communities, commemorated his hundredth birthday on September 1, 2024. Though he resides in the tranquil village of River Hills, Wisconsin, Archon Finlayson’s life narrative is one of remarkable achievement, perseverance and dedication. His influence as a trailblazing physician and community leader has extended far beyond the confines of his medical practice, leaving an indelible impression on both his local community and the broader national landscape. He has a forty-four-year presence in Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity commencing with his induction into Beta Alpha Boulé in Milwaukee on January 19, 1980.

Education and Early Life

Born one hundred years ago, in 1924, in his early years Archon Finlayson was significantly influenced by the social and economic challenges of the time. He cultivated a profound dedication to education and a strong sense of resilience during his childhood in the Great Depression. His family lived in Florida, and his pastor father fought for equal rights and racial justice long before those words became mainstream. Despite the prevailing racial barriers restricting opportunities

for African Americans, his parents, who recognized his potential, encouraged him to pursue higher education.

Though there were few institutions offering quality education to African Americans, Archon Finlayson attended Florida A&M, Morehouse College in Atlanta and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, where he excelled because of his extraordinary academic performance. He also did a stint as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. For Archon Finlayson, Meharry Medical College was not merely a site of education, it was also a community in which he established lifelong friendships and cultivated a strong sense of purpose. He began a journey that would lead him to become one of the most esteemed obstetrician-gynecologists in Wisconsin.

Medical Career

In an era in which African American physicians encountered substantial discrimination, Archon Finlayson began his medical career in very much the same way as the founders of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He was able to establish a successful practice in Milwaukee, where he served the community with distinction for decades, despite the challenges he faced. In the field of obstetrics and gynecology, he was renowned for his compassionate care as he provided critical health care services to women who might otherwise have gone without. One enduring legacy of his practice is the more than 10,000 infants he had the honor to deliver during his forty-year medical practice.

His dedication to his patients exceeded the conventional doctor-patient relationship. Archon Finlayson was known for his comprehensive approach to patient care, which encompassed not only their physical but also their emotional and social well-being. This approach earned him the trust and admiration of innumerable families in the Milwaukee area.

Instrumental in the integration of the medical community in Milwaukee, he was a member of the Cream City Medical Society and worked tirelessly to ensure that African American physicians were granted hospital privileges, a significant step forward in the ongoing struggle for health-care equality. His endeavors were instrumental in the dismantling of racial barriers in the medical profession in local hospital systems, thereby establishing a path for future generations of African American physicians. This led

him and other Milwaukee power brokers, including several Archons, to establish a local HMO as well as the North Milwaukee State Bank, the first Black bank in Wisconsin. This effort fulfilled the charge to “by concerted effort bring about those things that seem best for all that cannot be accomplished by individual effort.”

Civil Rights Activism

In addition to his medical career, Archon Finlayson was actively engaged in the Civil Rights Movement. He recognized that the struggle for racial equality was not limited to the medical profession and thus necessitated a more comprehensive societal endeavor. He was an ally and friend of numerous civil rights leaders, including Archon Martin Luther King, Jr., leveraging his influence to secure a visit by Archon King to the city of Milwaukee.

His participation in the Milwaukee Chapter of the NAACP, where he held a variety of leadership positions, was one of his most significant contributions. Under his leadership the chapter was instrumental in advocating for equitable housing, voting rights and equal employment opportunities for African Americans in Milwaukee. The city was transformed into a more inclusive and equitable environment.

Archon Finlayson also served as a mentor to numerous young professionals and activists, motivating them to pursue their objectives and advocate for justice. His residence in River Hills, where he hosted discussions on civil rights strategy and planning, was a focal point for those who were dedicated to social reform. My impetus to write this article came from my first encounter with Archon Finlayson in October 1996. In the time since, he has served as a mentor in the guise of making introductions and references for several community and social organizations.

Legacy and Personal Life

Despite his demanding career and activism, Archon Finlayson maintained his commitment to his family. He and his Archousa, Edith, who passed away in 2001, reared children who have achieved success in their own right. His dedication to family reflects his dedication to his community, and he frequently emphasizes the significance of fostering strong family relationships.

He has maintained involvement in his community throughout his retirement, transitioning from a front-line activist to elder statesman. Until quite recently, he was frequently requested to share his experiences and insights with newer generations, and he remains a respected voice in discussions on civil rights and health care to this day. A significant reflection of Archon Finlayson’s impact on the Milwaukee community is evident in the Milwaukee Common Council’s having adopted an ordinance renaming North 5th Street, from West Capitol Drive to West Walnut Street, as Dr. William Finlayson Street.

As he celebrates his one-hundredth birthday, Archon Finlayson can be confident that his life has been well lived. Numerous honors, humanitarian awards and various lifetime achievement awards have been bestowed upon him in recognition of his contributions to civil rights and medicine. Nevertheless, his most significant legacy, according to those who know him best, is the influence he has had on the lives of individuals, including the patients he cared for, the colleagues he mentored and the activists he inspired.

The Future

Archon Finlayson is optimistic about the future as he contemplates life beyond his birthday milestone. His advocacy for justice and equality remains, evidenced by his emphasizing to anyone in his vicinity that the task is not yet complete. He has recently discussed the significance of resolving health-care disparities, particularly those that impact communities of color, in recent interviews. He remains fervently committed to ensuring upcoming generations of healthcare professionals are better prepared to deliver equitable treatment to all patients.

A testament to dedication, compassion and perseverance, his contributions to civil rights and medicine have not only enhanced the lives of those in his immediate community but have also had an enduring impact on Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. Archon Finlayson is a beacon of optimism and a reminder of the progress that can be made when one is dedicated to making a difference.

Through the years, Archon Finlayson has been an example of a higher type of manhood. He continues to be an inspiration to Archons who aspire to create a more just and better world. As he navigates his hundredth year, let us be reminded of and recognize his century of service – a gift to us all.

RECLAMATION OF

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



ARCHON LEROME RICHMOND

Each day, Archons throughout the world strive to live in a manner that brings neither blush nor shame upon the name of Sigma Pi Phi. An Archon's word is his bond, and those within our mystic circle attest via a solemn oath to upholding our word until the day of judgment.

Ten years ago, as a newly inducted member of this prestigious body, I received our oath for the first time, and the words rang with remarkable harmony and clarity. Similar to you, my fellow Archons, the necessity of committing these words to my remembrance and etching their meaning on my heart was an absolute must. I wore them proudly like a badge of honor.

As I became more engaged within my member boulé, coupled with my youthful exuberance and passion, I found little to no patience with those who had once sworn to uphold the same tenants that each member undertakes upon entering our fold but had then opted to forsake their solemn oath and obligation. Not being one who prescribes to mollycoddling adults, I believed that it was an utter waste of time to repeatedly ask and attempt to encourage our inactive Archons to reactivate their membership and return to the monthly member meetings or join us during a casual social gathering.

Their inactivity told me that we must be keenly aware and prudent of our choices as a fraternity. We should be even more meticulous than we already are about selecting men who will be most sincere in upholding their solemn oath before we allow them into our beautiful brotherhood.

My stance was unwavering. Reclamation? Why should the member boulé seek to reclaim a lost Archon? The member boulé never left, and in fact, we have continued to set apart member boulés worldwide. The Boulé is a bedrock and is as consistent today as it was when they, the nonparticipatory Archons, departed. Our delinquent, involuntary inactive and voluntary inactive Archons (which is how

THE LOST ARCHON

they were defined during our not-too-distant past) have been members of Sigma Pi Phi much longer than I have, and they know exactly when the member meetings are held, the time at which the meetings take place and the location of said meetings. In the worst-case scenario, most have telephones and can easily reach out and touch someone. If they genuinely desired to reengage with the Boulé, an Archon could call a fellow Archon to identify the date, time or location of said member meeting to see if it had been amended during their time away.

However, I have had an epiphany! Over the past couple of biennia, several veteran and more practiced Archons – Past Regional Officers, Past Grand Officers and members-at-large – have taken the time to enlighten me on the necessity of the reclamation of Archons and the need to take a more genteel posture in attempting to ensure their successful return to active status.

One of the more consistent points that continually reared its head during these discussions was that “... you nor I know the circumstances under which our brethren may have chosen to disconnect from the Boulé. Life happens.” He could be dealing with a personal health issue that prevents his participation, or there may be a private family matter that is too painful to discuss. Life happens. An additional comment that often occurred during these constructive conversations was “if a man is honorable enough to be invited to join the Boulé and subsequently inducted into our august body, he is worthy enough to be pursued for reclamation if he becomes inactive.” Unless an absent Archon communicates directly with the member boulé about the rationale for his inert participation, our minds are left to wonder. I know that mine had.

Ultimately, we must continue to extend grace to one another and remember that it is our fraternal charge, as stated within our preamble, “. . . that each in this life may to his full ability aid the other and by concerted action bring about those things that seem best for all that cannot be accomplished by individual effort.” For what good are we to one another, Archons, if we do not choose to help reclaim our inactive Archons?

As I meditated on the best way in which to illustrate the necessity of our reclamation efforts to breathe life back into our lost Archons, I gave serious consideration to utilizing one of Aesop’s famed fables but ultimately harkened back to something that I believe is even more exemplar – the renowned and classic parable of the lost sheep: “What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.”

One is almost certain that the lion’s share of our membership already finds itself on the right side of history with regard to the reclamation initiative. Having said that, for those Archons – like myself – whose original disposition regarding an Archon’s decision to walk away from active participation was indifferent, hopefully you will take a moment to rethink your stance, as I have. We must move forward together and unbegrudgingly. Let each of us do our part to reach out wholeheartedly to our Archons, invite them to reconsider their absence from the Fraternity, and welcome them back home and into our venerable Boulé family. “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!”



From the Bench

By Archon Curtis L. Collier, Gamma Pi Boulé

THE RULE OF LAW VS. THE LAW OF RULERS

In November 2024 we elected from among us those people we will place in positions of authority over us. This is a civic tradition we have faithfully repeated for almost two hundred and fifty years. Regardless of whom we elect, and regardless of whether we supported or opposed them, we rely on them to follow the rule of law.

THE RULE OF LAW

The rule of law is one of the great hallmarks of the American legal and governing system. As a people, we have a deep belief in the rule of law and the importance of adherence to it. The rule of law in essence means that we are a society governed by laws and not just by the whims of those we periodically place in positions of authority. Having a standard beyond reliance on the good faith and benevolence of elected and appointed officials means we are treated by law based on neutral principles, not our status in society or who we are. Instead, we are all equal before the law.

RULERS RESPONSE TO DESIRES OF SUPPORTERS CAN BE ARBITRARY

Those we elect run on platforms and agendas and make promises to gain support from those they wish to represent. Once elected, officials attempt to enact their platforms, agendas and promises. It is only understandable that, once in office, officials fill their policy positions with people who agree with their platforms and agendas. And once elected, officials constantly strive to demonstrate how in touch and in tune they are with their constituents.

But it is also tempting for those in power to go further, using their discretion to benefit their supporters and disadvantage their opponents. Equally tempting

to leaders is not to be bound by the same rules and laws that apply to ordinary citizens. Even well-intentioned leaders will be tempted to give their supporters what they want by ignoring or slanting the rules that stand in the way. This undermines the rule of law.

The founders understood that whenever a person is given power, there is a risk that person will abuse power. They would have agreed with the adage from Lord Acton: “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” They understood that even good leaders over time will tend to become bad leaders.

THE RULE OF LAW PROTECTS AGAINST ARBITRARY RULE

The rule of law protects against arbitrary rule by our leaders. It provides stability, predictability and reliance in our daily lives. With written and widely known rules and laws, we can plan our lives without the fear that at any moment our plans may be disrupted and thwarted by sudden turnover among those in authority or by abrupt decisions by those in authority. Leaders responding to the whims of their supporters will sometimes act arbitrarily and inconsistently. The rule of law protects against this by providing consistency and long-lasting rules.

COURTS ARE INDISPENSABLE TO THE RULE OF LAW

The federal courts are indispensable to the effective operation of the rule of law. They do not have platforms or agendas and do not make campaign promises. A federal judge swears an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and to administer justice equally and impartially. Courts ensure that the laws are applied fairly and uniformly. It is

their role to enforce the rule of law. They do not cater to constituents and do not change policies with the turnover of elected officials. Courts provide neutral arbiters, applying the law to the facts of disputes without bias. Courts need not cater to those with whom they agree or seek to disadvantage those with whom they disagree.

By being neutral arbiters of the law, the courts help ensure that the rule of law is maintained and that individuals, including government officials, are held accountable. They protect individual rights and

liberties by interpreting and enforcing constitutional provisions. This role is essential for ensuring that laws are applied consistently and that individual rights are not infringed upon by those in power. Last, courts provide an essential check and balance to the other branches through judicial review. With this power the courts review laws and executive actions to ensure that they comply with the Constitution. In all these ways, the federal courts help secure to us the benefits of the rule of law, protecting us from the unpredictable law of rulers.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

JULY 4, OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” These lofty and inspiring words are from the Declaration of Independence. Adopted on July 4, 1776, by the Continental Congress, these words have served as a symbol of hope, aspiration, freedom and self-determination to peoples here in the United States and across the world. Although written for the then-inhabitants of Great Britain and its American colonies, these sentiments have resonated throughout the centuries since they were written.

We celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence through our national Independence Day each year on July 4. The Fourth of July is a holiday designed to celebrate the legacy handed down by the founders, as well as the ideas, ideals and words they gave us. The Declaration of Independence serves as a reminder of the power of ideas and words to shape history and to inspire positive change.

The Declaration of Independence proclaimed our separation from Great Britain and announced the birth of a new nation among the nations of the Earth. The sentiments penned so many years ago are still salient in our nation today. We also understand that the principles it established expand beyond those referred to as “men” at its ratification. Today we firmly believe that all persons are created equal – that no person is better or greater than any other by reason of birth. We firmly believe that all persons are

subject to the same laws as everyone else. We firmly believe that every person has the right to life and the right to liberty, and that these rights may not be taken from anyone without the due process of law. We firmly believe that all persons should have the right to pursue their personal advancement in their own ways. These beliefs have persisted as our guiding inspiration though the many trials and challenges the nation has faced over the years.

This past Fourth of July found us in turbulent times as we faced bitterness, discord and divisive issues. However, instead of succumbing to the divisiveness around us, let us reflect on all that binds us and the enduring principles expressed in the Declaration. After all, these principles are what define us as Americans, not bitterness, discord and divisiveness.

Much as the signers of the Declaration “mutually pledge[d] to each other [their] Lives, [their] Fortunes and [their] sacred Honor,” it is the individual responsibility of each of us to live up to the lofty words quoted above. The late Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall said it well on July 4, 1992, in accepting the Liberty Medal at Philadelphia’s Independence Hall: “We cannot play ostrich. Democracy just cannot flourish amid fear. Liberty cannot bloom amid hate. Justice cannot take root amid rage. America must get to work.... We can run from each other but we cannot escape each other. We will only attain freedom if we learn to appreciate what is different and muster the courage to discover what is fundamentally the same.”



JOHN MARSHALL HARLAN
JUNE 1, 1833 – OCTOBER 14, 1911

John Marshall Harlan served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1877 to 1911.
His grandson, John Marshall Harlan II, served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1955 to 1971.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES JOHN MARSHALL HARLAN, THE GREAT DISSENTER

“In view of the constitution, in the eye of the law, there is in this country no superior, dominant, ruling class of citizens. There is no caste here. Our constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law. The humblest is the peer of the most powerful. The law regards man as man and takes no account of his surroundings or of his color when his civil rights as guaranteed by the supreme law of the land are involved.”

These noble words, of course, are from Supreme Court Associate Justice John Marshall Harlan in his powerful, brave dissent in the infamous case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537, 559 (1896). Justice Harlan stood alone in his dissent, arguing that “separate but equal” accommodations on train cars were unconstitutional. All the other members of the Supreme Court rejected Justice Harlan’s arguments, and many members of the population may have as well. The verdict of history has sided with Justice Harlan and proven his wisdom. In part because of Justice Harlan’s powerful dissent in *Plessy*, he was labeled the Great Dissenter.

It is altogether fitting that we celebrate the unparalleled contributions to our legal heritage of this most distinguished justice and American.

OUR CONSTITUTION IS COLOR-BLIND

Harlan’s words that the Constitution is color-blind would become widely acclaimed and accepted in later years. *Plessy* was decided in the Jim Crow Era, when laws in the South were designed to segregate, discriminate against and intimidate Black Americans. Justice Harlan’s words were radical for the time and not widely accepted either in the South or in much of the rest of the nation. Thurgood Marshall, who argued and won the equally historic case of *Brown v. Board of Education* many years later, held Harlan’s

inspiring words as a guiding light in his own pursuit of equal justice before the law. According to Peter Canellos in his biography of Harlan, *The Great Dissenter*, Marshall pursued his fight against segregation in the South “armed only with Harlan’s dissenting opinion in *Plessy v. Ferguson* – Marshall’s bible....” Of course, *Brown* ultimately overturned *Plessy* in 1954, when the Supreme Court decided that “separate but equal” schools are inherently unequal.

CONGRESS HAS AUTHORITY TO OUTLAW DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE

Harlan’s willingness to go against the majority of his colleagues on the Supreme Court was not limited to *Plessy*. It was evident much earlier in his tenure on the court. In 1883, the Supreme Court was called upon to decide whether the Civil Rights Act of 1875 was constitutional. Among other things, this law forbade racial discrimination in public accommodations such as transportation, hotels and railroads. The Supreme Court held that the act was unconstitutional because it exceeded Congress’s authority under the Fourteenth Amendment.

Justice Harlan dissented from his colleagues. In his view both the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments gave Congress the authority to pass the Civil Rights Act. He argued that Congress could do what was “necessary or proper to eradicate all forms and incidents of slavery,” and to protect people from state laws that infringed on civil rights. Harlan wrote, “The supreme law of the land has decreed that no authority shall be exercised in the country upon the basis of discrimination, in respect of civil rights, against freemen and citizens because of their race, color or previous condition of servitude.”

In a magnificent symbolic act, Justice Harlan used the same inkstand in writing his dissent that Chief Justice Taney had used in 1856 to write in *Dred Scott*

v. *Sandford* that no Black person whose ancestors had been brought into the country as slaves could be a U.S. citizen. Justice Harlan thus demonstrated that the law must move beyond old notions of inequality, division and discrimination.

OTHER DISSENTS

In major case after major case, Justice Harlan dissented from his colleagues. And for many of those cases, his dissenting opinions have since become prevailing law.

In 1895, the question of whether the federal government had the authority to levy a federal income tax was before the court. Justice Harlan and three other justices dissented, arguing that the federal government indeed had that power.

Also in 1895, Justice Harlan was the sole dissenter to the court's decision severely limiting the power of the federal government to pursue antitrust actions. The federal government had begun to attack monopolies and used the Sherman Antitrust Act to go after conglomerations of economic power. The majority denied the federal government had this power. Justice Harlan dissented.

In 1903, Justice Harlan dissented in *Giles v. Harris* (1903) when the majority ignored a significant jurisdictional obstacle to hold that the court could not enforce political rights. This case involved a challenge to an Alabama law that enhanced the requirements to register to vote after a certain deadline, allowing white men to stay on the rolls indefinitely but effectively restricting most Black men from registering to vote. This was a widely used tactic in some southern states.

In the landmark, but now widely discredited, case of *Lochner v. New York* (1905), Justice Harlan dissented. The case dealt with a New York law limiting the hours bakers were allowed to work in a day and a week. The majority found the law interfered with the freedom to contract and was therefore invalid. Justice Harlan dissented, arguing the liberty to contract is subject to reasonable state regulations "for the common good and the well-being of society."

In 1906, Justice Harlan and one other justice dissented in *Hodges v. United States*. Three white men had been convicted of conspiring to "injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate" several Black men to prevent them from working at their jobs. The majority held that the Thirteenth Amendment applied only to the states and state actors. Because the defendants in the case were individuals, the federal convictions were overturned. Justice Harlan dissented, restating his argument that the Thirteenth Amendment was sufficient authority for Congress to protect African Americans from discrimination and violence, even in the absence of state action.

PROTECTIONS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS ARE APPLICABLE TO STATES

In *Hurtado v. California* (1884), Justice Harlan was the first justice to offer the view that the Fourteenth Amendment made the provisions of the Bill of Rights applicable to the states, specifically discussing the due process right to a grand jury. In his later dissent in *Patterson v. Colorado* (1907), he said: "I go further and hold that the privileges of free speech and a free press, belonging to every citizen of the United States, constitute essential parts of every man's liberty, and are protected against violation by that clause of the Fourteenth Amendment forbidding a state to deprive any person of his liberty without due process of law." This idea of the incorporation of the Bill of Rights by the Fourteenth Amendment was later adopted by the Supreme Court and is now the prevailing view of the law.

CONCLUSION

John Marshall Harlan was an outstanding Supreme Court justice. Our nation has much to be thankful for in his service and his ideas. In boldly stating that the Constitution is color-blind, Justice Harlan, the Great Dissenter, shared a new vision for our nation. His vision led to stronger laws and a more equitable nation for us all.

Archon Curtis L. Collier is a U.S. district court judge and chair of the Eastern District of Tennessee Civics and Outreach Committee. Carrie Brown Stefaniak and Rachel Elaine Noveroske, law clerks to Archon Collier, assisted in the preparation of all three articles. Law clerk Erienne Reniajal Lewis assisted in the preparation of the second two articles.

DELTA BOULÉ FOUNDATION HOSTS EVENING OF JAZZ GALA



PURE ACADEMY STUDENTS

On June 21, 2024, Memphis's Delta Boulé Archons and Archousai enjoyed a party with a purpose when the Delta Boulé Foundation hosted its annual awards presentation, An Evening of Jazz. The festive gala was held at the FedEx Event Center, located on the grounds of the beautiful Shelby Farms in Memphis. Awarding-winning journalist WREG-TV anchor Stephanie Scurlock emceed the fashionable soirée, which many hailed as an evening that will long be remembered for its grace, style, charity and fun.

Formally attired in black tie, young men from Pure Academy, one of the first boarding schools established specifically for young Black males, escorted Delta Archousai down the red carpet into the grand lobby, where they were greeted with sensuous strains from Harmonic South Strings directed by noted musician Carl Johnson, Jr. Music for the reception was provided by smooth jazz saxophonist Michael Henderson, with the processional provided by Bill Hurd and his jazz ensemble, joined by world renowned jazz vocalist Patrice Williamson. The processional included foundation officers and its members, award recipients and guests. The entire evening was a musical delight!

The program began with the Community Service Award presented to foundation trustee Archon Christopher Hearn and to Sharon Smith of Banks, Finley, White and Company for outstanding financial and accounting services that have been donated to Delta Boulé Foundation since its inception in 2007. A special performance of "For Every Mountain" by the Young Actors' Guild, headed by director Christi Chandler, followed, receiving a standing ovation from those in attendance.

Community-impact grants were given to five local nonprofit agencies: A Step Ahead Foundation, which provides women access to free long-acting reversible contraception for preventing unplanned pregnan-

cies; WKNO, the Mid-South's PBS, which is committed to creating and presenting both unique local and national content for television, radio and digital media; Heal 901, which focuses heavily on violence prevention, especially within youth populations, and strives to empower young people to reach their full potential through scholarships, creating safe community environments and multiple community outreach services; Tennessee Youth Courts, a juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention program that offers communities an alternative to traditional juvenile justice; Greater Memphis Financial Empowerment Center, sponsored by Regina Morrison Newman, the Shelby County trustee; and RISE Memphis, a nonprofit service provider that provides free, one-on-one financial counseling to all residents of Shelby County.

The evening ended with Pure Academy CEO Melvin Cole, who presented the academy's success story "from prison to superb leadership directing, teaching and developing young men to become future leaders." Delta Archon Neal Beckford commented that this year's gala was "phenomenal."

One of Pure Academy's students, Robert Farmer, touched the hearts of many with a moving online post: "Yesterday was one of the best times I've had in my life. I was around my brothers, my coach, and a lot of wealthy Black men and women. I got to meet Teacher, Teacher [WKNO community educational celebrity] and got behind the scenes of what Delta Boulé Foundation was about. I like that it was founded by a Black man who pushed other Black men. I wish I could relive yesterday all over again." The Delta Boulé Foundation has awarded more than \$200,000 over the past five years.

*Archon Ronald A. Walker
Grapter, Delta Boulé*

KAPPA BOULÉ FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES FUNDS FOR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS



The Kappa Boulé Foundation of Kappa Boulé in Atlanta hosted its Annual Archon Norman H. Thomas, Sr. Golf Tournament at Smoke Rise Country Club in Stone Mountain, Georgia, on May 10, 2024. One hundred percent of the golf tournament proceeds will benefit the Kappa Boulé Foundation Scholarship Program for high school and college students in the Atlanta public schools and Atlanta University Center.

The tournament has been hosted by Kappa Boulé Archons since 2008 and was initially led and inspired by Past Sire Archon Norman H. Thomas, Sr., who was the architect of Kappa Boulé's award-winning social action program Succeed With CREED, which represents commitment, responsibility, education, excellence and discipline. During each school term, Kappa Boulé works with the principals and counseling staffs to select several sixth, seventh and eighth grade African American boys from three Atlanta middle schools. These young boys are involved in a wide range of learning experiences designed to better prepare them for the future. Archon Thomas transitioned into Omega Boulé in 2023, and the Kappa Boulé Foundation renamed this charity golf tournament in his honor.

The tournament was relaunched this spring, after the interruptions caused by the global COVID-19 pan-

dem. Amidst a stunning landscape in the shadow of Stone Mountain, Smoke Rise Country Club's golf course provided a wonderful venue for hosting this tournament. Designed by Gary Roger Baird, this 6,852-yard, par-72 course boasts rolling terrain and dramatic elevation changes. The tournament started with a TrackMan Longest Drive competition putting contest and ended with an awards banquet for recognition of our participating Archons, generous sponsors and participating golfers.

The planning and execution of this event were led by Kappa Boulé Sire Archon Tyrone Rachal; Kappa Boulé Foundation chairman Archon Anthony C. Aiken; golf committee chairman Archon Javarro Edwards; and committee members Archousa Tiffany Cochran Edwards, Archousa Brenda G. Aiken, Archon Virgil L. Smith, Archousa Joann Smith, Archon Gregory Baranco, Archousa Juanita Barranco, Archon John Brewer, Archon Kevin E. Woods, Archon Sean Norman, Archon Keith Quarles, Archon Nathan Lewis, Archon Carl Ballton and Archon Robert Dixon.

*Archon Kevin E. Woods
Grapter, Kappa Boulé*

MU BOULÉ FOUNDATION AWARDED \$15,000 BY PSEG FOUNDATION



ARCHON JAMES SMITH



SIRE ARCHON BAKARI G. LEE

Mu Boulé, Northern New Jersey, is pleased to announce that the Mu Boulé Foundation was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the PSEG Foundation in support of its Life Gets Better Scholarship program in the fall of 2024. Congratulations to Sire Archon Bakari G. Lee; Archon James Smith, Mu Boulé Foundation

president; and all the Archons who played a role in establishing this strong relationship with the PSEG Foundation.

*Archon Paul A. Murdock
Grapter, Mu Boulé*

ALPHA BETA BOULÉ RECOGNIZES PROMISING FUTURE LEADERS



On June 8, 2024, Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé recognized nine outstanding Richmond-area high school students for their academic, athletic and community achievements at its Annual Joe Louis Simmons and Alexander J. Mosby, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast. Archons Simmons and Mosby were instrumental in establishing and sustaining the scholarship breakfast over the past thirty-two years and recognizing promising future leaders.

Under the leadership of Archons William S. Cooper and Barry Griffin, Alpha Beta's social action commit-

tee hosted the scholarship breakfast on the campus of Virginia Union University at the Claude G. Perkins Living and Learning Center. Archon Kenneth Ampy, CEO of Astyra Corp., delivered an inspiring keynote address on the theme of "Preparation + Opportunity = Success." The scholars received certificates of recognition and \$1,500 scholarship awards.

*Archon Brian T. Wesley
Grapter, Alpha Beta Boulé*

ALPHA TAU BOULÉ AWARDS AND RENEWS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



JOHN PONDER



RYAN NORRIS



LANDUS ROBERTSON III



JESSE REAVES



TODD BOND



XAVIER JOHNSON

On September 12, 2024, Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé was pleased to announce the recipients of its annual scholarships. John "Jack" S. Ponder, who was awarded a \$1,000 annual renewable scholarship, has also received the Southeast Region's \$5,000 scholarship. Jack is a May 2024 graduate of Riverside High School in Durham and is enrolled at North Carolina State University, where he is pursuing a degree in computer engineering. He finished high school with a 4.58 GPA and was engaged in academic and service activities including the Tri-M Music Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Young People and Children's Division of the Western North Carolina Conference of the African Methodist Church, Riverside Marching Band, and Diaper Bank of North Carolina.

Alpha Tau also renewed scholarships for the following students: Ryan Norris, a senior and biology major at Morehouse College with a 3.94 cumulative GPA; Landus Robertson III, a junior and cybersecurity engineering major at Louisiana State University

with a 3.44 GPA; Jesse Reaves, a junior and information technology major at North Carolina A&T State University with a 3.36 GPA; Todd Bond, a sophomore and political science major at Hampton University with a 3.52 GPA; and Xavier Johnson, a sophomore and construction management major at North Carolina A&T State University with at 3.64 GPA. Ryan, Landus and Todd are past recipients of the \$5,000 Southeast Regional Boulé scholarship with Alpha Tau providing matching gifts of \$2,500 each. Over the past four years, Alpha Tau has awarded \$25,500 to outstanding scholarship recipients.

Alpha Tau thanks Archons Sterling Freeman, Phillip Graham and David Morris of the scholarship committee and the leadership of the Southeast Region's scholarship committee for their diligent work and support.

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

ALPHA CHI FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



SETH M. BOYER



KEVIN R. BROOKS



BRYCE M. BROWN



CHERIE A. McCANTS



JAY A. TOWNSLEY, JR.

The Alpha Chi Foundation of Lansing, Michigan's Alpha Chi Boulé, awards five \$1,500 scholarships annually to graduating seniors for academic achievement and participation in school and community. Scholars must complete an application and transcript, including an essay on the importance of a college education. This year's group included four young men and a young woman with a collective GPA average of 3.73, all of whom were members of the National Honor Society, and all destined for universities within the state of Michigan. In August 2024 the foundation was pleased to announce its 2024 scholarship winners.

Seth M. Boyer: Seth was one of two recipients whose GPA exceeded 3.90. He will be attending Hope College and pursuing an engineering degree. While attending J.W. Sexton High School in Lansing, he excelled on the track team and did volunteer service for a veterans club. He has career aspirations for videogame development.

Kevin R. Brooks: Kevin will attend the University of Michigan to pursue a degree in mechanical or aerospace engineering. He is a talented musician, playing the piano and participating in the band as a clarinetist. He uses this talent to volunteer at school and church and in nursing homes. He attended Lansing Christian School, where he achieved a 3.85 GPA. He said he plans to keep music as a hobby and pursue a career in the propulsion sector.

Bryce M. Brown: Bryce was extremely active in Okemos High School, where he held leadership roles as Black Student Union president, vice president of the student council and Student Representative to the Board of Education, among others. As a National

Honor Society member, he participated in a variety of community service activities initiated by that organization. He will pursue studies in neuroscience at Michigan State University where he aspires to maintain a high GPA throughout his four years and further explore his career interest.

Cherie A. McCants: Cherie will attend Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she will be the recipient of both an athletic and an academic scholarship and pursue a career in neonatal nursing. A graduate of Waverly High School in Lansing, she was active as a member of the Honor Society and excelled in both basketball and softball. She was an active volunteer at both Advent House and Christo Rey, organizations that serve the needy. About her career choice she commented, "The number of Black neonatal nurses is low, and there is a stereotype that Black nurses are insufficient at giving care."

Jay A. Townsley, Jr.: Jay is the other scholarship recipient whose GPA exceeded 3.90. While at Waverly High School, Jay not only belonged to the National Honor Society, but was also a member of the National Technical Honor Society and the lead tech for the Waverly robotics program, in addition to serving as tutor to other students. He has participated in various food drives and food distribution programs. He is pursuing computer science at Kettering University in Flint, Michigan, and stated, "I am committed to using my education to make a positive impact on my community and beyond."

*Archon Steven L. Lonzo
Grapter, Alpha Chi Boulé*

ALPHA PSI BOULÉ FOUNDATION SPONSORS SUMMER STEM ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



SCHOLARS POSE WITH GOODWIN UNIVERSITY STAFF, MEMBERS OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY AND ARCHON KERWIN LOW IN FRONT OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN EXHIBITION AT THE NEW ENGLAND AIR MUSEUM. THIS EXHIBIT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE LATE ARCHON EARL EXUM OF BETA IOTA BOULÉ.

From July 8 to July 26, 2024, Hartford's Alpha Psi Boulé, through its foundation, proudly supported an initiative to introduce young scholars to next-frontier industries such as advanced manufacturing, AR/VR, aerospace and data analytics. The goal was to inspire students to pursue careers in these fields and to create a pipeline for the Boulé Base 11 Fellows Program, which Alpha Psi has aptly named the Junior Fellows Program. The foundation was instrumental in making this program possible, offering financial support and contributing to its development.

Hosted by Jumoke Academy Charter School, Inc., in collaboration with Goodwin University in East Hartford, the summer STEM program welcomed around thirty students from Jumoke Academy STEM Middle School in Hartford. The program aimed to ignite students' interest in STEM careers through engaging hands-on activities, field trips and valuable interactions with industry professionals.

Throughout the program, students were immersed in hands-on learning experiences centered on aerospace and manufacturing. They explored the physics of flight and the engineering design process through activities like building and testing gliders and rockets. Using advanced tools such as CAD software, 3D printing and laser cutting, the students brought their designs to life, all while gaining practical STEM knowledge.

The program also included field trips that reinforced classroom lessons. At the Geneseo Airshow at the National Warplane Museum, students witnessed aerial demonstrations by P-51 Mustangs and F-22 Raptors. Another highlight was the visit to the New England Air Museum, where they explored the

Tuskegee Airmen Exhibit and experienced flying an F-18 Hornet through a virtual reality simulator. These experiences allowed students to connect their hands-on projects to real-world aerospace technology and history.

A key feature of the program was the career panels, where professionals from Pratt & Whitney and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy shared their insights and career journeys. It was important for the students to see and connect with individuals in these industries who have similar backgrounds and experiences. These sessions offered them role models and were a source of inspiration, helping them envision the possibilities within STEM careers.

The program concluded with a final showcase, where students presented their completed projects, including air- and water-powered model rockets and CAD-designed, 3D-printed components. The students' enthusiasm and excitement were palpable as they proudly shared what they had learned and demonstrated the skills they had developed.

Thanks to the financial contributions from the Alpha Psi Boulé Foundation and the collaborative efforts in developing the program, the summer STEM program was a tremendous success. The students left feeling inspired and better equipped to pursue their interests in STEM, with many already envisioning future careers in engineering and technology. We are proud to have supported this initiative and look forward to seeing these young scholars become the next generation of innovators.

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

BETA LAMBDA BOULÉ ATTENDS SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION



ARCHONS, GUESTS AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT JAHLEEL McCALLUM

On August 18, 2024, Archons and Archousai of Beta Lambda Boulé in Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, attended the annual Beta Lambda Summer Outing. This year’s event was held at the Riverwalk Restaurant in historic Yorktown, overlooking the picturesque York River. Archons, Archousai, family and guests enjoyed a wonderful evening of food, fun and getting to know the best of one another.

Beta Lambda’s social action committee also invited their scholarship recipients and their families to join the festivities. Beta Lambda Boulé awarded \$1,500 scholarships to two students – Nassir Steward and Jahleel McCallum – who participated in the career exploration program. Unfortunately, Nassir and his family were unable to attend.

Nassir and Jahleel were multiyear participants in the Beta Lambda Boulé Scholar Program, which consists of a series of field trips to facilities in the Hampton Road region of Virginia with a focus on STEM careers. Facilities visited by the program include the NASA Langley Research Center, the Bill Bagley Innovation Lab at the Newport News Shipbuilding Apprentice School, Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facil-

ity. Students engaged in meaningful discussions with researchers, engineers and scientists. They also participated in hands-on experiential learning activities, including creativity exercises, the use of 3D printers, augmented reality training and high-performance computing, to name a few. Archons communicate the expectations and emphasis on the participants’ high academic achievement throughout the program.

Nassir Steward graduated from I.C. Norcom High School in Portsmouth with a 3.0 GPA. He was a member of Future Business Leaders of America and captain on the school’s volleyball team. Nassir is attending Hampton University and majoring in marketing.

Jahleel McCallum graduated from Phoebus High School in Hampton with a 4.29 GPA. Jahleel was a member of the National Honor Society, Kappa League and 100 Black Men of Virginia Peninsula Chapter and captain of the track and field team. Jahleel attends James Madison University in Harrisonburg, majoring in computer science.

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

BETA SIGMA BOULÉ AWARDS \$11,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS



On August 1, 2024, Beta Sigma Boulé, Springfield, Massachusetts, hosted a special reception and scholarship awards ceremony at the University of Massachusetts Amherst Henry M. Thomas III Center at Springfield to celebrate the academic excellence of five young men. The ceremony was an intimate setting, comprising Beta Sigma Boulé Archons and their families, the scholars, and the scholars' families. The event was sponsored by Baystate Health and Archons of Beta Sigma Boulé.

Grand Rhetoricos Stefan Bradley, Charles Hamilton Houston Professor of Black Studies and History at Amherst College and author of two award-winning books, delivered words of wisdom and inspiration to the scholars to use as they go through their college experiences and prepare for the future. Archon Bradley emphasized the importance of being self-aware and asking for help when needed.

Beta Sigma Boulé awarded \$5,000 scholarships to two of the young men and \$500 book awards to three of the young men celebrated. The scholarships are named in honor of the late Archon Howard L. Edmonds, who was a charter member of Beta Sigma Boulé and a prominent educator in the Springfield public school system.

In partnership with Baystate Health via a community-benefits discretionary grant, Beta Sigma Boulé awarded two Howard L. Edmonds Scholarships of \$5,000 each to Michael Jones and Ethan Vulcain-Sowkey. Michael Jones is a graduate of Springfield International Charter School and a matriculant at Roger Williams University. He aspires to become a nonprofit leader and entrepreneur. Ethan Vulcain-Sowkey is a graduate of Amherst-Pelham Regional High School and a student at Bates College, pursuing a degree in political science for a career in foreign relations.

The \$500 book awards were funded by the Frank "Robbie" and Dora Robinson Memorial Fund. This year's recipients were Ocean Elliston, Aina Olawunmi and Isaiah Lewis. Ocean Elliston is a graduate of Springfield Central High School. He is matriculating at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he is studying material science and engineering. Aina Olawunmi is a graduate of Springfield Central High School. He is attending Bridgewater State University, where he is majoring in aviation science. Isaiah Lewis is a graduate of the Springfield Renaissance School. He is pursuing a degree in marketing at the University of Rhode Island.

Beta Sigma Boulé's annual scholarship awards ceremony was not held last year due to scheduling conflicts. However, two \$4,000 scholarships were awarded to the 2023 Howard L. Edmonds Scholars, who were also honored and celebrated at this year's event. They were Chandler Dicks and Matthew Worthy. Chandler Dicks graduated from Deerfield Academy and is currently enrolled at the College of the Holy Cross. Matthew Worthy graduated from Springfield Central High School and is an economics major at Amherst College.

The 2024 scholars joined a circle of eight previous Howard L. Edmonds Scholars, who are also currently enrolled in college. Also attending the event was Beta Sigma Boulé's 2020 Boulé Scholar and 2024 Princeton graduate Mohan Setty-Charity. Since the Howard L. Edmonds Scholars program began in 2010, Beta Sigma Boulé has awarded more than \$160,000 in scholarships.

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

GAMMA GAMMA BOULÉ RECOGNIZES STUDENT EXCELLENCE

The Archons of Gamma Gamma Boulé in Austin, Texas, hosted their annual W. Charles Akins Scholarship Awards Dinner on June 4, 2024, at Chez Zee American Bistro. The annual scholarship awards dinner is named for Gamma Gamma Archon W. Charles Akins, who was a longtime distinguished educator and administrator in the Austin Independent School District prior to his transition to Omega Boulé. Archon Akins was also revered for his leadership in and impact on the city of Austin.

For more than twenty years, the Gamma Gamma Boulé scholarship committee has been a trailblazer in its community in recognizing the importance of extending a hand and lifting up the next generation of distinguished young men. Gamma Gamma awards twelve scholarships each year to African American male high school graduates who will be attending or continuing their enrollment at a four-year college or university. These young men are selected based on their academic scholarship, their leadership in their schools and communities, and the submission of a written essay describing why they want to go to college and the impact that it will have on them, their families and society as a whole. The W. Charles Akins Scholarship effort is a signature component of the member boulé's larger social action program.

Scholars and their parents joined Gamma Gamma Archons for a robust and delicious full-course meal sponsored by the Gamma Gamma Boulé Foundation at the excellent bistro. After the meal the scholarship recipients were recognized for their academic excellence and their potential as rising college students.

The formal program included welcome remarks from scholarship committee chairperson Archon Bergeron Harris, followed by an invocation from Archon Calvin Kelly, chair of the social action committee. Archon Harold Bowling, one of Gamma Gamma's charter Archons, enlightened the attendees on the history of Sigma Pi Phi. Immediate Past Sire Archon Kevin Enders facilitated an engaging panel discussion and presentation with two past scholars and graduates, scholar Devon Dudley (Morehouse College), son of Gamma Gamma Archon Brice Dudley, Sr., and scholar Grant Owens (Howard University), son of Gamma Gamma Archon Anthony Owens. This discussion was a highlight of the evening as both past scholars shared their experiences finding success in college and described their preparation and pursuit of employment after graduation. The dinner not only recognized the hard work of the new and continuing scholars but also reinforced the commitment of



Gamma Gamma to fostering the next generation of leaders and innovators.

The scholarship students who were awarded based on the established criteria will receive \$1,500 or \$2,000, renewable annually for four years, upon their yearly enrollment at their respective colleges and universities. The distinguished scholar recipients celebrated during this illustrious occasion were:

- Noah Cruz – University of Houston freshman majoring in studio arts and business
- Jared Diggs – Purdue University senior majoring in society and law
- Tyler Henry – The University of Texas at Austin sophomore majoring in information analytics
- Braylon Hill – The University of Texas at Austin sophomore majoring in premed (kinesiology)
- Lacee Johnson – University of Tulsa junior majoring in psychology
- Kenneth Kalu – Brown University sophomore majoring in biology/premed
- Benjamin King – Howard University freshman majoring in computer and information science
- Patrick Onyia – University of Houston senior majoring in public health
- Solomon Starks – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute junior majoring in computer engineering
- Douglas Townsend – Boston College senior majoring in environmental science and health and premed
- Artist Tyson – Texas Southern University junior majoring in political science
- Jason Ward – University of Houston freshman majoring in mechanical engineering

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

GAMMA ZETA BOULÉ LAMP MENTOR PROGRAM ENROLLS ITS LARGEST CLASS

In 2009 Pasadena, California's Gamma Zeta Boulé LAMP Mentor Program was founded by Archons Harlan Ward and Raymond Ealy, along with a few other Gamma Zeta Archons (Archons Charles Richardson, Julius Johnson and Russell Richey). Since then it has had a steady growth of young men of color becoming mentees and making positive marks of their own at universities across the nation and in their careers afterward. At the end of the 2023–24 program year, LAMP was instrumental in the matriculation of seventeen high school seniors to various universities and colleges across the United States.

At its new mentees induction ceremony and mentoring workshop on August 24, 2024, when the roll was called, the LAMP Mentor Program grew to sixty-one mentees: ten seniors, twenty-one juniors, twenty-one sophomores and nine freshmen. This year LAMP added twenty-five new mentees to the returning thirty-six from the 2023–24 class.

In the 2024–25 program year, the LAMP Mentor Program is structured to teach these young men the soft skills they will be able to use for the rest of their lives. The four-year curriculum of the program includes time management, financial literacy, busi-

ness letter and email writing, résumé writing, interviewing skills, and navigating oneself in the Me Too era, to name a few.

The workshops ahead will include heavy infusions of STEAM projects and will incorporate topics such as information technology infrastructure and building a presence in the AWS Cloud, field trips, and workshops in hospital simulation laboratories. Mentees will also be exposed to numerous career opportunities so that they can see themselves on the jobs that mentors and Archons work in today.

The LAMP Mentor Program conducts workshops in the Pasadena area, from 8:00 A.M. to approximately 1:30 P.M. one Saturday each month from August to May of the following year. All mentees attend workshops dressed in business attire. If for some reason the mentee can no longer wear his suit, the program makes sure that he gets one that fits.

To learn how to support the LAMP Mentor Program, visit www.gzbfoundation.org.

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



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GAMMA LAMBDA BOULÉ AWARDS GEORGE K. ROBINSON YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS



SIRE ARCHON MELVIN BROWN, MALACHI MILTON, DEVIN PARKER AND ARCHON JEROME HARRIS

On May 19, 2024, Charleston, North Carolina's Gamma Lambda Boulé gave its 2024 George K. Robinson Youth Achievement Awards to two students, Malachi Milton from West Ashley High School and Devin Parker from R.B. Stall High School, at the Charleston Yacht Club. Each awardee received a \$2,500 scholarship in recognition of his accomplishments in areas of service, leadership, academic achievement and athletics.

Malachi Milton, a member of the National Honor Society, captain of the basketball and track teams, and a volunteer basketball and robotics coach, was selected Mr. Beaux Affair for 2023. Malachi is attending Florida A&M University, majoring in architecture.

Devin Parker was a member of the National Honor Society, the varsity football and basketball teams, and the student council. He served as deputy commander of the Junior ROTC and president of the North Charleston Chapter of the Distributive Education Clubs of America. He now attends the Citadel and is majoring in business administration.

The George K. Robinson Youth Achievement Awards Program was initiated in 1995. It is named for Archon George K. Robinson, one of the charter members of Gamma Lambda Boulé.

*Archon Paul L. Stoney
Grapter, Gamma Lambda Boulé*

GAMMA OMICRON BOULÉ CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



GAMMA OMICRON ARCHONS AND SCHOLARS

On August 3, 2024, Tampa Bay, Florida's Gamma Omicron Boulé honored both their existing and most recent scholarship recipients along with their parents in Tampa at the Tampa Housing Authority. Since 2017, when the chapter renewed its scholarship efforts under Archons Kevin Scott and Kenyon Fort, in partnership with the Tampa Boys and Girls Clubs for the first three years, twenty-six scholarships have been awarded to college-bound students totaling more than \$180,000. The scholarship recipients have attended colleges and universities, which include Florida A&M University, the University of Florida, Florida State University, the University of Chicago and Brown University.

The Gamma Omicron Educational Services, Inc., Scholarship Program is part of the social action arm of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and is a nonprofit corporation operating exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. Each year it provides academic scholarships and assistance to African American high school males graduating and pursuing college education. The assistance includes financial awards

for up to four years, continued mentorship during college matriculation, internship opportunities and postbaccalaureate career counseling. One of the boulé's core beliefs is that it can assist in the growth of homegrown talent in professions in our community and encourage more young professionals to "come back home" to work and to serve. The foundation is on a fundraising mission to raise more than \$500,000 to memorialize the scholarship programs for many decades to come. To date, nearly \$300,000 has been raised against the goal. Archon Perry Little is the foundation president, and Archon Willie Felton is the scholarship chairman.

The honored scholars are Marlon Edwards, Kendrick Gordon and Darrin Homes, who are seniors; Ty Andrews, Toluwanimi Bankole, Sage Marshall and Brandon Thomas, who are sophomores; and Giovanni Almond, Cornell Boyd III, Bankston Joyner and Cameron Temple, who are freshmen.

*Archon Lawrence W. Hamilton
Grapter, Gamma Omicron Boulé*

DELTA IOTA BOULÉ AWARDS 2024 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



On August 8, 2024, the Archons of Mobile, Alabama's Delta Iota Boulé awarded their 2024 scholar-

ships to two outstanding students, Jordon Rivers and Wesley Hardon, of Williamson High School in Mobile.

DELTA PI BOULÉ SPONSORS MONTGOMERY MUSEUM DAY TRIP



ARCHON DAVID WILLIAMS (RIGHT) ESCORTS PENSACOLA STUDENTS TO MONTGOMERY MUSEUMS.

Every Archon should make the pilgrimage to the museums of Montgomery, Alabama. In accord with this mandate, on Saturday, July 20, 2024, Pensacola, Florida's Delta Pi Boulé sponsored a day trip for eleven young Pensacola men to visit the Legacy Museum and the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, founded by Bryan Stevenson, with lunch at the Pannie-George's Kitchen.

Archons Wilmoth Baker and David Williams drove and chaperoned the young men in two minivans from Pensacola to Montgomery to experience these attractions. The group spent the day at two of the three projects. The Legacy Museum covers our history from enslavement in the 1500s to present-day achievements. The newly opened Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, snaking along a piece of the

Alabama River, is an eclectic collection of huge monuments, memorials and visual statements. The last part of this triad, but certainly not the least, is the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, a sobering testimony to the more than 4,000 African Americans lynched from 1877 to 1950 in the states of the South.

Our enthusiastic participants, in no particular order, were Kambrion Ankum, Kasch Foshee, Nicholas DeVaughn, Barron Latson, Bryce Freeman, Noah Johnson, Keylon Williams, Kaveion Brown, Kaden Ware and Cadynce Tolbert. Special thanks to the Lamplighters organization and JBWES. Delta Pi Boulé looks forward to doing it bigger and better next year.

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

DELTA MU BOULÉ HOSTS JUBILEE THEATRE BUYOUT

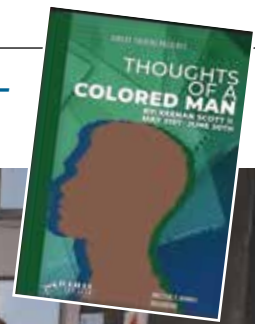


PHOTO: LINDA MIDDLETON

DELTA MU BOULÉ ARCHONS ON STAGE AT THE JUBILEE THEATRE

An extravagant evening hosted by Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas’s Delta Mu Boulé was held at the Jubilee Theatre in downtown Fort Worth on June 29, 2024, as Archons and their Archousai from all four Dallas–Fort Worth member boulés gathered to view the performance of *Thoughts of a Colored Man*. Jubilee Theatre, entering its forty-fourth year of providing theatrical works that give voice to the African American experience, is one of the oldest African American theaters in the country. *Thoughts of a Colored Man* opened on Broadway in October 2021 and was the first Broadway show written and directed by Black men, with Black men playing the leading roles.

The evening began with a preshow reception. Archons and their Archousai were treated to a red-carpet entry with delicious appetizers and refreshments, including a vodka tasting sponsored by GO3 handcrafted vodka, owned by African Americans in Texas. Guests enjoyed an array of gourmet dishes prepared by Our Door to Yours Catering, setting the stage for an evening of exceptional experiences.

The performance was graced by the presence of such distinguished guests as Opal Lee, known as the grandmother of Juneteenth, and legal legend attorney L. Clifford Davis. Lee, instrumental in establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday and recently

awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Biden, was a highlight of the evening. Davis filed the first desegregation lawsuit in Texas in 1955 alongside Thurgood Marshall. Prior to the show, Archons, Archousai and guests were greeted by the president of the Jubilee Theatre board, Archousa Anita Heiskell, and its treasurer, Archousa Arveda Lewis.

Delta Mu Boulé is committed to making an impact on the community through social action programs and the Delta Mu Education Foundation, which supports the intellectual growth and social development of Black boys in the community. The event was particularly effective as it provided young Black male students from Fort Worth’s Young Men’s Leadership Academy with an inspiring exposure to Black performing arts, contributing to their cultural and artistic development.

The buyout event was a resounding success, made possible by the efforts of Past Sire Archon Michael Heiskell and Archousa Anita, Immediate Past Sire Archon Curtis Harris and Archousa Nancy, and Sire Archon Keon Anderson and Archousa Aiyanna. Their dedication and support, along with the participation of Delta Mu Boulé, made the event a night to remember. The combination of powerful theater, exquisite catering and joyous company left everyone with lasting memories of an incredible evening.

DELTA XI BOULÉ PROVIDES MEDICAL CAREER INFORMATION TO STUDENTS



ARCHON KEITH WILSON AND ARCHOUSA RYLVA WILSON



ARCHON KEITH WILSON

On July 20, 2024, the Archons of Walnut–Diamond Bar, California’s Delta Xi Boulé partnered, through the Viscount Foundation, along with two other local nonprofits, Brotherhood Crusade and Bridge Builders Foundation, to provide an intimate social and educational meeting benefiting approximately thirty college and college-bound African American youths. The event was hosted at the home of Archon Keith Wilson and his Archoussa, Rylva Johnson Wilson, a dentist. It was the brainchild of Archon Wilson and several other Delta Xi Archons who expressed a need to increase the number of Black physicians.

Archons Vincent L. Anthony (internal medicine and nephrology), Reuel T. Gaskins (primary care), Dwayne K. Logan (ophthalmology), Vernon B. Williams (neurology) and Keith Wilson (obstetrics and gynecology); Gregory C. Green of the Viscount Foundation; and James Breedlove of the Bridge Builders Foundation attended and supported the sessions. In addition, Rodney Collins (addiction medicine and psychiatry) Kimberly D. Gregory (obstetrics and gynecology), Lisa Annette Nicholas (obstetrics and gynecology) and Alan T. Turner (radiology) participated in the sessions. The physicians shared stories about their journeys and described why they had become M.D.s, and they answered questions from the young people. The students unanimously expressed appreciation for the gathering and communicated that the meeting was aspirational and encouraging, which instilled in them a renewed sense of resilience. One student, a third-year biology major attending the University of California at Merced, expressed “relief that my specialty does not need to be identified until my later years in medical school.”

*Archon Alonzo E. Hill
Grapter, Delta Xi Boulé*



ARCHOUSA AND SCHOLARS



ARCHON DWAYNE LOGAN AND SCHOLARS

DELTA SIGMA BOULÉ AWARDS \$60,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2024



ARCHONS LOUIS RUTLAND (STANDING, LEFT) AND DONALD GOENS (STANDING, RIGHT) WITH THE 2024 DELTA SIGMA BOULÉ SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

On May 19, 2024, at Olympia Fields Country Club, South Suburban Chicago's Delta Sigma Boulé, through its foundation, awarded more than \$60,000 in scholarships to Oluwatosin Adeyemi (University of Michigan), Daven West (Yale University), Cameron Cage (Purdue University), Donovan Anderson (University of Illinois), James Kyles (University of Southern California), Nehemiah James (University of Chicago), Brandon Bonds (Southern Illinois University), Nieko

Taylor (Illinois State University), Nathan Legardy (Hampton University), Xavier White (The Ohio State University) and Rowan Mitchell (Xavier University). Since 2013, the Archons of Delta Sigma Boulé have provided more than \$450,000 in scholarships.

*Archon Edward G. Lance IV
Grapter, Delta Sigma Boulé*

DELTA CHI HOSTS THE 1904 SOCIETY'S SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY



The Archons of Orangeburg, South Carolina's Delta Chi Boulé hosted a College Reveal and Scholarship Ceremony for its 1904 Society on the evening of June 22, 2024, on the campus of Claflin University in Orangeburg. The scholarship ceremony recognized twenty male high school graduates who had been members of the 1904 Society since the eighth grade. These twenty young men had participated in monthly training sessions, test preps, service projects, professional development and college campus tours for four years. And on this evening, they celebrated their achievements with their parents and loved ones during a dinner program.

Sire Archon Isaiah McGee presided over the event, which included words of inspiration from two college presidents in the area: Archon Alexander Conyers, president of South Carolina State University; and Archon Dwaun Warmack, president of Claflin University. Archon Louis Whitesides, who chaired, planned

and implemented the 1904 Society initiative, shared a reflective video and presentation highlighting the various activities, lessons and trips that took place over the years. Delta Chi Boulé provided \$40,000 in scholarships to the twenty members of the society, and each young man revealed to the audience his college selection for the fall by displaying a collegiate cap of that institution.

The 1904 Society included the following members: Jason A. Booker, Benjamin M. Brown, Eric Carr, Evan Carr, Gregory D. Evans, Quai' Vion Fairey, Jeremy Fields, LaDontis W. Franklin, Kizer Glover, Vincent E. Green, Jeremiah Jacques, Evan E. Jenkins, Amari Livingston, Chancellor Moorner, Jackson A. Sheppard, Jonathan Smalls, Javon J. Stokes, Jordan Walker, Ivan D. Williams and Michael N. Williams.

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

VINCENT AGBEIBOR RECEIVES EPSILON DELTA BOULÉ SCHOLARSHIP

On June 5, 2024, Vincent Agbeibor of Jamestown High School in Jamestown, Virginia, was presented with a check from Williamsburg, Virginia's Epsilon Delta Boulé for \$5,000. The check recognized his selection as a 2024 Epsilon Delta Boulé Scholarship awardee. Vincent earned a 4.0 GPA and a 1,500 SAT score (99th percentile). He was captain of the Jamestown High soccer team, president of the Latin Club, founder and president of the school's chess club, president of Mu Alpha Theta, and senior class representative to the student council. He was also selected as a member of 200+ Black Men Scholars.



Vincent was designated an AP Scholar with Distinction. He earned the Jamestown High School Scholar Athlete Award and the National Latin Literacy Exam-

ination Gold Award. He excelled in the Medusa Mythology Examination (cum laude) and the National Latin Examination (cum laude). He earned the NAACP ACT-SO Award and was a member of the Latin Honor Society and the Spanish Club.

Vincent now attends the University of Virginia as a premedical student and plans to major in neuroscience and become a neurologist or neurosurgeon. He has expressed great appreciation for the recognition and support Epsilon Delta Boulé has given him.

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

EPSILON DELTA BOULÉ, SOUTHEAST REGION AWARD ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

In July 2024 Trevon Harris, a graduate of Grafton High School in Yorktown, Virginia, was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship by Williamsburg, Virginia's Epsilon Delta Boulé and the Southeast Region of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. This award recognizes his outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements at Grafton High. He currently attends Hampton University.

Trevon earned a 3.8 GPA and for each of his last three years, he earned the Grafton High School Award of Academic Excellence. He plans to major in marine and environmental science, and he desires a career as a marine biologist. At Grafton High, Trevon distinguished himself as a musician. He was first chair clarinetist for the Virginia All-District Band and won the Grafton High School Symphonic Band Crescendo Award. Throughout his high school years, Trevon has been active in his church and has participated in local civic activities. Epsilon Delta Boulé is extremely proud of Trevon and wishes him success in his academic career at Hampton University.

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



EPSILON EPSILON BOULÉ LEADS COMMUNITY FORUM



On August 24, 2024, the social action committee of Orange County, California's Epsilon Epsilon Boulé hosted a panel discussion entitled "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Under Attack: What It Means to You." The forum dealt with the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 decision to end affirmative action for college admissions and the subsequent elimination or reduction of DEI initiatives in schools, workplaces and government agencies. The event took place on the campus of Chapman University in Orange County, with more than eighty participants, including Archons, community members, and middle and high school students who toured the campus prior to the forum.

Archon Nathan Deal served as master of ceremonies and the panelists were Archon Charles E. Bray, Jr., of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Dyonne Bergeron, University of California, Irvine; Archon Reginald Chhen Stewart, Chapman University; and Michael D. Thomas, Jackson Lewis, PC. The panel was moderated by Archon Mark Smalls.

When asked why this topic was selected for discussion from among the many social issues that affect the Black community, Archon Deal noted, "The Supreme Court decision last year regarding Harvard admissions reminds Californians of precedent legislation dating back to Proposition 209 in 1996, which eliminated affirmative action for admissions policies for the UC and CSU systems. Since then, University of California and California State University college matriculation by African Americans and other minorities mimic that of pre-civil rights times." Archon

Smalls added, "Since the Supreme Court decision last year regarding affirmative action at colleges and universities, we have seen an escalation in 'anti DEI' sentiment from certain politicians as well as other members of society. There has been a scaling back of programs that are intended to ensure a level playing field and equal access to opportunities."

The Archons of Epsilon Epsilon Boulé continue to be thought leaders on myriad subjects, so it was important to weigh in on this topic because, according to Archon Smalls, "there continues to be a lot of misinformation out there, including what the Supreme Court decision covers, and we wanted to ensure that the residents of Orange County who are most impacted by this backlash – people of color – receive information that will help them navigate the current landscape, including reacting to changes to various schools' admissions processes."

Archon Deal added, "We are considering other topics that will address how African Americans make it to the executive and C-suite levels as well as cover the African American entrepreneur experience, voter education and men's health."

Sire Archon Alvin McCurdy concluded by thanking all attendees and encouraging them to become educated on the topics that have an impact on the Black community. He invited all to attend future Epsilon Epsilon Boulé-sponsored community dialogues.

*Archon Reginald Chhen Stewart
Grapter, Epsilon Epsilon Boulé*

EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE AT SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY



On a radiant evening in June 2024, Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé hosted its second Annual Scholarship Ceremony, a grand celebration dedicated to fostering the dreams and aspirations of young African American high school boys. This momentous occasion highlighted the academic achievements of these promising students and underscored the Fraternity's commitment to nurturing future leaders within the African American community. In alignment with its profound dedication to educational excellence and leadership development, Epsilon Zeta presented scholarships to deserving students who have demonstrated remarkable potential in their academic and personal endeavors.

The scholarship ceremony, which began with a reception for all the scholars, their families, and their respective school officials (principals, assistant principals, counselors and teachers), was hosted by Archon Arthur Dean, with the assistance of Sire Archon-Elect Greg Fenner. Epsilon Zeta Boulé recognized and awarded seventeen scholarships to high school seniors. Fourteen of these scholars received the Epsilon Zeta Boulé Scholarship of \$2,500 each, totaling \$35,000, while three received the Grand Boulé Scholarship, totaling \$10,000 each over four years.

Modeling leadership, education and civic responsibility, Epsilon Zeta stands as a pillar of support for these endeavors and mentors the young men who will advance the African American community in all facets of equality, mutual respect and devotion to democratic traditions. Cultivating academic excellence and leadership, the Boulé Scholars Program, a cornerstone initiative of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, is designed to address African American males' educational and developmental needs by providing signifi-

cant 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.

More than just a scholarship presentation, the ceremony was a tribute to the enduring legacy of leadership and service embodied by the Fraternity's ideals. Inspirational speeches touched on the transformative journey these scholarships will facilitate for the recipients, empowering them to pursue higher education and leadership roles. The scholars were encouraged to carry forward the mantle of responsibility and service, echoing the Fraternity's mission to lead by example.

The ceremony was a splendid affair filled with joy and heartfelt celebrations, a platform to honor the young scholars and a reminder of education's robust role in uplifting communities. The event successfully fostered a sense of unity and pride among all attendees, reinforcing the Fraternity's role in advocating for educational opportunities and community empowerment. As the evening concluded, hope for and anticipation of the future charged the air. The second Annual Scholarship Ceremony was not just an event but also a beacon of hope, a testament to the power of education and the spirit of community. Epsilon Zeta Boulé continues to shine as a guiding light for young minds, inspiring them to excel and to lead with courage, integrity and a deep sense of purpose.

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

EPSILON ZETA BOULÉ HOSTS FUNDRAISER FOR SENATE CANDIDATE ALSOBROOKS



Loudoun County's Epsilon Zeta Boulé has once again demonstrated its commitment to public policy development and advocacy by hosting a successful fundraiser for U.S. Senate candidate Angela Alsobrooks. Although Alsobrooks is running for the seat from Maryland, her success would have national implications in a divided country during the next session of congress. If successful, she would be only the third African American woman ever to be a senator in the United States. Given the senate's role as a crucial check on the executive and judicial branches, and the high stakes during the upcoming presidential election, it was imperative for Epsilon Zeta Boulé to step in and assist. The event, held on June 29, 2024, at the picturesque home of Archon Kenyatta Uzzell and Archousa Kahni Ward-Uzzell in Chantilly, Virginia, saw a significant turnout of dignitaries and community leaders, embodying Epsilon Zeta's Strategic Objective #4.

Strategic Objective #4 emphasizes developing and implementing a public policy agenda that addresses the needs of Black young people, families and communities. This objective intersects social advocacy and community empowerment, highlighting the organization's dedication to engaging with and influencing public policy. By supporting local government officials like senate candidate Alsobrooks, Epsilon Zeta Boulé actively participates in shaping the socio-economic landscape.

The fundraiser was a resounding success, attracting a diverse group of attendees. Alsobrooks, accompanied by Loudoun County commissioner Phyllis

Randall, engaged with the guests, discussing her vision and policy goals. Guests enjoyed the hospitality of the Uzzell family in a warm and inviting atmosphere that encouraged open and meaningful dialogue. The gathering provided an excellent opportunity for Epsilon Zeta members and other attendees to network, share insights and show their support for Alsobrooks's campaign. Archons in attendance included Kenyatta Uzzell, Marshall Williams, William Walker, Kamonte McCray, Howard Bell and Keith Moody and contributions were made to the Alsobrooks Victory Fund via checks and online donations.

The fundraiser was a testament to Epsilon Zeta's dedication to public policy development and advocacy. By supporting local government officials, Epsilon Zeta reinforces its mission to empower Black communities through proactive engagement with public policy. The event not only showcased this commitment but also highlighted the community's enthusiasm and support for Alsobrooks's campaign. As Epsilon Zeta continues to enhance stakeholder collaboration, leverage data-driven decision making and engage the community, it sets a commendable example of leadership and advocacy. The success of the fundraiser underscores the importance of continuous community engagement and the impact policy advocacy has in creating a more equitable society.

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

EPSILON PI BOULÉ CONVENES OARSMEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Epsilon Pi Boulé of Southlake, Texas, held its second annual launch event for the OARSmen program at the Las Colinas Country Club in Irving, Texas, on July 28, 2024. The event welcomed fourteen new crew members to the program, which focuses on five pillars of transformation: leadership, education, health, wealth and community.

Under the stewardship of the Epsilon Pi social action committee, powered by our OAR Success Foundation, the OARSmen program is a comprehensive development initiative tailored for young African American men in the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex. The goal is to shape future leaders who are not only successful in their personal endeavors, but also deeply connected to and invested in their communities.

A Community United for Growth

The event was more than a simple gathering: it was a testament to the strength of collaboration between the young men, their families and a wide range of community supporters. Attendees included twenty Archons and twenty-five current OARSmen, their proud families and notable community leaders, such as Ronald Pugh, the new principal of Trinity High School. Also present were key strategic partners Jay Veal and Clinton Maychi of INC Education, Jenise Willis of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and Angela Neal of Just the Heart Marketing, all of whom play an integral role in the success of the program.

The Pillars of Transformation

The OARSmen program is built on five foundational pillars, each crafted to ensure holistic development. These pillars guide crew members through various stages of personal and professional growth:

Leadership: Leadership is at the heart of the OARSmen experience. Through a blend of team-building exercises and individual challenges, participants learn the importance of collaboration and selflessness, preparing them to take on leadership roles both in their communities and professional lives.

Education: Beyond traditional schooling, the program emphasizes real-world readiness. Participants receive guidance on navigating college life, social challenges, financial management and career development, ensuring they are well prepared for the future.

Health: The program also focuses on mental and physical well-being, offering team activities and open discussions around the often overlooked emotional challenges young men face in their transition to adulthood.

Wealth: Financial literacy is critical to future success, and OARSmen are taught practical skills in budgeting, banking and wealth management – empowering them to make informed financial decisions that will benefit them for life.

Community: Central to the program is the belief that strong leaders give back. Crew members engage in community-focused activities such as golf tournaments and charity events, cultivating a sense of responsibility and teamwork that extends far beyond the program's walls.

Looking Ahead: Building a Legacy

As the OARSmen program enters its second year, it continues to grow in size and influence, shaping the next generation of African American leaders. The involvement of Archons, along with community partners, local schools and businesses highlights the broad support for this initiative. Together, we are working to build a legacy – one that will continue to inspire and elevate young men for generations to come.

For those attending, the launch event was a celebration of more than just individual achievement – it was a collective investment in the future of the Dallas–Fort Worth community. With the guidance of Epsilon Pi Boulé and its partners, the young men of the OARSmen program are poised to become leaders who will leave an indelible mark on their world.

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

THE NEW ARCHONS

Mu Boulé Adds Four New Archons



SEATED: NEW ARCHONS TERRY L. WOODARD, JONATHAN B. SIMON, KHALIL GIBRAN MUHAMMAD AND SEAN HUDSON. STANDING: ARCHONS SAM BAKER, MARVIN PETTUS AND CRAIG MACKAY; GRAND SIRE ARCHON LOREN R. DOUGLASS; AND ARCHONS DALE FAVORS, ARTHUR CLARKE AND CLIFF STRAIN.

Northern New Jersey's Mu Boulé inducted four outstanding Archons on May 11, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick. Sire Archon Bakari Lee presided over the ceremony, which several visiting Archons, including then-Grand Sire Archon-Elect Loren R. Douglass (Zeta), attended.

Archon Sean Hudson has more than twenty-five years of leadership experience at Fortune 500 companies Johnson & Johnson, Bristol Myers Squibb and Pfizer, with great expertise in marketing, commercial strategy, global operations and digital transformation. He has launched more than twenty-five products in areas such as cardiovascular disease, neuroscience, immunology, HIV and AIDS, and COVID-19. In 2024, inspired by his older son's journey, Archon Hudson founded the Spectrum Advisory to develop a

campus-to-career pipeline for neurodiverse students by partnering with colleges and employers.

Archon Hudson is a member of the board of directors of the National Mentoring Partnership, where, as chair of the development committee, he raised \$2 million to foster mentoring opportunities. He is also a member of the advisory board of LabCentral Ignite, which addresses underrepresentation in the life sciences. Archon Hudson earned a B.A. in business administration from Morehouse College and is a member of the Henry Lyman Morehouse Society for his sustained giving, including an endowed scholarship that honors his family's four generations of "Morehouse men." He also earned an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan's Stephen M. Ross School of Business, where he met his Archousa, Karen. They

are the proud parents of Julian and Clay, both students at Morehouse. Archon Hudson resides in Maplewood, New Jersey.

Archon Khalil Gibran Muhammad is the Ford Foundation Professor of History, Race and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, where he directs the Institutional Antiracism and Accountability Project. He is cohost of the Pushkin Industries podcast *Some of My Best Friends Are* and former director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, one of the world's leading research facilities devoted to the preservation of materials pertaining to global Black history. Archon Muhammad recently cochaired a National Academies of Science consensus study, *Reducing Racial Inequality in Crime and Justice*, published in 2023, and is the author of the award-winning *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America*. He is a frequent contributor to documentary films, such as the Oscar-nominated *13th*, and his writing has appeared in numerous media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker* and *The Washington Post*. Archon Muhammad's board memberships include the Vera Institute of Justice, Museum of Modern Art and New York Historical boards of trustees.

A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Archon Muhammad earned a B.A. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in American history from Rutgers University. He resides in South Orange, New Jersey, and is married to Archousa Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad, with whom he has three children.

Archon Jonathan B. Simon is a managing director and the global head of leadership development and diversity at Apollo Global Management, a \$650 billion provider of global alternative-asset management. As the first head of diversity for Apollo, he is responsible for setting and leading the firm's diversity and inclusion strategy. He also oversees Apollo's leadership-development practice, which builds leadership capabilities within the firm's senior-executive ranks. Archon Simon is chair of the board of directors of AltFinance, a non-profit focused on increasing the number of HBCU students in the field of alternative investments, and a member of the board of directors of Braven at Rutgers University–Newark, a career accelerator for college stu-

dents primarily from low-income backgrounds. Archon Simon also sits on the advisory board of the Howard University School of Business honors program. He is a member of the Montclair Art Museum's art acquisitions committee, a former board chair of the Montclair Public Library Foundation and a former member of the Council of Urban Professionals board of directors.

Archon Simon, who lives in Montclair, New Jersey, earned a bachelor's degree in finance with honors from Morehouse College. He and his Archousa, Sidney, have two children: McKenzie and Jackson. Archon Simon enjoys reading, cooking, travel and the occasional round of golf; he is also an art, jazz and wine enthusiast.

Archon Terry L. Woodard is a managing director and vice chairman at J.P. Morgan Private Bank, where he oversees the banking, investment and financial-planning needs of individuals and nonprofit organizations. He is a member of the Morgan Circle, which places him among the bank's top advisers. Archon Woodard started his career at JPMorgan Chase in general auditing after graduating from Morehouse College with a bachelor's degree in finance; since then he has also held positions in risk management, credit underwriting and client management. He is the global cochair of the bank's resource group BOLD (Black Organization for Leadership Development) and a cofounder and former cochair of Chase's Asset & Wealth Management Black Leadership Forum. He is also the bank's ambassador to Morehouse.

A member of the Executive Leadership Council, Archon Woodard has received the Harlem YMCA Black Achievers in Industry Award and was named a Notable Diverse Leader in Banking and Finance by *Crain's New York Business* in 2022. He has also been given several Morehouse alumni awards, including the prestigious Bennie Award. Archon Woodard is chairman of the boards of directors of Jazz House Kids and the Sphinx Organization and a member of the United Negro College Fund board of directors. He is married to Archousa Rita, resides in South Orange, New Jersey, and has two children.

*Archon Paul A. Murdock
Grapter, Mu Boulé*

Al Sharpton Is the Newest Archon of Beta Zeta Boulé



BETA ZETA SIRE ARCHON MICHAEL SMART, ARCHON AL SHARPTON AND GRAND SIRE ARCHON LOREN R. DOUGLASS

Westchester County, New York's Beta Zeta Boulé held a ceremony to induct an outstanding Archon at the Harvard Club of New York City on May 17, 2024. Following the induction, which was attended by honored guest then-Grand Sire Archon-Elect Loren R. Douglass (Zeta), the boulé held a formal dinner to introduce and welcome the new Archon to the Fraternity.

Archon Al Sharpton is a preeminent civil rights activist, minister, radio host and news anchor. He is the founder and president of National Action Network, a civil rights organization dedicated to criminal-justice reform, police accountability, voting rights, youth leadership, corporate responsibility and pension diversity, and bridging the digital divide in historically underserved communities. The organization, founded in 1991, has more than one hundred chapters around the country that promote a modern civil rights agenda based on one standard of justice, decency and equal opportunity for all. Archon Sharpton also anchors MSNBC's *PoliticsNation With Al Sharpton*, which focuses on the biggest political news of the week while also elevating underreported issues that require national attention. In addition,

he hosts nationally syndicated radio shows *Keepin' It Real With Rev. Al Sharpton* and *Hour of Power Al Sharpton*.

Archon Sharpton's activism was born through ministry at a very young age. A native New Yorker, he began preaching at his Brooklyn church at the age of 4. When Archon Sharpton was 13, Revs. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., and William Augustus Jones, Jr., appointed him youth director of the New York City chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Operation Breadbasket, founded by Archon Martin Luther King, Jr. Archon Sharpton is the author of several books – including, most recently, *Righteous Troublemakers: Untold Stories of the Social Justice Movement in America* – and has received honorary doctorates from schools including Medgar Evers College, Fisk University and Bethune-Cookman University. Former president Barack Obama once called Archon Sharpton “the voice of the voiceless and a champion for the downtrodden.”

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

Beta Theta Boulé Gains Four New Archons



NEW ARCHONS JEREMY KIRK, CHARLES F. LOMAX, JR., DEXTER D. MURPHY AND KEITH E. LINDSEY

On July 23, 2024, Knoxville, Tennessee's Beta Theta Boulé added to its roster four stellar men with high achievements in fields ranging from education and banking to theology and music.

Archon Jeremy Kirk is the assistant dean for access and engagement at the University of Tennessee's Tickle College of Engineering. He is also a licensed and ordained Baptist minister. Archon Kirk has previously held leadership positions at Lone Star College and Auburn University and is also a former seventh-grade social studies and language arts teacher. He is active in his community as a volunteer with Girl Talk, Inc., the Knoxville Area Urban League, Second Harvest Food Bank and St. John's Missionary Baptist Church. Archon Kirk earned a B.S. in middle grades education from Valdosta State University and a master's degree and Ph.D. in higher education administration from Auburn University. He and Archousa Shalonda Michele Kirk have two daughters: Chandler and Carsyn.

Archon Keith E. Lindsey is a vice president and branch manager at Home Federal Bank of Tennessee, a professor and the department chair of interdisciplinary studies at Knoxville College, and the CEO and founder of the Lindsey Educational Foundation. He has more than thirty years of experience working with diverse populations in higher education and management and is highly skilled in administration, program development and assessment, and banking and finance. A life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Archon Lindsey earned a B.S. in biology from Oakwood University, an M.P.H. from East Tennessee State University and a Ph.D. in public health education from Walden University.

Archon Charles F. Lomax, Jr., is pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church. He is the former presi-

dent and CEO of the Knoxville Area Urban League and past director of community empowerment for the city of Knoxville, where he was responsible for facilitating community-outreach efforts on behalf of the mayor's office. A graduate of Leadership Knoxville, Archon Lomax holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and political science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; an M.Div. from the Morehouse School of Religion at the Interdenominational Theological Center; and a doctorate in divinity and ministry from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Archon Dexter D. Murphy is director of Region Five at Knox County Schools, where he supervises teams of educators at thirteen elementary, middle and high schools. He has been a principal, assistant principal, teacher, music director and professional musician. A member of Leadership Knoxville's Class of 2025, Archon Murphy has received numerous honors, including the MLK Educator Award from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission and the Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award from the Boy Scouts of America. His original arrangements were also licensed by the television shows *Dawson's Creek* and *The Real World*. Archon Murphy earned a B.A. in music from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; an M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Lincoln Memorial University; an educational-specialist degree from UT Knoxville; and an Ed.D. in educational leadership from the University of the Cumberland. Archon Murphy and his Archousa, Nicie C. Murphy, have three children: Anaiah, 16; Mathias, 14; and Ezra, 4.

*Archon Charles A. Brown
Gapter, Beta Theta Boulé*

Three Distinguished Archons Join Gamma Tau Boulé



NEW ARCHONS PERRY L. BISHOP, GLENN A. MATHEWS AND MICHAEL BOND

Gamma Tau Boulé of Racine–Kenosha, Wisconsin, inducted three outstanding leaders into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity at The Club at Strawberry Creek on June 7, 2024. Sire Archon Gregory Martin presided over the induction. The evening culminated with a dinner and fellowship as Gamma Tau Archons and Archousai celebrated their chartering anniversary.

Archon Perry L. Bishop, Sr., oversees customer service for the northern area at We Energies, a provider of natural gas, electrical and steam energy. He is also program manager for an initiative to recruit and develop local talent for apprenticeships in the energy industry. Archon Bishop has served as president of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy and the Employees Mutual Benefit Association and as district chair for the Boy Scouts of America's Heart of Milwaukee District. He is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Archon Bishop earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering. He attended Michigan State University's Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Executive Education program and received certification for commercial and industrial natural gas distribution from the Gas Technology Institute, now known as GTI Energy. A native of Milwaukee, he has two daughters – Anesha and Lasonya – and three sons: Perry, Jr., Joseph and Craig. He attends St. Mark AME Church, where he is a trustee. Archon Bishop enjoys golf, fishing, reading and a broad range of music.

Archon Michael Bond is director of community relations for Snap-on Incorporated, a global manufacturer and marketer of high-end professional tools and equipment. He joined Snap-on as a strate-

gic sourcing manager, managing the global supply chain regulatory-compliance program. Archon Bond's board memberships include the University of Wisconsin–Parkside Foundation and Make-a-Wish Wisconsin boards of directors. He earned a B.B.A. in marketing from the University of Toledo and an M.B.A. from Alverno College.

Archon Glenn A. Mathews is associate dean of business and management at Milwaukee Area Technical College and has worked in higher education for more than twenty years. He was previously executive director of Prism Economic Development Corp. Archon Mathews's current and past board memberships include those of the Outreach Community Health Centers, the Watertown Rotary Club and the Prince Hall Shrine Foundation. He has also assisted in fundraising for several charitable organizations. A Milwaukee native, Archon Mathews is a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and has been honored as Omega Man of the Year. He was also named Worshipful Master of the Year for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Masons of Wisconsin.

Archon Mathews received a bachelor's degree in political science and government from the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, an M.B.A. from Cardinal Stritch University and a Ph.D. from the University of Phoenix. He resides in Brown Deer, Wisconsin, with his Archousa, Megan, and has three children: Xavier, Hannah and Genesis. He enjoys golfing and flying airplanes in his spare time.

*Archon Paul A. Hickerson
Grapter, Gamma Tau Boulé*

Delta Rho Boulé Inducts Torijaun D. Dallas



ARCHOUSA MICHELLE ROQUE DALLAS AND ARCHON TORIJAUN DALLAS

Sire Archon Bernard Gatewood presided as Anchorage, Alaska's Delta Rho Boulé inducted an exceptional medical practitioner into the Fraternity in a ceremony held on June 28, 2024, at the Hotel Captain Cook.

Archon Torijaun D. Dallas is chief of cardiac anesthesia for Denali Anesthesia, LLC, which provides services to Alaska Regional Hospital. He is also CEO and president of Quality Sedation, PLLC, a provider of general anesthesiology and cardiothoracic-anesthesiology services to hospitals and private groups. Archon Dallas holds certifications from the National Board of Echocardiography and the American Board of Anesthesiology. He served in the U.S. Air Force and is an Afghanistan War veteran. Archon Dallas earned a B.S. in biology/premed from Xavier University and his M.D. from LSU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine. He completed his internship and his residency in anesthesiology, as well as his fellowship in adult cardiothoracic anesthesiology, at Duke University. Archon Dallas and Archousa Michelle Roque Dallas are the proud parents of Mason Roque Dallas and Madison Reagan Dallas.

*Archon Carl A. Jones
Grapter, Delta Rho Boulé*

KUDOS & COMMENDATIONS



UNDER THE SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY ARE ARCHONS BERNARD A. HARRIS, JR. (FOURTH FROM RIGHT), AND CHARLES F. BOLDEN (SECOND FROM RIGHT).

Philip Alphonse

On July 2, 2024, the Illinois Venture Capital Association announced the appointment of Northern Illinois's Delta Alpha Boulé Archon Philip Alphonse as its new chairman. As chairman Archon Alphonse will help the association foster a robust business climate and strengthen the private investment community in Illinois. Archon Alphonse is senior partner and cohead of the knowledge and learning solutions team at the Vistria Group, which he has been involved with since the group's founding in 2013.





Charles Anderson

On August 23, 2024, Massachusetts governor Maura Healey signed one of the nation's most comprehensive bills to expand physical and mental health care for pregnant women and reduce maternal racial disparities. Archon Charles Anderson of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé played an instrumental behind-the-scenes role in this legislation as a member of the Massachusetts Special Commission on Racial Inequities in Maternal Health and as a founding member of the Health Equity Compact, a group of more than eighty leaders of color in the health care field.



Alan K. Archer

On September 13, 2024, Archon Alan K. Archer of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé participated in the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank 14th Annual Elected and Local Officials Volunteer Day. The foodbank helps 158,000 households annually that suffer from food insecurity. City manager for Newport News, Archon Archer packed food in support of the mobile food pantries and the Food for Kids Backpack program. Newport News is the sixth-largest city in Virginia, with a population of 181,141, a \$1 billion annual operating budget and a municipal workforce of 3,600 employees.



Rohan M. Arjun and Whitney A.E. Arjun

On June 20, 2024, Archon Rohan M. Arjun and Archousa Whitney A.E. Arjun of Zeta Delta Boulé, Mercer–Bucks Counties, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, received the Change Our Future 2024 Game Changer Award for their exceptional contributions to education and community empowerment. Archon Arjun is director of enrollment management and financial aid at Friends Select School in Philadelphia. Archousa Arjun serves as the director of enrollment management and retention and the special assistant to the chancellor at the Pennsylvania State University Abington.



Calvin H. Baker

Baltimore's Gamma Boulé Archon Calvin H. Baker, former managing director and head of strategic relationships at Brown Capital Management, was appointed to the executive committee of the Morgan State University Foundation's board of directors on September 9, 2024, retaining the position of investment committee chair. A nonprofit organization, the Morgan State University Foundation was established to advance the university's mission of teaching, research and community outreach by raising and managing private funds for scholarships, faculty, research, facilities and academic programs.



Charles L. Becton

Archon Charles L. Becton of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé recently received recognition for his distinguished career in the legal profession. On May 16, 2024, the North Carolina Bar Foundation established the Charles L. Becton Justice Fund. The fund was supported by a \$50,000 donation from Mark and Joanna Holt, two of Archon Becton's former students. In addition, on June 20, 2024, the North Carolina Bar Association recognized Archon Becton as a Legal Legend of Color.



Steven D. Bond

On September 6, 2024, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé Archon Steven D. Bond was publicly sworn in as a judge for the 8th Judicial District of Virginia at an investiture ceremony. Ceremony highlights included Archon S. Benard Goodwyn, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, administering the oath of office to Archon Bond and Archon Bond's tribute to Archon Wilford Taylor, Jr., the first Black full-time judge elected in the 8th Judicial District.

Brooks, Butler, James, Lawal, Lewis, MacKay, Mason, McDonald, Sills and Williams

Archons Tommy Brooks (Zeta Alpha), Harold E. Butler, Jr. (Epsilon Zeta), Robert James II (Alpha Lambda), Kase Lawal (Nu), Nathan Lewis (Kappa), Craig MacKay and Mark Mason (Mu), Todd McDonald (Alpha Alpha), James H. Sills III (Alpha Tau), and Darrin Williams (Pi) attended Citi's Diverse Financial Institutions Group Executive Summit in May 2024.



Shelly R. Brown

Kudos to Archon Shelly R. Brown of Northern Illinois's Delta Alpha Boulé. On August 8, 2024, William Woods University announced that Archon Brown had joined the university's board of trustees. Archon Brown is a senior executive whose career has spanned roles at Fortune 500 companies, private firms and the public sector. He previously served as board director of the National Minority Supplier Development Council and the Women's Business Enterprise National Council.



Rupert Byrdsong

The Los Angeles Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates honored Archon Rupert Byrdsong of Xi Boulé, Los Angeles, as the 2024 Judge of the Year on July 24. Archon Byrdsong, judge of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, recently completed his term as the 90th president of the California Judges Association.



Michael J. Childress

On August 15, 2024, Archon Michael J. Childress of South Suburban Chicago's Delta Sigma Boulé and his company MJC Demolition, Inc., received the University of Chicago Medicine's 2024 Minority or Women Owned Business Enterprise Supplier Partner of the Year Award. Archon Childress was recognized at the University of Chicago Medicine's annual strategic supplier conference for his many years of service to the university hospital system.



Justin Christian

In July 2024 IBJ Media, the parent company of the *Indianapolis Business Journal*, named Archon Justin Christian of Indianapolis's Alpha Eta Boulé to the Indiana 250, a list of the most influential business leaders in Indiana. Archon Christian founded BCforward in Indianapolis in 1998 and has grown it into one of the largest Black-owned professional services and workforce management services companies in the nation. In the spring of 2024 Archon Christian announced a \$29 million deal to acquire TSR, Inc., an information technology staffing firm.



Brent Clinkscale

Greenville, South Carolina's Delta Beta Boulé Archon Brent Clinkscale was appointed as a delegate to the International Chamber of Commerce Arbitration Commission on Arbitration and ADR by the United States Council for International Business for a term running from July 1, 2024, until June 30, 2027. The commission has a diversely composed membership, with more than 1,400 delegates from more than 100 countries, comprising lawyers, arbitrators, mediators, in-house counsel, corporate representatives and academics, all experts in the field of international dispute resolution.





Malcomb Coley

Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Malcomb Coley, central region private leader and Charlotte managing partner at EY, received the Lifetime Achievement Award as part of the *Charlotte Business Journal* Most Admired CEO Awards program. Honorees were celebrated during an event at The Westin Charlotte hotel on June 13, 2024. The *Charlotte Business Journal* also published the article "A Legacy in Action: How Malcomb Coley Has Made a Career Out of Making a Difference" on June 21, 2024.



Combs, Hayes, High, Hyter and Williams

The Executive Leadership Council (ELC) made history in July 2024 with its first-ever excursion to Ghana, where fifty-four ELC members and guests explored the rich cultural heritage of Accra. Archons and Archousai who attended are Sam and Rita Combs (Epsilon Iota), Cain and Denise Hayes (Beta Beta), Joseph and Kathleen High (Epsilon Gamma), Michael and Tisha Hyter (Epsilon), and Terrence and Carla Williams (Lambda).



Rufus Cormier

Baker Botts, LLP, announced the renaming of its diversity fellowship in honor of Houston, Texas's Nu Boulé Archon Emeritus Rufus Cormier on May 31, 2024. Archon Cormier is a retired Baker Botts partner and the first African American attorney to be promoted to partner at a major Houston law firm. Rufus Cormier Diversity Fellowship recipients are provided scholarship funds as well as the opportunity to gain experience as summer associates at a large law firm.



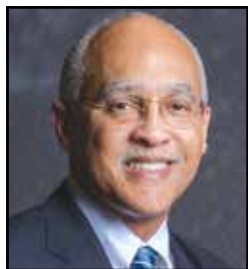
Cedric Crear, Aaron Ford and Westley Moore

On his recent trip to Las Vegas, Nevada, in July 2024, Baltimore's Gamma Boulé Archon Westley "Wes" Moore, governor of Maryland, was greeted by Las Vegas, Nevada's Delta Theta Boulé Past Sire Archon Aaron Ford and Archon Cedric Crear. Archon Moore was in Las Vegas as a guest speaker for the NAACP National Convention. Archons Ford and Crear also spoke at the convention. Archon Crear is a community icon and serves on the Las Vegas City Council. Archon Ford is Nevada's thirty-fourth attorney general.



Jesse J. Cureton, Jr.

Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Jesse J. Cureton, Jr., was named chairman of Queens University of Charlotte's board of trustees, effective July 2024. He was also selected as an independent corporate director for the board of trustees of HomeTrust Bancshares, Inc., effective May 20, 2024. Archon Cureton is the former chief consumer officer and executive vice president of Novant Health, where he led business functions, including payor contracting, marketing, public relations, community engagement, foundations and outreach, and corporate health.



Raymond T. Diamond

On August 29, 2024, Baton Rouge, Louisiana's Alpha Xi Boulé Archon Raymond T. Diamond was the keynote speaker at the annual member luncheon for the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Archon Diamond discussed the state of the nation's gun laws following a series of United States Supreme Court rulings that, although intended to clarify the rules pertaining to firearms ownership, have resulted in widespread ambiguities and uncertainties for law enforcement agencies, the gun industry and individual citizens.

Lance Drummond

Archon Lance Drummond of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé assumed his new role as chair of the board of directors of Freddie Mac following Sara Mathew's retirement from the position in early 2024. Archon Drummond joined Freddie Mac's board in 2015. He has chaired the board's compensation and human capital committee and served as a member of the executive, audit, and operations and technology committees. Archon Drummond retired as executive vice president for operations and technology at TD Canada Trust in 2014.



Michael Ervin

Archon Michael Ervin of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, was promoted to chief manufacturing officer of iS Clinical in September 2024. Archon Ervin was previously vice president of operations for the luxury product company. He is now part of the C-suite executive team and is responsible for all manufacturing operations across multiple sites.



Terence H. Fontaine

Nu Boulé, Houston, Texas, congratulates Sire Archon-Elect Terence H. Fontaine, director of Texas Southern University's aviation science and technology management program, on being selected to receive the 2024 Excellence in Education Award from UNCF, the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. Archon Fontaine received the award at UNCF Houston's 35th Anniversary "A Mind Is . . ." Gala on November 15, 2024.



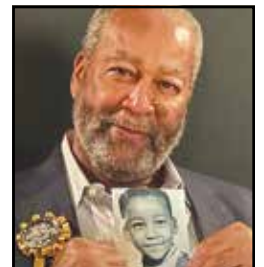
Norman C. Francis

On August 28, 2024, the Greater New Orleans Foundation honored New Orleans's Alpha Alpha Boulé Archon Norman C. Francis during its fifth annual Celebration of Black Philanthropy gala. The foundation also announced the creation of an endowment in Archon Francis's name, which added \$500,000 in new grants to support nonprofits that fight against systemic injustices and build Black community wealth. Archon Francis is a civil rights icon and was the first Black and lay president of Xavier University, a position he held from 1968 to 2015.



Ronald E. Frazier, Sr.

Archon Ronald E. Frazier, Sr., of Miami, Florida's Alpha Rho Boulé was honored in the Business and Entrepreneurism category of the Black Achievers Awards, held on October 29, 2024. Presented by JM Family Enterprises for the twenty-ninth consecutive year, the Black Achievers Awards program celebrates trailblazers who have made a positive impact on the South Florida community. A native of Houston, Texas, Archon Frazier founded one of the country's largest Black architectural firms, which he led for more than forty years, achieving success in a challenging environment.



Samuel Gibbs

On Sunday, August 11, 2024, during the 113th anniversary celebration of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Archon Samuel Gibbs of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, received multiple community service awards from the City of San Bernardino, California. The awards and proclamations, which recognize his outstanding contributions to the local community, were presented by San Bernardino mayor Helen Tran and council members Kimberly Calvin and Damon L. Alexander.





Gilliam, Green, Holston, McCain & Wallington

Greensboro, North Carolina's Beta Epsilon Boulé Archons Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr., Maurice "Mo" Green, Hugh A. Holston, Franklin McCain, Jr., and Chuck Wallington were named to the *Black Business Ink* Power 100 list of most influential Black leaders across North Carolina at a gala at the Steven Tanger Center in June 2024.



Garland F. Goins, Jr.

Archon Garland F. Goins, Jr., of Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Epsilon Gamma Boulé was appointed to the board of directors of the Durham Children's Initiative (DCI) in July 2024. A community-based nonprofit that exists to build pathways to equity, DCI envisions a world where every youth graduates from high school ready for college or a career. The organization strives to help every child, parent and caregiver receive support, access to resources and opportunities to succeed.



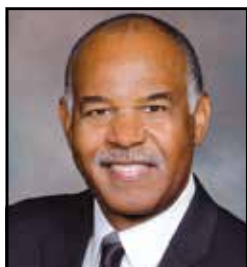
Fred Gray and Robert Harris

On July 18, 2024, Archons attending the National Bar Association Annual Convention and Exhibits in Las Vegas, Nevada, fellowshipped at an exclusive reception at the Alexxa, located inside the Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino. Among the attendees were Archon Fred Gray and Past Grand Sire Archon Robert Harris of Oakland-Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé.



James A. Gray, Jr.

Archon James A. "Jimmy" Gray, Jr., of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton-Norfolk, Virginia, Hampton vice mayor, participated on September 13, 2024, in the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank 14th Annual Elected and Local Officials Volunteer Day. Annually, the foodbank helps 158,000 households that suffer from food insecurity. Archon Gray spent the day packing food in support of the foodbank's mobile food pantries and the Food for Kids Backpack program. Hampton is the eighth-largest city in Virginia, with a population of 137,037 and a \$643 million annual operating budget.



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.



David Oscar Groomes

Archon David Oscar Groomes of Beta Delta Boulé, Charlotte, North Carolina, recently accepted a position on Hotstart Thermal Management's board of directors. He was also inducted into the Tougaloo College National Alumni Association Hall of Fame in the Science category on October 11, 2024. A metallurgical engineer, physicist and materials scientist, Archon Groomes is a consultant with Groomes Business Solutions and previously served in several positions for GE Plastics.

Rodney Gullatte, Jr.

In July 2024 Archon Rodney Gullatte, Jr., of Colorado Springs's Epsilon Chi Boulé was interviewed by KOAA News 5 regarding the recent CrowdStrike crisis. As a cybersecurity professional, certified ethical hacker and CEO of Firma IT Solutions, Archon Gullatte served as a cogent, well-versed local expert on this event. In 2019 Archon Gullatte also appeared in the segment "Identity Theft Is on the Rise. Are You Protected?" for FOX21 News.



Martin Hamlette

Prince George's County, Maryland's Epsilon Phi Boulé Immediate Past Sire Archon Martin Hamlette took center stage as a panelist at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity in Cannes, France, in June 2024. During the "Lunch and Learn" sessions, he ignited discussions on health equity and innovation, emphasizing the critical need for inclusive health care solutions. His insights, drawn from extensive experience in key health equity partnerships at Novartis, were not only enlightening but also served as a call to action for industry leaders and policymakers.



Robert E. Harrington

On June 21, 2024, Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Robert E. Harrington was elected president-elect of the North Carolina Bar Association. Archon Harrington is a business litigator and litigation department cochair at Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, PA, in Charlotte, where he represents clients in financial services, manufacturing, agribusiness, telecommunications, sports and entertainment, health care, and nonprofit industries, among others. He is an active member of the bars of North Carolina, the District of Columbia and Louisiana.



Bernard A. Harris, Jr.

Nu Boulé, Houston, Texas, congratulates Archon Bernard A. Harris, Jr., who received the prestigious Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award in August 2024. Archon Harris, former CEO and founding board member of the National Math and Science Initiative and the first African American astronaut to walk in space, received the award for his dedication to advancing STEM education and investing in communities across the United States.



G. Duncan Harris

Archon G. Duncan Harris of Hartford's Alpha Psi Boulé was named one of the one hundred most influential Blacks in Connecticut by the NAACP Connecticut chapter. Archon Harris and his fellow honorees were celebrated in an awards ceremony in June 2024. Archon Harris is CEO of the Capital campus of Connecticut State Community College in Hartford, a position he has held since 2018.



Steven Harris

On April 15, 2024, *Forbes* named Sire Archon Steven Harris of St. Louis's Eta Boulé one of America's top 200 CPAs. Archon Harris is a managing partner at RubinBrown, a top forty CPA firm, which he joined in 1999 after serving as an intern. He has served on the boards of Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Delta Dental of Missouri. In February he was named *The St. Louis American's* Charitable Foundation Corporate Executive of the Year.





Jeffrey Harrison

Archon Jeffrey Harrison of Alpha Eta Boulé, Indianapolis, was named to the Indiana 250 in July 2024. A list of the most influential business leaders in Indiana, the Indiana 250 is compiled by IBJ Media, the parent company of the *Indianapolis Business Journal*. Archon Harrison is president and CEO of Citizens Energy Group, the locally owned utility that provides natural gas, thermal energy, water and wastewater services to more than 800,000 customers in the Indianapolis area.



J. Harold Hatchett III

North Houston, Texas's Epsilon Omicron Boulé Archon J. Harold Hatchett III, president and CEO of Tier One Property Services, LLC, was featured on the cover of the July 2024 issue of *Magnate View* magazine after the magazine named him one of its top five exceptional leaders to follow in 2024. Archon Hatchett has achieved notable success through his strategic leadership and focus on innovation. Under his guidance Tier One has navigated industry challenges, such as labor shortages and turnover, by implementing competitive wages, training programs and advanced technology.



Marlon D. Henderson

In September 2024 Shreveport, Louisiana's Delta Kappa Boulé Sire Archon-Elect Marlon D. Henderson was inducted as a fellow into the USA Section of the International College of Dentists at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville. Archon Henderson also received the National Dental Association's Immediate Past President Award in July 2024 during the National Dental Association Convention at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. Archon Henderson served as the ninety-ninth president of the National Dental Association in 2023.



Aringtor Hicks

Congratulations to Archon Aringtor "Art" Hicks of Gamma Rho Boulé, Ann Arbor, Michigan, for being honored as one of the *Michigan Chronicle's* 2024 Men of Excellence. Archon Hicks, president and CEO of Master Living, Inc., was honored on June 27, 2024, for his positive impact on the health of clients in the Detroit metropolitan area. The *Michigan Chronicle* Men of Excellence, now in its seventeenth year, recognizes local African American men who inspire others through their vision, leadership, exceptional achievements and participation in community service.



Gregory Hillman

On July 2, 2024, Archon Gregory Hillman of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé was elected chair of the board of directors of CrossOver Healthcare Ministry, a nonprofit organization that provides high-quality and compassionate health care to uninsured and Medicaid patients in the community.



Derrick Z. Jackson

Boston's Beta Beta Boulé Archon Derrick Z. Jackson won the Digital Media – Sports category in the National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence Awards on August 3, 2024, for his commentary "For Black Athletes, March Madness Has Much Higher Stakes," written for *The Root*. The piece was also a finalist in the American Society of Journalists and Authors contest in August 2024. Additionally, Archon Jackson was a finalist in three categories in the National Society of Newspaper Columnists awards held on July 20, 2024.

Javon Jackson

Hartford's Alpha Psi Boulé Archon Javon Jackson, a renowned jazz saxophonist and faculty member at the University of Hartford, has paired with poet Nikki Giovanni on their second project: *Javon & Nikki Go to the Movies*. The album, released in August 2024, offers more of Giovanni's favorite songs – standards from the Great American Songbook, many of which were originally composed for Hollywood classics. The album also includes three originals by Archon Jackson and one by Sonny Rollins, one of Archon Jackson's heroes.



Harry E. Johnson, Sr.

Houston, Texas's Nu Boulé Immediate Past Sire Archon Harry E. Johnson, Sr., was named chair of the United States Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Advisory Committee by Acting Under Secretary of Commerce Eric Morrisette in August 2024. As chair Archon Johnson will lead the committee in providing guidance and recommendations to the MBDA and creating a data repository to support minority-owned businesses.



Lacy Johnson

Archon Lacy Johnson of Indianapolis's Alpha Eta Boulé was named to the Indiana 250, a list of Indiana's most influential business leaders, by IBJ Media, the parent company of the *Indianapolis Business Journal*, in July 2024. Archon Johnson is a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP, serving as the partner-in-charge of the law firm's Washington, D.C., office. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., appointed Archon Johnson as an at-large member of the Democratic National Committee and as a member of the President's Export Council.



Larry L. Johnson

Archon Larry L. Johnson of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, was selected to receive the 2024 Women of Color STEM Impact Award. This honor recognizes individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Recognized for addressing disparities in cardiovascular care, Archon Johnson received the award on October 3, 2024, at the Women of Color STEM Conference in Detroit.



Dwight Jones

Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé Archon Dwight Jones, CFO at Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP, was profiled in an article in the *Richmond Free Press* on July 18, 2024, detailing his service to the community and efforts to increase African American participation in golf in his role as president of the Richmond Chapter of the National Negro Golf Association (NNGA). Founded in 1965, the NNGA seeks to increase camaraderie and fun around golf while also raising scholarship funds for youth and playing a vital role in the community.



Frankie T. Jones, Jr.

Archon Frankie T. Jones, Jr., of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, received the Keeper of the Flame Award from the International Civil Rights Center & Museum at its annual gala on July 20, 2024. The award recognizes an individual 40 years old or younger who has made significant contributions to civil rights efforts in Greensboro. A licensed attorney, Archon Jones is vice president and managing director at Lincoln Financial Group, where he heads commercial real estate closing, servicing, asset management and real estate private equity.





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.



Randy K. Jones

Past Sire Archon Randy K. Jones of San Diego’s Alpha Pi Boulé was inducted into the National Bar Association (NBA) Fred David Gray Hall of Fame on July 18, 2024, during the NBA’s 99th Annual Convention and Exhibits held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. The award honors lawyers who have been licensed to practice for forty years or more and who have made significant contributions to the cause of justice. Archon Jones served as the NBA’s fifty-fifth president from 1997 to 1998.



Travis Langster

The Biden-Harris administration selected Archon Travis Langster of Prince George’s County, Maryland’s Epsilon Phi Boulé to serve as deputy assistant secretary of defense for international and industry engagement within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, effective July 1, 2024. Prior to this role, Archon Langster was principal director of space and missile defense policy within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Space Policy since April 2022.



Myles Lynk

Arizona State University executive vice president and university provost Nancy Gonzales appointed Phoenix’s Gamma Mu Boulé Archon Myles Lynk as dean of the Arizona State University Emeritus College, effective July 1, 2024. Archon Lynk’s two-year, renewable term succeeds that of outgoing dean Mark Lussier, who will assume the editorship of the Emeritus College’s journal, *Emeritus Voices*. The university published a biography of Archon Lynk on its website.



Calvin Mackie

New Orleans’s Alpha Alpha Boulé Archon Calvin Mackie, CEO and founder of STEM NOLA, is one of six nonprofit founders over the age of 50 who received the AARP Purpose Prize during a celebration in Washington, D.C., on October 1, 2024. The award recipients also received \$50,000 to support their respective organizations as well as a year of technical support to broaden their scope and reach.



Victor C. March, Sr.

On August 5, 2024, Archon Victor C. March, Sr., of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, was recognized as a Professional of the Year by the Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of Maryland, Inc., a membership organization of licensed professional funeral directors and morticians dedicated to promoting the professional and business interests of its members. Archon March is the senior executive vice president and chief executive officer of the family-run business March Funeral Homes.

Ricardo Michel

Archon Ricardo Michel of Epsilon Zeta Boulé, Loudoun County, Virginia, was honored by his alma mater, Temple University, on April 30, 2024, during the Fox School of Business Accounting Achievement Awards. Archon Michel received the Distinguished Alumni Award and was acknowledged for his postgraduate academic and professional accomplishments, which include working on Wall Street as an investment banker, serving as a presidential appointee in the Obama administration, and building a more than twenty-year career committed to helping people in low- and middle-income countries.



Andre K. Mickel

Cleveland's Tau Boulé Archon Andre K. Mickel, a tenured professor and chair of the department of endodontics at the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, received the 2024 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the CWRU School of Dental Medicine in November. Archon Mickel has had a significant impact on dental education and research. He led the postdoctoral residency program at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine to accreditation and established the international fellowship in endodontics.



Houston Mills

Archon Houston Mills of Louisville, Kentucky's Psi Boulé was inducted into the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) Hall of Fame, along with pioneers Captain Frank Wallace, Vanessa Jamison and Grant Walker, during the OBAP Annual Conference in August 2024. Building on the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, OBAP strives to grow diverse talent in the aerospace industry by removing barriers and inspiring excellence.



Kevin J. Mitchell

On July 10, 2024, the Washington Hospital Healthcare System announced that Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé Archon Kevin J. Mitchell is the new associate medical director of its newly opened level II trauma center in Fremont, California. Archon Mitchell has been a trauma surgeon for nearly thirty years, managing injuries from car accidents, falls and stab wounds – sometimes to the heart and other vital organs.



Roger A. Mitchell, Jr.,

On August 26, 2024, Adventist HealthCare announced that Archon Roger A. Mitchell, Jr., of Epsilon Boulé, Washington, D.C., will serve as the next president of Howard University Hospital, effective September 13, 2024. The appointment is part of the management service agreement between Adventist HealthCare and Howard University as the two organizations work toward establishing a long-term partnership.



David Morris

Partner at Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP, Archon David Morris of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé was elected in August 2024 to the board of directors of the Emily K Center, a leading nonprofit organization founded and chaired by legendary Duke University basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski. The mission of the Emily K Center, named after Krzyzewski's mother, is to serve underrepresented and first-generation students from elementary school through college and equip them with the skills necessary to successfully obtain postsecondary degrees and promising careers.





J. Keith and Angela Motley

Sire Archon J. Keith Motley and Archousa Angela Motley of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé were honored by Embrace Boston for their civic leadership in the Embrace Honors Awards held on June 18, 2024, at the Design and Media Center at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Archon Motley was chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Boston from 2007 to 2017, overseeing the school's unprecedented growth. Archousa Motley supported the school's fundraising efforts and promoted service and student mentorship.



Sere S. Myers

Kansas City, Missouri's Theta Boulé Archon Sere S. Myers was posthumously honored with inclusion on the Monument to Freedom, Justice and Courage in Kansas City for his contributions in health care and medicine. Archon Myers and his fellow honorees were recognized in a ceremony on August 24, 2024. The Monument to Freedom, Justice and Courage recognizes individuals who have exhibited exceptional leadership and made impactful contributions to improving life in the urban community of Kansas City, particularly in advancing freedom, justice and equality for people of color.



Kevin L. Nichols

The Social Engineering Project, Inc. (TSEP), hosted its annual Science in the City STEM camp at the Stanford University Graduate School of Education in July 2024. Founded by Bryan Brown, a Stanford professor, and Oakland–Berkeley, California's Alpha Gamma Boulé Archon Kevin L. Nichols, diversity leader at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, TSEP aims to address the lack of diversity in the tech industry through STEM pipeline programs for underrepresented students of color. Archon Nichols spearheaded the camp, which was made possible with help from the Alpha Gamma Boulé Foundation.



Joseph G. Paulino

Archon Joseph G. Paulino of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, received the esteemed 2024 COFECA Distinguished Citizen of Belize Award on September 12, 2024. This prestigious recognition, presented by the Central American Fair and Festival Commission (COFECA), honors outstanding achievements and contributions in various fields, promoting Central American culture, unity and excellence. As a regional organization, COFECA unites Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to foster cultural exchange, economic development and regional integration.



N. Scott Phillips

On August 9, 2024, Archon N. Scott Phillips of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé was recognized as one of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Foundation Leadership Institute's top ten most influential alumni. Archon Phillips was a 1989 fellow of the CBC Foundation Leadership Institute. He currently serves as an elected delegate in the Maryland General Assembly, representing Baltimore County's District 10. The CBC Foundation Leadership Institute prepares individuals for the fields of community service and policy development, and Archon Phillips exemplifies the fulfillment of the institute's mission.



Neil R. Powe

Archon Neil R. Powe of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland–Berkeley, California, received the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Distinguished Medical Alumnus Award on May 31, 2024. Archon Powe began his medical faculty career at Johns Hopkins University in 1986 and became the first African American full professor in the department of medicine's more than one hundred-year history.

Lamont O. Repollet

President of New Jersey's Kean University Archon Lamont O. Repollet of Northern New Jersey's Mu Boulé emphasized the role of higher education as a tool for social justice during his speech at the Democratic National Convention Black Caucus on August 21, 2024. He highlighted the importance of student engagement in the electoral process and called for bold leadership to address challenges facing communities of color. On September 16 Archon Repollet was recognized as number seven on the 2024 *NJBIZ* Education Power 50 list.



Casey M. Roberts

On August 15, 2024, Archon Casey M. Roberts of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, was named vice president for strategy and development at VersAbility Resources, a leading provider of comprehensive services for people of all ages with disabilities in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia. On June 3, 2024, Archon Roberts was also made a member of the Virginia Tech Newport News Center Advisory Council.



Kenneth L. Robinson

Archon Kenneth L. Robinson of Delta Beta Boulé, Greenville, South Carolina, was installed as national president of the Rural Sociological Society, the academic discipline of rural sociology's professional membership organization, in July 2024. The Rural Sociological Society seeks to enhance the quality of rural life, communities and the environment. Its membership includes a diverse and international cadre of academics and practitioners.



Robert C. Scott

On August 20, 2024, Archon Robert C. "Bobby" Scott of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, and Virginia senator Mark R. Warner represented the delegation from the Commonwealth of Virginia at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Archon Scott and Senator Warner cast Virginia's 119 votes during the nationally televised ceremonial roll call for Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris. Archon Scott has represented Virginia's third congressional district in the United States House of Representatives since 1993.



Simon H. Scott III

On June 27, 2024, Archon Simon H. Scott III of Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia's Beta Lambda Boulé was elected to serve a two-year term as chair of the board of directors of the Virginia Arts Festival. Archon Scott's term began on August 1, 2024. He succeeds Beta Lambda Boulé Archon Maurice A. Jones, the board's immediate past chair.



Michael A. Shipp

In May 2024 Seton Hall University School of Law announced that Northern New Jersey's Mu Boulé Archon Michael A. Shipp, a 1994 alumnus of the university and judge for the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, would deliver the keynote address at the school's commencement ceremony. The ceremony was held on June 4, 2024, and Archon Shipp was presented an honorary doctor of laws degree during the ceremony.





Joseph S. Simms III

Chief diversity officer for Stanley Black & Decker, Inc., Archon Joseph S. Simms III of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé was elected chair of the Morgan State University Foundation's board of directors on September 9, 2024. An alumnus of Morgan State University, Archon Simms served as the board's secretary. The Morgan State University Foundation is a non-profit established to advance the university's mission of teaching, research and community outreach by raising and managing private funds for scholarships, faculty, research, facilities and academic programs.



Wornel Simpson

On July 15, 2024, Sacramento, California's Gamma Epsilon Boulé Archon Wornel Simpson was named a finalist for the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Award in the Invest in Others Awards program for his charitable work with his community organization Team SAGE (Scholar Athletes Globally Emerging). Invest in Others is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to amplifying, celebrating and inspiring the charitable work of others in the financial services community. Because Archon Simpson is a finalist, Team SAGE will receive a check for \$25,000.



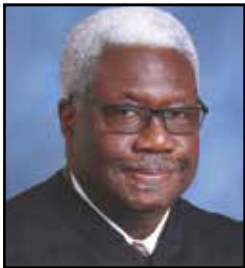
Al Smith

Archon Al Smith of Racine–Kenosha, Wisconsin's Gamma Tau Boulé was named chief operating officer for Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity, effective September 9, 2024. Archon Smith's deep-rooted voluntary engagement with Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity includes serving as vice president of the organization's board of directors from 2013 to 2016 and volunteering with the organization since 2011. Founded in 1984, Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity has helped more than 1,000 families purchase or repair their homes, targeting areas to help revitalize neighborhoods and increase community engagement.



James A. Smith III

Archon James A. Smith III of Loudoun County, Virginia's Epsilon Zeta Boulé received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his years of work in the fight against prostate cancer and its impact on Black men during the third annual We Are One Emmanuel Health Education, Inc., Prostate Cancer Survivor Gala on Saturday, September 7, 2024. The award included a Governor's Citation from Archon Westley "Wes" Moore of Gamma Boulé.



Carl E. Stewart

On August 2, 2024, Dillard University, Louisiana's oldest HBCU, announced the creation of the Judge Carl E. Stewart Pathways to Success Scholarship Endowment, named for Shreveport, Louisiana's Delta Kappa Boulé Archon Carl E. Stewart, judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The fund was established to help remove financial barriers and accelerate students from high school classrooms throughout the country to Dillard University, providing opportunities for future leaders for generations to come.



Frederick J. Streets

Archon Frederick J. Streets of New Haven, Connecticut's Beta Tau Boulé published his new book, *How Are You "Being"?: Clergy Wellness in a Time of Uncertainty*, on July 31, 2024. Archon Streets, the first African American to serve as chaplain of Yale University, is a clinical social worker and member of the Yale Divinity School faculty. Based on surveys of clergy members' personal responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, Archon Streets's book emphasizes the importance of clergy well-being, offering practical examples and self-care protocols for clergy members.

Quintard Taylor, Jr.

Archon Quintard Taylor, Jr., of Seattle's Alpha Omicron Boulé received the 2024 Owen Wister Award for lifetime achievement from the Western Writers of America (WWA). The award, the highest bestowed by the organization, was presented at WWA's annual convention on June 22, 2024, in Tulsa. Archon Taylor is an emeritus professor of history at the University of Washington in Seattle and the founder of BlackPast.org, the largest online encyclopedia of African American and global African history.



Richard Taylor

Archon Richard Taylor of Boston's Beta Beta Boulé recently enjoyed wide regional coverage for his latest book, *Black Homeownership on Martha's Vineyard: A History*. The book, which traces the struggles of Black families to forge one of the nation's most legendary Black vacation communities in the face of forced removals and restrictive and racist covenants, was featured throughout August 2024 by WCVB-TV, WGBH radio and *The Bay State Banner*, Boston's Black newspaper.



Clyde and Sherrelle Walker

University of Washington Bothell chancellor Kristin Esterberg presented Seattle's Alpha Omicron Boulé Immediate Past Sire Archon Clyde Walker and Archousa Sherrelle Walker with the 2024 Legacy Award during the Chancellor's Recognition Reception on June 21. Another honor followed on September 13, when the Walkers received the 2024 Gates Volunteer Service Award at a gala at the University of Washington's main campus in Seattle.



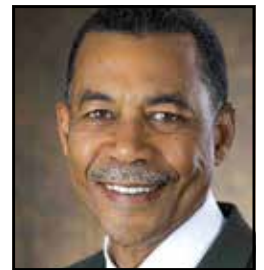
Kyle and Amy Webb

Congratulations to Archon Kyle Webb and Archousa Amy Webb of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, on the arrival of their newborn, Nile Emani Webb, on June 27, 2024. The name Nile Emani Webb is rich in cultural significance and depth. Nile represents the life-giving river, symbolizing abundance and sustenance. Emani, derived from Arabic, adds a spiritual dimension, signifying faith and guidance. The surname Webb, with its English roots, represents the interconnectedness of heritage and destiny, emphasizing the intricate patterns that shape people's lives.



David Whitehead

Cleveland's Tau Boulé Archon David Whitehead received the Heath Oliver Distinguished Director Award during the Cuyahoga Community College Foundation board's annual meeting in June 2024. Archon Whitehead served on Tri-C's board of trustees from 2006 to 2016, serving twice as its chair. He has been a dedicated member of the Tri-C Foundation's board since 2014. Archon Whitehead is committed to supporting student education and has made personal contributions to several scholarship funds, including the Women in Transition Scholarship and the Gloria Moosmann Endowed Scholarship funds.



Louis Whiteside

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Archon Louis Whiteside of Delta Chi Boulé, Orangeburg, South Carolina, on Saturday, May 18, 2024, during a ceremony on the campus of Claflin University. Sire Archon Isaiah McGee recognized Archon Whiteside for his leadership and dedication in chairing Delta Chi's 1904 Society initiative for the past four years. The 1904 Society is the mentoring program Delta Chi Boulé created for twenty 8th grade students.





Julius M. Wilder

Archon Julius M. Wilder of Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Epsilon Gamma Boulé was named vice chair of equity, diversity and inclusion for Duke University's department of medicine, effective July 1, 2024. At Duke, Archon Wilder is an associate professor in the division of gastroenterology and chair of the department of medicine's diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism committee. He also serves in the Duke Clinical Research Institute and the department of sociology.



Charles E. Williams

During its regular meeting in May 2024, Baylor University's board of regents elected Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas's Delta Mu Boulé Archon Charles E. Williams as an at-large regent. Archon Williams is president of Baylor Scott & White Dallas–Fort Worth – West Region. He previously served as president of Baylor Scott & White Medical Center - Hillcrest in Waco, Texas.



John M. Williams

The Akron Urban League named Central Region Grapter John M. Williams of Beta Rho Boulé, Akron–Kent, Ohio, as its new president and CEO on July 24, 2024. Before assuming this new role in September 2024, Archon Williams was president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Michigan.



Richard Allen Williams

On June 20, 2024, a portion of East 13th Street in Wilmington, Delaware, was ceremoniously named Dr. Richard Allen Williams Way after Pasadena, California's Gamma Zeta Boulé Archon Richard Allen Williams in honor of Archon Williams's significant contributions to humanity. The City of Wilmington shared the story on its website. Archon Williams is a native of Wilmington.



Carlton E. Wilson

On August 12, 2024, Archon Carlton E. Wilson of Alpha Tau Boulé, Durham, North Carolina, was elected to the executive council of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Founded in 1915 by Archon Carter G. Woodson, ASALH is the premiere organization for the study and preservation of African American history. Archon Wilson is a faculty member in the department of history and a former dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities at North Carolina Central University.



Brian C. Wimes

Kansas City, Missouri's Theta Boulé Archon Brian C. Wimes has been recognized for his significant contributions to the field of law and criminal justice. His leadership and dedication to improving the urban community of Kansas City earned him a place on Kansas City's Monument to Freedom, Justice and Courage. Archon Wimes and his fellow honorees were recognized in a ceremony on August 24, 2024.

FAMILY CIRCLE

Leah N. Abrams

On September 5, 2024, Archousa Leah N. Abrams, certified public accountant and wife of Baltimore's Gamma Boulé Archon Nicolas Abrams, was selected to receive the Top Women in Finance award from the *Women of Color* magazine. This honor recognizes top women in the financial sector who are leaders in their field while promoting diversity and serving as role models. Archousa Abrams received the award on October 5 at the Women of Color STEM Conference in Detroit, a premier event that celebrates and promotes the achievements of women in STEM.



Lauren Baker

Lauren Baker, daughter of Detroit's Iota Boulé Archon Richard S. Baker and Archousa Karen Grace-Baker, won four awards at the recent Cannes Lion's International Festival of Creativity. Baker is Dove's senior brand manager, engagement and social impact. She won four Cannes awards, including one Gold Lion for Creative Strategy for Dove's "Code my crown" campaign, a groundbreaking and innovative guide for coding African American hair in video games. Baker is a graduate of Stanford University and earned an M.B.A. at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.



Rachel Baker

Rachel Baker, daughter of Detroit's Iota Boulé Archon Richard S. Baker and Archousa Karen Grace-Baker, graduated from Yale Law School in May 2024. At Yale Law School, Rachel was an editor of the *Yale Law Journal* and the *Yale Law and Policy Review*. She was also an executive board member of the Black Law Students Association and a research and teaching assistant. Following law school, she started a federal clerkship for a judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston.



Toni Baruti

Archousa Toni Baruti, wife of Archon Abasi Baruti of Epsilon Chi Boulé, Colorado Springs, was honored as the 2024 recipient of the corporate-level Colorado ORBIE from ColoradoCIO in July 2024. Archousa Baruti serves as chief technology officer and chief information officer of AllHealth Network in Denver. Intended to "recognize the leadership excellence of CIOs transforming Colorado's economy," the award recognizes Archousa Baruti's technology/information stewardship of one of Colorado's largest mental health safety-net systems.



Bethany Benjamin

In June 2024 Bethany Benjamin, daughter of Archon Steve Benjamin and Archousa DeAndrea Benjamin of Alpha Iota Boulé in Columbia, South Carolina, was selected to participate in the 2024 White House Summer Internship Program. In May 2024 Bethany was awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn. Bethany is a sophomore English major at Spelman College.





DeAndrea Gist Benjamin

On September 6, 2024, Archousa DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, spouse of Archon Steve Benjamin of Alpha Iota Boulé in Columbia, South Carolina, was awarded the Jean Galloway Bissell Award, the highest honor given by the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association. The award recognizes those who not only notably serve the public and the legal profession, but who also pave the way for woman lawyers nationwide. Archousa Benjamin serves as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.



Jordan Grace Benjamin

On June 15, 2024, Jordan Grace Benjamin, daughter of Archon Steve Benjamin and Archousa DeAndrea of Alpha Iota Boulé, Columbia, South Carolina, was elected teen vice president of the mid-Atlantic region of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., at their Teen Leadership Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. A senior at Spring Valley High School in Columbia, Jordan is student body vice president and homecoming queen. Jordan lettered in tennis and was a member of the National Honor Society, Science Honors Society, History Honors Society and English Honors Society.



Lillian Brown

On May 25, 2024, Lillian Brown, proud daughter of Sire Archon Melvin Brown and Archousa Deborah Brown of Gamma Lambda Boulé, Charleston, South Carolina, graduated from Porter-Gaud School in Charleston. Lillian excelled as a participant in varsity swim, school choir, school chamber singers, Black Excellence Society, and Jack and Jill of America and as an altar server. Lillian attends Drexel University Honors College in Philadelphia.



Michael J. Childress, Jr.

Archon Michael J. Childress and Archousa Nikole Childress of South Suburban Chicago's Delta Sigma Boulé are proud to announce that their son, Michael J. Childress, Jr., has been admitted to Stanford University beginning in the fall of 2024. Michael graduated from Southland College Prep Charter School in Richton Park, Illinois, in May 2024. He will major in electrical engineering.



Darrienne Christian

Archousa Darrienne Christian, wife of Archon Justin Christian of Alpha Eta Boulé, Indianapolis, was honored as one of the *Indianapolis Business Journal's* 250 Most Influential Business Leaders in July 2024. Archousa Christian, who became the first Black woman to chair the Newfields board of trustees in May 2021, faced new challenges related to the abrupt departure of the organization's CEO late last year. The board, led by Archousa Christian, is now searching for a new leader for Indianapolis' most prominent arts organization.



Edward Clemons III

Edward Clemons III, son of Archon Edward Clemons, Jr., and Archousa Yolanda Clemons of Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé, completed a residency program in dentistry at Good Samaritan Health Center in Atlanta, Georgia, in July 2024. He is currently working at the same health clinic as an associate dentist. Clemons earned his doctor of dental surgery degree from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry.

Anna Cockrell

In August 2024 Anna Cockrell, daughter of Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archon Kieth Cockrell and Archousa Serena, earned a silver medal in the women's 400M Hurdles at the Paris Olympics. Anna is a two-time medalist at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru. She graduated from the University of Southern California in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in communications and a minor in political science from the Annenberg School and went on to earn her master's in public policy with a certificate in public policy advocacy in 2021.



Gail Benjamin Colvin

Archousa Gail Benjamin Colvin, Colonel (Ret.), wife of Archon James Colvin of Epsilon Chi Boulé, Colorado Springs, was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in July 2024. A barrier-breaking officer of the U.S. Air Force over her thirty years of active duty, she graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1980 as a member of the first coeducational class and as one of the first three African American women to graduate. Archousa Colvin is chief of staff and chief business officer at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.



Taylor Cross

Archon Don Cross and Archousa Maria Cross of Epsilon Chi Boulé, Colorado Springs, are proud to announce that their daughter, Taylor Cross, joined Miles & Stockbridge as a litigation associate in the firm's Baltimore office in September 2024. Prior to joining Miles & Stockbridge, Taylor, a graduate of The George Washington University Law School, served as a judicial law clerk at the United States District Court for the District of Maryland.



Shauna Davis

Shauna Davis, daughter of Archon Shaun Davis and Archousa Tanya of Alpha Rho Boulé, Miami, Florida, is a dancer, choreographer and filmmaker based in Los Angeles. A graduate of New World School of the Arts and the Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Arts, Davis has performed at the Academy Awards, Coachella and the MTV Video Music Awards and is currently touring with Jhené Aiko and Melanie Martinez. Selected as an artist in residence at Ace Hotel & Swim Club Palm Springs, she performed there on July 25, 2024.



Chase Disher

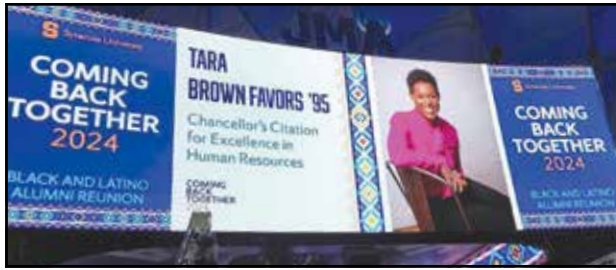
Chase Disher, son of Archon Spencer Disher and Archousa Katherine Disher of Beta Delta Boulé, Charlotte, North Carolina, joined Cloudflare as principal product manager focusing on Zero Trust security solutions in 2024. Cloudflare is a global leader in web performance and security, committed to building a better, safer Internet. In his new role, Disher leads the strategy and development of Cloudflare's Zero Trust platform, which secures user, device and application interactions.



Morgan Evette Elam

Morgan Evette Elam, daughter of North Atlanta's Delta Upsilon Boulé Archon Moses Elam and Archousa Marcia, was married on May 20, 2024, to Mario Antwine. Morgan is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. She is an attorney at Meta Platforms, Inc. Mario received his B.B.A. from Howard University and his M.B.A. from the Yale School of Management. He is president and CEO of Pearl Interactive Network and managing partner of Ascentium Holdings.





Tara Brown Favors

Archousa Tara Brown Favors, wife of Northern New Jersey's Mu Boulé Archon Dale Favors, received the Chancellor's Citation from Syracuse University on September 14, 2024, during the university's Coming Back Together weekend, which Archousa Favors cochaired.



Maximelio Manuel Finch

Maximelio Manuel Finch, son of Chicago's Beta Boulé Archon G.A. Finch and Archousa Carmen Diaz Finch, received a B.S.E. in electrical engineering with an emphasis in embedded systems and artificial intelligence from the University of Iowa on May 12, 2024. He will be working as an autonomy software engineer for Hexagon's autonomy and positioning division, specifically the AutonomouStuff team.



Kendall Givens

On May 25, 2024, Kendall Givens, daughter of Archon Edwin Givens and Archousa Karel of Charleston, South Carolina's Gamma Lambda Boulé, graduated from the Porter-Gaud School in Charleston with highest honors. She received the Chinese Award for the most outstanding student in Mandarin and the Burnet Maybank Award for the most outstanding student in history and government. She participated in varsity track, golf, Chinese club, and Jack and Jill of America and practiced ballet. Kendall attends Vanderbilt University and is majoring in international studies and minoring in Chinese.



Darlene Goins

Archousa Darlene Goins, wife of Archon Vernon Charles Goins II of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland–Berkeley, California, was honored and added to *Forbes* magazine's Impact list of 50 Over 50 in August 2024. As president of the Wells Fargo Foundation and the first Black woman to serve in this role, Archousa Goins is responsible for a team of 125 people and sets her focus on the economic health of marginalized communities by reducing debt and increasing savings.



Jennifer Fisher Golden

In August 2024 Boeing executive Jennifer Fisher Golden, Esq., daughter of Archon Thomas Fisher and Archousa Paula of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, was selected to receive a prestigious California Legal Award in the category of Women Leaders in Tech Law. This award, presented by *The Recorder* editorial staff, celebrates lawyers and companies at the forefront of technology and innovation. The California Legal Awards ceremony, honoring the selected individuals, took place on October 15 at the JW Marriott in Los Angeles.



Johanna Greer

Johanna Greer, granddaughter of Archon Joe C. Greer and Archousa Estella Mayhue-Greer of Delta Boulé, Memphis, was selected for the prestigious Student Enhancement in Earth and Space 2024 summer internship at the University of Texas at Austin's Center for Space Research. The program was conducted from July 7 through July 20. More than 2000 applications were received for 100 on-site internships organized around aerospace and space science themes drawn from NASA's diverse engineering and scientific research programs.

Brenda Johnson

On August 27, 2024, Archousa Brenda Johnson, wife of Archon Larry L. Johnson of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, was appointed to the Scholarships for Scholars Board of Trustees. Scholarships for Scholars is a nonprofit organization that awards scholarships to top performing high school seniors who reside in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Since its inception, Scholarships for Scholars has awarded more than \$4,000,000 to more than 1,000 graduating high school seniors.



Lydia Johnson

Archousa Lydia Johnson, wife of Archon Kenneth Johnson of Richmond's Alpha Beta Boulé, will serve as this year's ambassador for the Richmond Christmas Mother Fund. Since 1935, a prominent Richmonder has led the efforts to secure resources for families in need during the holiday season. Archousa Johnson will focus on increasing awareness of the fund and the organizations that benefit from it, including two that focus on enhancing physical and mental health in the community. Archousa Johnson practices dermatology at Forefront Dermatology.



Nichelle Levy

In July 2024 Charlotte, North Carolina's Beta Delta Boulé Archousa Nichelle Levy, wife of Archon Sid Levy, was promoted to vice president, deputy general counsel and head of privacy for NASCAR. Prior to joining NASCAR, Archousa Levy was a member of multiple high-volume law firms and interned at the National Hockey League while in law school. Archousa Levy earned her J.D. from the New York University School of Law and her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago.



Bianca C. Long

Bianca C. Long, daughter of Prince William County, Virginia's Epsilon Sigma Boulé Archon Bobby Long and Archousa Sonya, was selected for the Vanderbilt University 2024–25 Honors program of individual undergraduate research. In summer 2024 Bianca interned with JPMorgan Chase's Chicago office, during which time she accepted an offer for a full-time analyst position in middle market banking and specialized industries, starting after graduation in May 2025. In August 2024 the South Eastern Regional director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority appointed Bianca to the regional undergraduate activities committee.



Carsen Manuel

Carsen Manuel, son of Archon Todd Manuel and Archousa Nikki of Alpha Xi Boulé, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, participated in the summer 2024 White House Internship Program in Washington, D.C. Assigned to the Vice President's Office of Public Engagement and Inter-Governmental Affairs, Carsen played a key role in advancing stakeholder engagement. A junior in Howard University's five-year accelerated architecture and design studies program, Carsen integrates his academic pursuits with public service. He is also a 2024–25 executive board member for The Society of Collegiate Black Men, Inc.



Leslie McCauley

Leslie McCauley began her obstetrics and gynecology residency at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in the summer of 2024. The daughter of Chicago's Beta Boulé Archon Peter McCauley and Archousa Carla McCauley, Leslie McCauley graduated in May 2024 with her doctor of medicine and master of public health degrees from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine.





Salih Rafiq Muhammad

Salih Rafiq Muhammad, son of Los Angeles's Xi Boulé Archon James A. Muhammad, is starring in the upcoming romantic comedy *Toxic*, a production of Cinnamon Brown Entertainment and Soulidifly Productions. Soulidifly is headed by Archon B.K. Fulton and Archousa Jacquelyn E. Stone. The project was released in October 2024 on Amazon, Apple TV, Comcast, YouTube and Fandango. A model and actor in Atlanta, Georgia, Salih is a graduate of Morehouse College and is currently a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University's Whiting School of Engineering.



Bria Murray

Bria Murray, daughter of Archousa Lisa Nelson Murray and Past Grand Sire Archon Dwayne M. 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 in June and accepted employment with the Ochsner Medical Center in Baton Rouge.



Cameron Murray

On August 17, 2024, Cameron Murray, son of Archousa Lisa Nelson Murray and Past Grand Sire Archon Dwayne M. Murray of Alpha Xi Boulé, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was guest lecturer at the Louisiana State University School of Law for the Black Law Students Association. Following his talk, entitled *Navigating the Waters in a Majority Firm*, he answered questions on interviewing techniques and the importance of legal analysis. Cameron is a second-year associate at the Baton Rouge law firm Taylor Porter, where he practices in commercial litigation.



Lauryn Brielle Nealy

Lauryn Brielle Nealy, the talented granddaughter of Archon Limone Collins and Archousa Sharon of Prince George's County, Maryland's Epsilon Phi Boulé, stepped into the bright spotlight in fall 2024 as a proud new freshman at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina. With a vibrant passion for the arts, Lauryn is embarking on a journey to earn her degree in professional theater. Lauryn's dedication and commitment to theater make her a name to watch. As she begins her academic and artistic adventure at North Carolina A&T, the stage is set for a bright and promising future.



Blayre Kendall Riley

Blayre Kendall Riley, daughter of Dallas's Alpha Epsilon Boulé Archon Brendan Riley and Archousa Carolyn Ross Riley, graduated from Spelman College on May 19, 2024, with a B.A. in English. Blayre was an officer in the Mu Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, an officer in Spelman's chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International, and a Spelman ambassador. Following her graduation Blayre returned to Dallas. She is now working in the corporate communications department at AT&T.



Lisa Robinson

Archousa Lisa Robinson, wife of Archon Kenneth Robinson of Delta Beta Boulé, Greenville, South Carolina, was named associate vice president of operations for the Clemson University Foundation in August 2024. Archousa Robinson is a higher education professional and collaborative leader with experience in student and academic services, nonprofit operations, and board governance.

Douglas Saulsberry Scarborough

In summer 2024 Douglas Saulsberry Scarborough, son of Grammateus Douglas Gerard Scarborough and Archousa Nichole Saulsberry Scarborough of Memphis's Delta Boulé, graduated from the St. Albans School of Public Service in Washington, D.C. Douglas joined rising high school seniors from all over the world to explore government, politics and public service through classroom experiences, field trips and a speaker's program. In fall 2024 Douglas represented the United States at the World Health Organization's Global Model WHO, held in Geneva, Switzerland.



Alyssa Spencer

Alyssa Spencer, daughter of Archon A. Benjamin Spencer and Archousa Marlette Spencer of Epsilon Psi Boulé, Athens, Georgia, successfully completed Sentara's Health Career Camp in Williamsburg, Virginia, on July 19, 2024. The program gave students hands-on experience with the work of physicians, putting them through a full rotation of specialties at Sentara Williamsburg Regional Health Center. Alyssa eventually plans to pursue a career as a neurologist or a neurosurgeon after completing her studies.



James Spencer

James Spencer, son of Archon A. Benjamin Spencer and Archousa Marlette Spencer of Epsilon Psi Boulé, Athens, Georgia, graduated from Lafayette High School in Williamsburg, Virginia, on June 14, 2024. Shortly thereafter, James attended boot camp at the Naval Station Great Lakes in Illinois, graduating on July 15 to become a Midshipman Fourth Class in the Navy ROTC. James matriculated at Morehouse College, where he is pursuing a major in business administration on a Navy ROTC scholarship.



Nia Shelly Chhen Stewart

Nia Shelly Chhen Stewart, daughter of Orange County, California's Epsilon Epsilon Boulé Archon Reginald Chhen Stewart and Archousa Lee May Chhen Stewart, graduated with honors from Portola High School in Irvine, California, on June 6, 2024. Nia attends the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University, which is ranked as the number four film school in the United States by *The Hollywood Reporter*.



Noa Chhen Stewart

Noa Chhen Stewart, son of Orange County, California's Epsilon Epsilon Boulé Archon Reginald Chhen Stewart and Archousa Lee May Chhen Stewart, was selected to participate in the Summer Orchestra Institute at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston from July 21 to August 3, 2024. Noa is an accomplished double bass player who was also selected as assistant drum major for the Pride of Portola marching band in Irvine, California.



T. Shyvonne Stewart

In August 2024 T. Shyvonne Stewart, daughter of Archon Richard Stewart and Archousa Sandra of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas, starred as Julie Nichols in the production of *Tootsie*, a new comedy musical, at the North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly, Massachusetts. Shyvonne's Broadway credits include *The Lion King* and *The Lightning Thief*. She has also performed in national tours of *The Lion King* and in a regional production of *Sister Act*. Her TV and film credits include *The Equalizer*, *The Blacklist* and *Power Book II: Ghost and Partner Track*.





Melia Alexandra Terry

Melia Alexandra Terry, daughter of Archon Victor A. Terry and Archousa Terryce N. Terry of Alpha Epsilon Boulé, Dallas, was accepted into the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine's Early Medical School Selection Program (EMSSP), which began on May 21, 2024. The EMSSP is nationally acclaimed for its initiative to enhance diversity within the physician workforce. It offers a nurturing environment and a gradual integration into the medical school curriculum during the summer sessions following the sophomore and junior years, as well as during the senior year.



Kamaal Thomas

Bridgewater Associates, LP, the world's largest hedge fund, appointed Kamaal Thomas as its business information security officer, where he will provide strategic counsel to business leaders on enterprise security risks. Thomas, son of Immediate Past Sire Archon Nosakhare Thomas of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, joined the firm in August 2024, bringing valuable expertise from Goldman Sachs.



Kiera Thomas

Kiera Thomas, daughter of Immediate Past Sire Archon Nosakhare Thomas of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, proudly presented *Memory House*, a groundbreaking exhibition showcasing the works of twenty talented Black women photographers, including herself, at the Los Angeles Center of Photography on September 28, 2024, providing a rare platform for Black women photographers to curate and share their powerful narratives. *Memory House* delved into the complex identities of Black women, exploring themes of history, culture and self-discovery.



Manya Whitaker

Archousa Manya Whitaker, wife of Archon Michael Sawyer of Epsilon Chi Boulé, Colorado Springs, was installed as Colorado College's interim president on July 1, 2024. Formerly the executive vice president and chief of staff at Colorado College, as well as the David and Lucile Packard Professor of Education and an independent educational consultant, Archousa Whitaker's career with the college spans thirteen years. Her body of work includes four books and more than twenty book chapters. She is an alumna of Dartmouth College and Vanderbilt University.



James Tauri White

In July 2024 James Tauri White, son of Archon Richard Stewart and Archousa Sandra Stewart of Delta Mu Boulé, Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas, was promoted to general manager of Passport Infiniti of Suitland, Maryland. The promotion followed a highly successful tenure as general manager of a Maryland Mazda dealership. White is a graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C.



Ethel Isaacs Williams

On June 24, 2024, Archousa Ethel Isaacs Williams, wife of Immediate Past Sire Archon Clarence Williams of Epsilon Lambda Boulé, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida, was presented with Leadership Florida's Distinguished Member Award at its annual meeting in Charlotte Harbor. The award is given to a member whose dedication to leadership outside of their professional duties have made an impact across Florida. Archousa Williams is a prominent attorney and president of The Links, Inc.

MEMBER BOULÉS

Gamma Boulé Enjoys a Chesapeake Cruise



PHOTO: RICHARD HACKNEY

On the lovely summer afternoon of August 3, 2024, more than forty Archons and Archousai of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, cruised up the Chesapeake Bay from City Dock, Annapolis, on the elegant *Catherine Marie*, taking in the stunning views of the bay. The yacht featured two enclosed, climate-controlled decks for comfort and an open deck for full enjoyment of the panoramic scenery and the weather.

High-quality catering and choice beverage selection were provided for the pleasure of all aboard.

Everyone appreciated the opportunity to relish the summer with good food, good company and music. Adding to the festivities, on the way back to the shoreline of our state capital, a deejay on the aft deck gave everyone the chance to dance, urged on by the rhythm of the ocean waves.

*Archon Guy B. Richardson
Grapter, Gamma Boulé*



PHOTO: RICHARD HACKNEY

Kappa Boulé Enjoys a Glorious Summertime Affair



On the delightful evening of June 30, 2024, the Archons and Archousai of Kappa Boulé, Atlanta, gathered for a glorious summertime affair, a festive event held at No. 18, a private club in the upscale Buckhead area of Atlanta. Throughout the evening Archons and Archousai danced, feasted on an amazing spread, laughed and enjoyed getting to know the best of one another. From the floral arrangements to the curated

cocktails, no detail was spared. Sire Archon Tyrone Rachal, accompanied by his lovely Archousa, Kristy Rachal, offered greetings and remarks regarding the occasion. A good time was had by all.

*Archon Kevin E. Woods
Grapter, Kappa Boulé*

Mu Boulé Launches Lunch With the Sire Series



ARCHON PATRICK FOUCHE, SIRE ARCHON BAKARI LEE, ARCHON CURTIS WILSON AND ARCHON FRANKLYN JENIFER

Sire Archon Bakari Lee of Mu Boulé, Northern New Jersey, hosted the second of his Lunch With the Sire Series on June 2, 2024, at the Shakamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains. In attendance were Archons Patrick Fouche, Curtis Wilson and Franklyn Jenifer.

Archon Jenifer, former president of Howard University and the University of Texas at Dallas as well as chancellor of the Massachusetts Board of Regents, led a discussion prompted by the 2023 Supreme Court decision in cases regarding affirmative action in higher education admission practices.

Significant contributions to the conversation were made by Archon Wilson, given his experiences as a scholar-athlete, a Division I basketball player at The Ohio State University and one of the highest-ranking African American executives at American Express. Also discussed was the years-long debate regarding whether our great fraternity should participate in social action.

*Archon Paul A. Murdock
Grapter, Mu Boulé*

Psi Boulé Attends Professional Soccer Match



Archons, Archousai and families of Louisville, Kentucky's Psi Boulé enjoyed an exciting afternoon as guests of LouCity & Racing Foundation executive director George Davis IV to attend a Louisville City Football Club soccer match against the Colorado Switchbacks on July 19, 2024. The outing was our annual summer event, and we could not have asked for a more perfect summer afternoon. Archon David Tandy, social committee chair, helped facilitate fun and unique activities for Psi Boulé members and families.

Lou City, as the club is often called, is a member of the professional USL Championship, now sanctioned Division 2 by U.S. Soccer. The USL Championship includes more than twenty teams across the country. Beginning in 2020, Lou City moved from Louisville Slugger Field to the new Lynn Family Stadium, a soccer-specific facility in the Butchertown neighborhood just east of downtown Louisville.

*Archon George Demaree
Grapter, Psi Boulé*

Alpha Gamma Boulé Archousai Sip Tea at Summer Party



Archousa Kamela Peart Terry, the wife of Sire Archon Hilliard C. Terry III of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland–Berkeley, California, opened their Oakland Hills home to host a fashionable afternoon tea party for the Archousai on June 1, 2024. While sipping teas from around the world that were served in ornate floral china teapots and teacups, the Archousai

enjoyed games, engaged in lively conversation and savored traditional hors d'oeuvres. This gathering captured the spellbinding beauty, elegance and grace of the Archousai of Alpha Gamma Boulé.

*Archon Vernon C. Goins II
Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé*

Alpha Tau Boulé and Epsilon Gamma Boulé Gather for Summer Fun

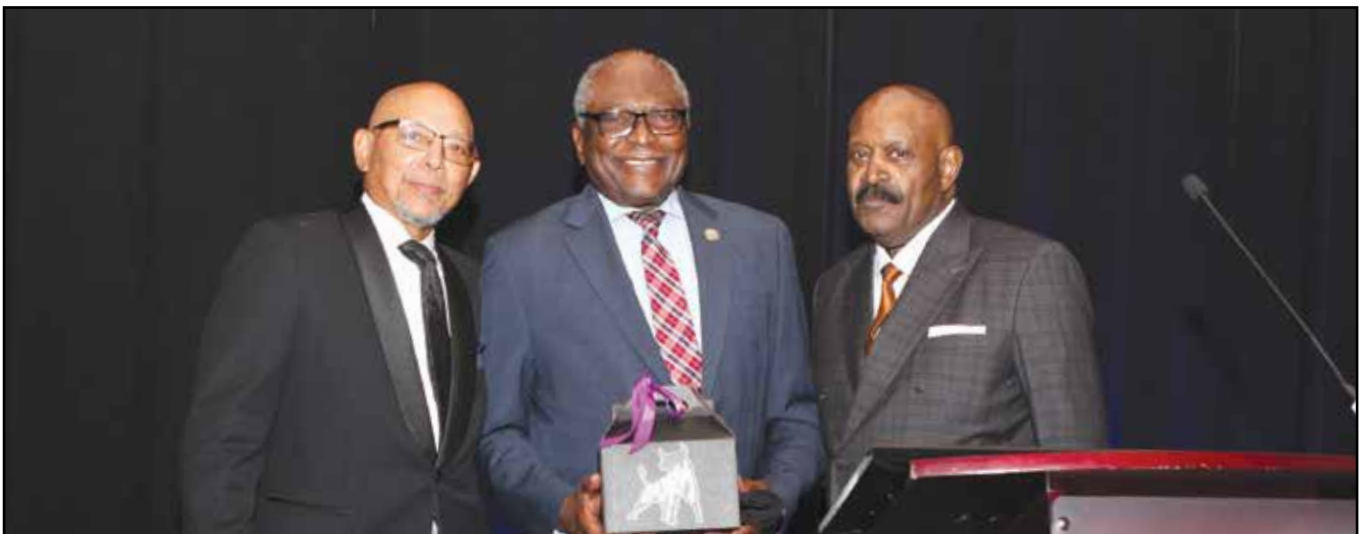


Two neighboring North Carolina boulés – Epsilon Gamma, Chapel Hill, and Alpha Tau, Durham – gathered on the afternoon of August 24, 2024, to celebrate summer fun at the picturesque Seaforth Beach on Jordan Lake in Pittsboro. The Archons, Archousai

and their families enjoyed delicious food, games, music and dancing. All had an enjoyable time.

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

Alpha Tau Boulé Welcomes U.S. Congressman James Clyburn



ALPHA TAU SIRE ARCHON MICHAEL PALMER, ARCHON JAMES CLYBURN AND ALPHA TAU SIRE ARCHON-ELECT RON HUNTER

Durham, North Carolina's Alpha Tau Boulé members attended the 89th Annual Founders' Day Banquet of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People on August 17, 2024, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel Raleigh-Durham Airport at Research Triangle Park. The keynote address was delivered by Archon James Clyburn of Alpha Iota Boulé, U.S. representative from North Carolina's 6th Congressional District, who walked the audience through history, pointing out the importance of this year's elections. He could not tell people who to vote for, he said, but he could tell them what to vote for, and the choices this year are clear.

Congresswoman Valerie Foushee and former congressman Archon G.K. Butterfield introduced Archon Clyburn. Luminaries present included local and state government officials and representatives from regional churches and educational institutions. Sire Archon Michael Palmer and Sire Archon-Elect Ronald Hunter presented a gift to Archon Clyburn on behalf of Alpha Tau.

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

Alpha Xi Boulé Hosts Golf Outing



On Saturday, August 24, 2024, the Archons of Alpha Xi Boulé, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, hosted a golf outing at the Santa Maria Golf Course in Baton Rouge. Archons from Alpha Xi Boulé and Alpha Alpha Boulé, New Orleans, and their family members gathered for an afternoon full of competition and camaraderie. After eighteen holes of golf, the group retired to the

residence of Past Grand Sire Archon Dwayne Murray and Archouisa Lisa Murray, who hosted an evening cocktail hour and dinner.

*Archon Christopher J. Tyson
Grapter, Alpha Xi Boulé*

Beta Epsilon Boulé Has Fun in the Summer



On the beautiful summer evening of August 10, 2024, the Archons of Beta Epsilon Boulé, Greensboro, North Carolina, hosted their annual Summer Fun event at the exquisite Lake Jeanette Marina. Archons, Archou-sai and their families enjoyed a fabulous catered meal featuring a tremendous spread and craft cocktails. The event began with a welcome from Archon Javon Cooper, the social committee chair, who offered gratitude to the committee members, and Sire Archon Donison Willis saluted the Archousai and summarized Beta Epsilon's recent activities.

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

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

Beta Delta Boulé Archousai Make Important Connections at Elegant Brunch



On the radiant afternoon of August 10, 2024, the Archousai of Beta Delta Boulé, Charlotte, North Carolina, gathered at the elegant Ballantyne Country Club for an afternoon dedicated to connection, camaraderie and the strengthening of bonds. Archousa Cecilia Robinson hosted the event, which was a significant milestone in fostering unity across generations within the organization, and after a warm welcome, she set the tone for the day with her thoughtful, inspiring remarks. “Our strength lies in our unity and our ability to understand and support each other,” she said, emphasizing the importance of coming together as a unified group, especially in preparation for the challenges and opportunities ahead in 2025.

For the Generations in Conversation activity, Archousa Robinson thoughtfully paired Archousai from different generations in small groups, where they engaged in meaningful discussions prompted by carefully curated questions that delved into personal experience, professional journeys and the values that guide an Archousa’s life. Senior Archousai shared their wisdom and life lessons while younger Archousai brought fresh ideas and perspectives to the table in a rich dialogue that fos-

tered deep connections and enhanced the sense of community within Beta Delta.

For the Legacy and Vision activity, designed by Archousa Robinson to encourage reflection on both the past and future of Beta Delta, each Archousa was asked to comment on her legacy as well as her vision for the boulé’s future, sparking a robust discussion that culminated in the creation of a shared vision. This exercise symbolized the collective commitment of all generations to Beta Delta’s continued success and growth. Archousa Robinson’s thoughtful facilitation ensured that every voice was heard, honoring the group’s legacy while looking forward to a promising future.

More than a social event, the afternoon at Ballantyne Country Club was a pivotal moment for the Archousai of Beta Delta – a potent reminder that through unity, collaboration and the bridging of generations, the ladies of the Boulé are well on their way to achieving great things together in 2025 and beyond.

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

Gamma Gamma Boulé Marks Fortieth Anniversary



Gamma Gamma Boulé in Austin, Texas, celebrated its fortieth anniversary on August 17, 2024, at the Westin Austin at the Domain. The guest speaker was Archon Kenneth R. Kemp of Gamma Phi Boulé, San Antonio, a noted pulmonologist who is also senior pastor at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in San Antonio. He is the author of several books, including *A Servant's Heart: Tips for the Associate Minister* (2014).

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, which was founded on the principles of brotherhood and faith, is the oldest Black Greek-letter fraternity, having been founded on May 15, 1904, in Philadelphia. The Boulé has more than 5,000 members and 144 member boulés throughout the United States, England and the Caribbean. The membership consists of accomplished and influential men – all with the aim of getting to know the best of one another and making lasting contributions to their communities, our society and the world.

Through the concerted efforts of Archons John Q.T. King, Sr., and Milton Flemings, the sponsorship of Nu Boulé (Houston), and the official action of the Grand Boulé, Gamma Gamma was set apart in Austin on June 17, 1984. The charter members, stalwarts in the fields of education, medicine, law, engineering, government and manufacturing, were Archons Edward Beverle Adams, Harold K. Bowling, Sr., Sylvester Bradford,

John H. Brown, Duveгнаude D. Browne, Alrutheus T. Buchanan, John Phillip Crawford, Exalton A. Delco, Jr., John Q. Taylor King, Jr., Ervin E. Madison, Jr., James Horatio Means, Patrick Henry Murphy, Jr., Joseph P. Quander, Jr., and James G. Snell.

Gamma Gamma has a rich history of social action and community involvement through mentoring programs and career conferences. Its social action programs have received regional and Grand Boulé acclaim, winning the Best Social Action Program Award in 2005 and 2006. At the college level, Gamma Gamma's partnerships with the *My Mind Matters* mental health and wellness symposiums, Black Male Initiative and the Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars Program have been spotlighted within the Fraternity and recognized for positive outcomes. Gamma Gamma supports the annual MLK Oratory Contest and sponsors and provides coaches/mentors each year for the PGA Jr. League golf program for minorities ages 7 to 15. The Gamma Gamma Boulé Foundation has provided financial assistance to 134 worthy college students from the Greater Austin community and currently provides twelve annual-renewal scholarships ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

The talented Archons in Gamma Gamma Boulé serve in fields of banking, law, state and federal gov-



ernment, medicine, aviation, education, technology, business, entrepreneurship, religion, social justice, and utilities. Current officers are Sire Archon Joseph C. Parker, Jr., Sire Archon–Elect Robert H. Langford, Grammateus Anthony W. Brown, Thesauristes Kevin W. Cole, Grapter Ricardo Stinnette, Rhetoricos Bergeron Harris, Agogos Gregory Perrin and Immediate Past Sire Archon Kevin B. Enders. Membership council members are Archons John McCormick, Kevin B. Enders and Michael T. Gibson. The Gamma Gamma Boulé Foundation chair is Archon Charles W. Gates, Sr. The current roster of Archons is as follows: Reginald Ballard, Albert Black, Harold K. Bowling, Sr., Melvin W. Bryant, Alruthus Bryant, Samuel L. Buchanan, Walter W. Bumphus, John S. Butler, Exalton A. Delco, Jr., Edwin Dorn, Brice Dudley, Wilford Flowers, George Frances IV, Mark Gooden, Albert Hawkins III, Trennis Jones, Calvin Kelly, Milton Lee II, Norman Mason, Craig Moore, Marcus Myers, Anthony Owen, Mel Parker, Aundre Piggie, Alvin Pollard, Sr., Richard Reddick, Michael Romain, Garrett W. Scales, David Talbot, Jeffery Travillion, Calvin Turner, Gregory Vincent, Ed Ward, James White and David J. Williams

GAMMA GAMMA BOULÉ SIRE ARCHONS

John Q.T. King, 1984–88
Exalton Delco, 1988–92
Alruthus Buchanan, 1993–94
Edward Adams, 1995–96
Patrick Murphy, 1997–98
Joseph Quander, 1999–2000
Berl Handcox, 2001–02
Norman L. Mason, 2003–04
Charles W. Gates, 2005–06
Michael Gibson, 2007–08
Wilford Flowers, 2009–10
Leonard Woods, 2011–12
Milton B. Lee, 2013–14
Gregory J. Vincent, 2015–16
Carl S. Richie, 2017–18
Albert Hawkins III, 2019–20
Kevin B. Enders, 2021–22
Joseph C. Parker, Jr., 2023–24

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

Gamma Epsilon Boulé Archousai Celebrate Forty Years of Sisterhood



In celebration of forty years of supportive sisterhood on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of Gamma Epsilon Boulé in Sacramento, California, Archousai gathered on August 3, 2024, at the home of Archousa Le Ondra Clark Harvey. Describing the event as their inaugural Leading Ladies Brunch, the Archousai dressed in their boldest and brightest summer attire, enjoying a wonderful brunch, entertainment by a live band, and fun and games.

All generations were represented, including Archousai Barbara Bell and Barbara Cooke, widows of two of Gamma Epsilon's charter members. Sire Archon

Jahmal Miller and Sire Archon-Elect Jim Lites offered opening remarks, recognizing the importance of the Archousai in the lives of the Archons. The Archousai received spa gift bags as a thank-you for sharing their busy lives at this vibrant, memorable gathering. The event organizers were Archousai Brooke Bodi-po-Memba, Brenda David, Kem Gravenberg, Teresa Aldredge and Le Ondra Clark Harvey.

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

Gamma Omicron Boulé Inaugurates Sire Archon Soirée Series



SIRE ARCHON BRUCE CURRY (FOURTH FROM LEFT) HOSTS THE GAMMA OMICRON ARCHONS.

Gamma Omicron Boulé, Tampa Bay, Florida, hosted its inaugural Sire Archon Soirée Series (SASS) on July 28, 2024, at the home of Sire Archon Bruce Curry and Archousa Casey Curry. The unique social gathering consisted of two indoor/outdoor events (SASS I and SASS II), each attended by approximately thirty Archons and Archousai. Highlights of the lively pool-side cocktail hour included a bartender, icebreakers, a bourbon bar, a champagne station (bubbly

bar), butler-passed hors d'oeuvres, and hot and cold buffets, all catered by an award-winning local African American chef. A planned SASS III is on the horizon to complete the revelry. This was an exuberant, relaxing, unifying event, a literal opportunity to truly get to know the best of one another.

*Archon Lawrence W. Hamilton
Grapter, Gamma Omicron Boulé*

Gamma Rho Boulé Hosts a Summer Soirée



ARCHON KEITH SIMS STANDING BEHIND HIS ARCHOUSA AND FRIENDS

Gamma Rho Boulé, Ann Arbor, Michigan, hosted a memorable Summer Soirée on Saturday, July 20, 2024, with a scenic boat ride down the Detroit River. Attendees were graciously welcomed aboard an Infinity yacht at the Jefferson Beach Marina and everyone spent a delightful afternoon courtesy of the captain and crew. The soirée committee chair, Archon Herman Glass, and the committee of newly

inducted Archons expertly organized the event. Archons, Archousai and guests alike reveled in the atmosphere, enjoying delicious food, refreshing drinks and lively music.

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

Gamma Rho Boulé Honors the New Grand Officers



GRAND THESAURISTES DERRICK A. ROMAN ADDRESSES THE ATTENDEES.

On August 22, 2024, members of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity gathered at the beautiful residence of Archon Aringtor Hicks of Gamma Rho Boulé, Ann Arbor, Michigan, to celebrate the election of three distinguished new Grand Officers: Grand Grapter Jerlando F. L. Jackson (Iota), Grand Thesauristes Derrick A. Roman (Iota) and Grand Grammateus Darrell B. Searcy (Epsilon Lambda). Each shared his vision for the new administration, emphasizing the need for all of us to step up our engagement within the Fraternity and its mission.

The evening, meticulously planned by a dedicated team that included Archons Aringtor Hicks, Michael

Kinloch and Levi Thompson, offered an opportunity for members to reinforce the collective spirit that continues to strengthen the Fraternity. Officers who attended included Central Region Sire Archon Calvin Heard, Gamma Rho Sire Archon Les Alexander and Iota Sire Archon Lane Coleman, who all expressed their gratitude to everyone who came together to celebrate.

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

Festive Fellowship Wins the Day for **Gamma Phi Boulé**



The members of Gamma Phi Boulé, San Antonio, elegantly attired in white casual chic, enjoyed a stellar day and evening experience of warmth and connection on July 13, 2024, beginning with a lively party bus excursion, with appropriate accoutrements, to the exclusive new Ruby City contemporary art center in downtown San Antonio, rated by *Time* magazine as one of the “World’s Greatest Places.” Envisioned by the late collector, philanthropist and artist Linda Pace and designed by the award-winning Ghanaian-British architect Sir David Adjaye, its exterior is

composed of concrete panels fabricated in Mexico, and its multilevel interior galleries are illuminated by natural light. Following a tour of the gallery and its scenic outdoor park, dinner was held at Ruth’s Chris Steak House at the Grand Hyatt, located along San Antonio’s Riverwalk. Sire Archon Ron Kelley served as emcee for an insightful and wildly humorous game show, calling upon everyone’s participation.

*Archon William T. Burke III
Grapter, Gamma Phi Boulé*

Gamma Phi Boulé Takes a Travel Adventure



ARCHOUSA KAREN TWITTY AND ARCHON STEPHEN TWITTY

Archon Stephen Twitty and Archousa Karen Twitty of Gamma Phi Boulé, San Antonio, hosted a wine tasting and dinner event on June 29, 2024, at their beautiful home on the outskirts of San Antonio, welcoming their fellow Archons and Archousai, as they took a travel adventure from the vineyards of France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Turkey and then back to Napa Valley, California. Archon Twitty, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant general who was deputy commander of the United States European Command, is a national security and military analyst at MSNBC. The backdrop of the peaceful estate and the pool offered an atmosphere of calm relaxation, stimulating an extended, amiable discussion of local, national and world events.

*Archon William T. Burke III
Grapter, Gamma Phi Boulé*

Delta Alpha Boulé Hosts Tri-Boulé Golf Shoot-Out



ARCHONS GUY SUMMERS, ANTONIO DESAMOURS, JEFF PERRY, ROBERT CHRISTIAN, ALONZO SEXTON, JAMES RICKMOND, MICHAEL CHILDRESS, DENNIS WALKER, GOMEZ CHARLESTON, ROLAND CRISWELL AND RONALD STATUM

Archons James Rickmond and Ronald Statum of Delta Alpha Boulé (Northern Illinois) hosted Archons from Beta Boulé (Chicago) and Delta Sigma Boulé (South Suburban Chicago) at the annual Tri-Boulé Golf Shoot-Out & After-Round Smoker, which had been idled for four years owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event, open to golfing and nongolfing Archons, took place on June 7, 2024, at the Bolingbrook Golf Club, offering a golf clinic, an eighteen-hole scramble and a social gathering. Past Sire Archon Perry said “it highlighted the intersection of the passion for golf

and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity brotherhood.” Past Sire Archon Charleston called it “an outstanding event where fellow Archons from the three boulés interacted as one and definitely got to know the best of one another!” Past Sire Archon Rickmond spoke of “the high level of engagement during the smoker that extended for an hour and a half beyond the scheduled ending.”

*Archon Herman S. Baskerville
Grapter, Delta Alpha Boulé*

Delta Alpha Boulé Delights in the Music at Ravinia

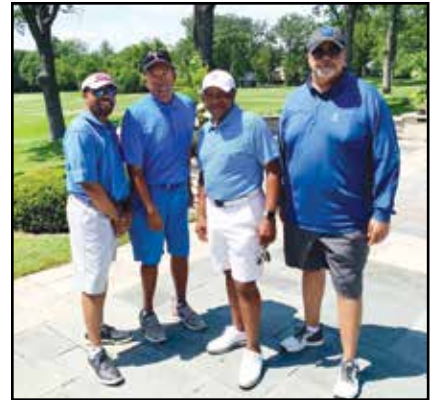


Picture-perfect in their white attire, the Archons and Archousai of Delta Alpha Boulé, Northern Illinois, gathered on August 25, 2024, for an evening of summer celebration at the BMO Club rooftop overlooking the Ravinia Festival, an outdoor music venue in Highland Park, Illinois. The occasion hit just the

right note for all to enjoy the music in the air and especially to get to know the best of one another.

*Archon Herman S. Baskerville
Grapter, Delta Alpha Boulé*

Delta Alpha Boulé Archons Make the Rounds



The Archons of Delta Alpha Boulé, Northern Illinois, made the rounds at a golf outing hosted by Sire Archon Jeffery Perry at the Exmoor Country Club in Highland Park on July 25, 2024. Guests included Archons from Beta (Chicago) and Delta Sigma (South Suburban Chicago) boulés. After a great round of

golf, everyone enjoyed lunch and refreshments on the Exmoor clubhouse terrace.

*Archon Herman S. Baskerville
Grapter, Delta Alpha Boulé*

Delta Sigma Boulé and Chicago Cluster Gather for Summer Fun



Continuing a long tradition, Delta Sigma Boulé, South Suburban Chicago, held its annual summer soirée for the Chicago cluster on July 13, 2024, at the spectacular lakefront home of Archon Mamon Powers and Archoussa Cynthia Powers in Valparaiso, Indiana. Joining the festivities were members of Beta Boulé (Chicago) and Delta Alpha Boulé (Northern Illinois). For nearly thirty years, Archons, Archoussai, family members and friends of the three member

boulés have gathered for some summer fun. Guests were treated to a thrilling boat tour of Lake Louise that was skippered by Archon Powers. All enjoyed the opportunity to unwind and get to know the best of one another.

*Archon Edward G. Lance IV
Grapter, Delta Sigma Boulé*

Delta Phi Boulé Delights in Summer Garden Party



On July 27, 2024, Archon Michael Holton and Archousa Lashell Holton of Delta Phi Boulé, Portland, Oregon, hosted Archons, Archousai, family members and guests for a summer garden party at their home. The annual gathering provided an opportunity to strengthen current relationships, nurture new con-

nections and experience the joy that the member boulé family feels when spending time with one another.

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

Delta Chi Boulé Tours International African American Museum



Archons and Archousai of Delta Chi Boulé, Orangeburg, South Carolina, enjoyed an educational and enlightening tour of the International African American Museum in Charleston on July 20, 2024. The museum, which opened in 2023, not only focuses on the brutal experiences endured by Africans when they came to this country, it features artifacts and explores their culture and history as well as the impact that African Americans have made in the state of South Carolina, the region, the nation and the world ever since.

After the tour, Sire Archon–Elect Reginald Vaughan and Archon Kevin Ray hosted a dinner at the Patio at Mad River Bar and Grille in Charleston. The evening was filled with good food, light conversation and laughter, a perfect way to highlight a day of getting to know more about our history as African Americans as well as getting to know the best of one another.

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

Epsilon Beta Boulé Members Get Together for Summer Soirée



PACIFIC REGION SIRE ARCHON KANAHL KENDRICK, SIRE ARCHON CHRIS THREATT (BETA UPSILON), SIRE ARCHON HILLIARD TERRY III (ALPHA GAMMA) AND SIRE ARCHON OKORIE RAMSEY (EPSILON BETA).

Enjoying music, food and world-class company, getting to know the best of one another on a beautiful Bay Area evening, the Archons and Archousai of Epsilon Beta Boulé, Contra Costa County, California, gathered for a Summer Soirée on July 27, 2024, at the beautiful home of Archon Calvin Tyler and Archousa Tina in Danville. They were joined by Pacific Region Sire Archon Kanahl Kendrick and Archousa Narisse, Sire Archon Hilliard Terry III and Archousa Kameale (Alpha Gamma), Sire Archon Chris Threatt (Beta Upsilon), and Immediate Past Sire Archon David Epps and Archousa Diane (Gamma Chi).

All vendors for the event were African American-owned and provided stellar service. Epsilon Beta received a wine donation from the family-owned Titus Vineyards in Napa Valley, and Oakland's Chef LaLa of Jusla Eats crafted a delicious menu of Black heritage cuisine with a California twist, including a unique Boulé cocktail.

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

Three Boulés Revel in Bimini in The Bahamas



Three member boulés – Epsilon Lambda, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie Counties, Florida; Alpha Rho, Miami; and Delta Lambda, Nassau, Bahamas – hosted a 2024 Summer Soirée on the weekend of June 1, 2024, at the Resorts World Bimini Resort and Marina in Bimini in The Bahamas.

A rooftop welcome party offered Bahamian delights and the casino was in full swing at the after-party.

On Saturday, guests heard the fascinating history of Bimini and an exclusive interview Archon Lamell McMorris conducted with Martin Luther King III,

who recalled how much Bimini meant to his father. The afternoon offered time for island exploration, tours or rest by the beach, followed by a party at the Oasis Pool Bar, which moved on to Big Johns, where the dance floor was never empty.

The spectacular weekend ended with a brunch and day at the beach. Special thanks to event coordinators Archon Walter Bond and Archousa Antoinette.

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

Epsilon Lambda Boulé Enjoys Lobster Night



Archons, Archousai and guests of Epsilon Lambda Boulé, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Florida, assembled at the Country Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach Gardens on July 6, 2024, for Epsilon Lambda's famous Lobster Night. The spectacular event featured 1.5-pound lobsters along with a variety of succulent side dishes. After cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the upstairs bar and lounge, where attendees mingled and got to know the best of one

another, the main dining room offered delectable bites and sweet treats. It was a wonderful evening filled with joy, laughter and delightful conversation among old friends and new. Special thanks to our host, Grand Grammateus Darrell B. Searcy.

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

Distinguished Black Leaders Join Epsilon Tau Boulé Archons at Brunch



Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, hosted a gathering of more than sixty local Black leaders on September 14, 2024, at the residence of Archon Kyle Webb. The event provided an opportunity for attendees to connect and foster relationships.

During a delightful brunch, guests enjoyed one another's company in a relaxed yet sophisticated setting. The dress code was effortlessly chic, reflecting the occasion's warmth and elegance.

Beyond building connections, the gathering emphasized the vital role Black men play in their communi-

ties as fathers, sons, brothers, mentors and leaders, having a profound impact on those around them. The event – a testament to the power of community and the significance of shared experiences – underscored the importance of creating spaces where Black professionals can freely express concerns that may not be fully understood by non-Black peers.

*Archon Thomas H. Fisher
Grapter, Epsilon Tau Boulé*

Epsilon Omicron Boulé Honors Grand Sire Archon–Elect Jesse Tyson



GRAND SIRE ARCHON–ELECT JESSE TYSON AND ARCHOUSAI

The members of Epsilon Omicron Boulé, North Houston, Texas, gathered on July 20, 2024, to honor one of their own, Grand Sire Archon–Elect Jesse Tyson, in celebration of his remarkable election. The prestigious event was held at the stunning estate of Archon Lonnie Johnson and his Archousa, Eartha Jean, with its scenic backdrop adding to the elegance of the occasion and setting the stage for an evening filled with camaraderie and reflection. More than one hundred Archons and Archousai were in attendance, representing not only Epsilon Omicron but also the broader Sigma Pi Phi community, including Archons and Archousai from Nu, Zeta Alpha, Delta Gamma and Alpha Nu boulés.

Sire Archon Datren Williams offered opening remarks, speaking with deep affection and gratitude in acknowledgment of Grand Sire Archon–Elect Tyson's contributions to Epsilon Omicron, the Western Region and Sigma Pi Phi as a whole. Sire Archon Williams highlighted Archon Tyson's leadership, dedication and the lasting impact he has had on the Fraternity, noting that his election was not only a personal achievement but a reflection of the values and vision of the Fraternity itself.

Western Region Sire Archon Askia Ahmad followed with personal reflections on his many experiences with Archon Tyson, offering insight into his character, leadership style and unwavering commitment to the Fraternity, underscoring the respect and admiration he has earned as both a leader and an Archon who has consistently uplifted those around him.

When Grand Sire Archon–Elect Tyson took the stage, he spoke with profound humility and heartfelt thanks, expressing deep appreciation for many individuals who have shaped his vision of excellence

within Sigma Pi Phi, acknowledging the collective efforts and support of his fellow Archons. He gave special praise to his Archousa, Cheryl Tyson, and his family, recognizing their unwavering support. His remarks were filled with gratitude, not only for his election as a Grand Officer but for the opportunity to contribute to the legacy of the Fraternity.

The evening concluded with a touching toast from Epsilon Omicron Sire Archon–Elect Dexter Turnquest, whose words captured the spirit of the evening – a celebration of Archon Tyson's past achievements and a toast to the many future successes that await him. Archon Turnquest emphasized the importance of unity, leadership and the shared commitment to excellence that binds Sigma Pi Phi.

The celebration was made even more memorable by the contributions of Archon Kurt Lyn and his Archousa, Michelle, owners of Chapelton Vineyards, who provided a selection of fine wines. The evening featured live music along with an array of gourmet hors d'oeuvres, all sourced from local Black-owned businesses, showcasing the Fraternity's dedication to supporting entrepreneurship within the community.

This extraordinary evening was not only a celebration of Grand Sire Archon–Elect Jesse Tyson's election but also a testament to the enduring strength and unity of Epsilon Omicron and the broader Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. As the evening came to a close, it was clear that Archon Tyson's leadership will continue to inspire and elevate the Fraternity in the years to come.

*Archon Calvin G. Hudson
Gapter, Epsilon Omicron Boulé*

THE REGIONAL BOULÉS

FOR THE PEOPLE . . .
FOR OUR FUTURE:

A VOTELESS PEOPLE IS A VOICELESS PEOPLE

By Archon Kevin Covington, Western Region Grapter, Delta Mu Boulé

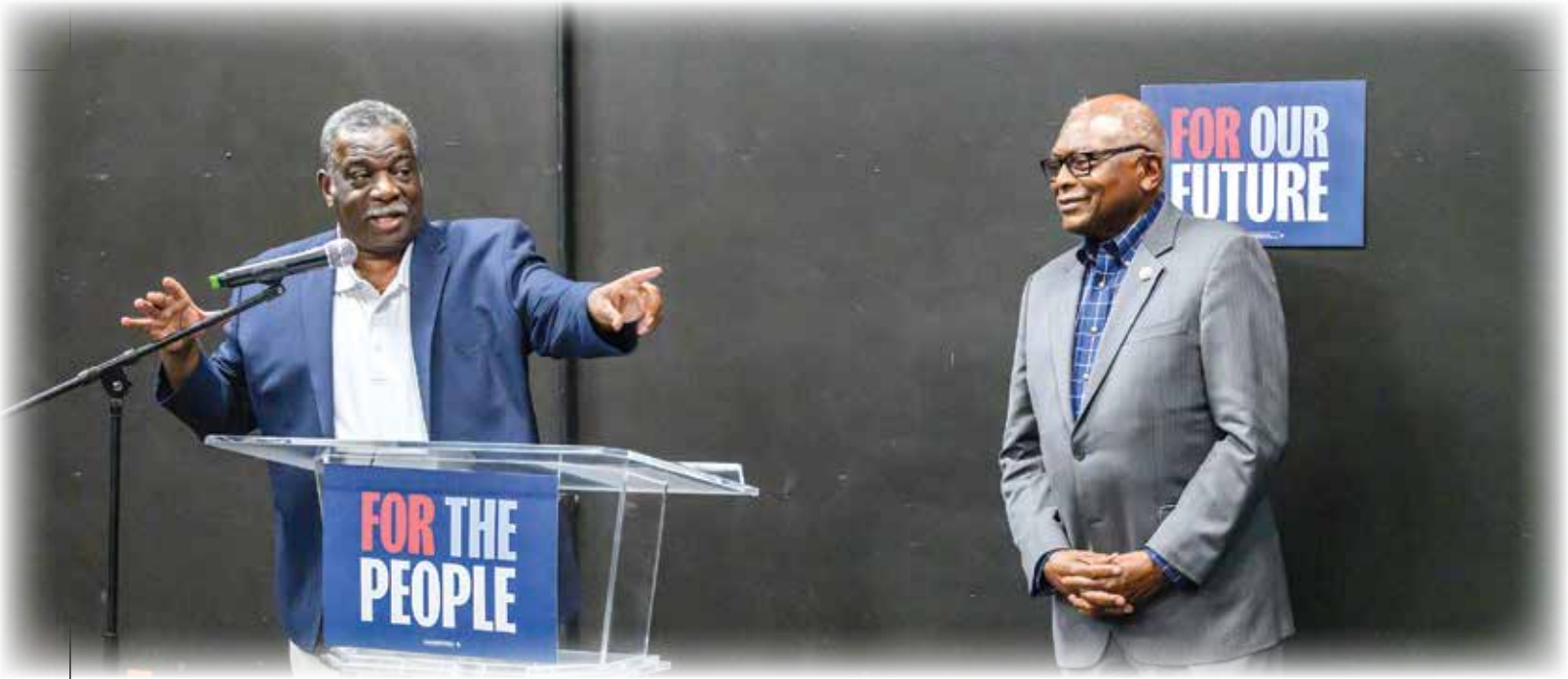


ARCHON JAMES E. CLYBURN

With two days to go before Texans headed to the polls on October 21 for early voting to elect the next president of the United States and members of Congress, who play a key part in passing laws that can have a profound effect on American life, the public policy committees of the three Greater Houston-area member boulés hosted a reception for Archon James

E. Clyburn, United States congressman, on October 19, 2024, at Houston's Black historic Ensemble Theatre.

Archons and Archousai of Nu Boulé, Houston; Epsilon Omicron Boulé, North Houston; and Zeta Alpha Boulé, Fort Bend, were joined by Houston and Harris County leaders and key influencers, including Archon Alexander "Al" Green, United States



ARCHON LONNIE L. JOHNSON INTRODUCES ARCHON JAMES E. CLYBURN.

congressman for Houston’s 9th Congressional District; Archon Sylvester Turner, former Houston mayor and candidate for Houston’s 18th Congressional District; Archon Rodney G. Ellis, Harris County commissioner for Precinct 1; Archon Christopher Hollins, Houston city controller; Archon Lonnie L. Johnson, Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans appointee; and Grand Sire Archon–Elect Jesse J. Tyson, president of The Ensemble Theatre’s board of directors.

During his formal nonpartisan address to attendees, Archon Clyburn, who played a pivotal role in the election of Barack Obama as America’s forty-fourth president, explained his lifelong fight for equal rights for all Americans and provided insight on the 2024 presidential and legislative races. Archon Clyburn also responded to questions from the audience, stressing the importance of fostering a culture of integrity and transparency in

civil service to ensure accountability and efficient government operations.

“Congressman Clyburn works tirelessly to represent our community and continues to demonstrate his commitment to the Boulé as he made special arrangements to spend precious time with Archons and Archousai in Houston between campaigning for Colin Allred and other candidates,” said Archon Lonnie L. Johnson.

Although not a fundraiser, recognizing that a voteless people is a voiceless people, attendees were provided information on how they can help to get out the vote and volunteer to assist candidates.

“It was an inspirational moment and honor to have Archon Clyburn take time at this critical moment to share his educated thoughts about the elections. It is now our time to get ourselves, our neighbors and families prepared for this pivotable moment in history and the role we can play,” said Grand Sire Archon–Elect Jesse J. Tyson.





WESTERN REGION ARCHONS AND ARCHOUSAI GATHER AT THE 57TH GRAND BOULÉ

By Archon Kevin Covington, Western Region Grapter, Delta Mu Boulé

In the midst of the wonderful 57th Grand Boulé that took place from Friday, June 14, to Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, the Archons and Archousai of the Western Region gathered for a lovely reception on Saturday, June 15. Past Grand Sire Archons of the Western Region – James Payne (Delta Zeta) and Gregory Vincent (Gamma Gamma) – were in attendance.

Along with the current officers, Western Region Past Sire Archons Jesse J. Tyson (Epsilon Omicron), Jon R. Gray (Theta), Joseph J. Carlos (Alpha Epsilon) and Donald J. Floyd (Delta Zeta) also attended.

It was a moment to connect while enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres during the full, engaging Grand Boulé experience and to celebrate the leaders and accomplishments of the Western Region. Regional Sire Archon Ahmad Askia offered heartfelt remarks, reminding Archons of the importance of brotherhood above all.

Shortly afterward, at the Grand Business Meeting II, our very own Immediate Past Western Region Sire Archon, Jesse J. Tyson, became Grand Sire Archon-Elect. The Western Region salutes Archon Tyson and stands ready to support him as he represents and serves all of Sigma Pi Phi.



GRAND BOULÉ 





PACIFIC REGION HOSTS 'A DAY OF EXCELLENCE': ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE

By Archon Leon F. Beauchman, Grapier, Gamma Chi Boulé

The Pacific Region held its inaugural “A Day of Excellence” event in San Jose, California, at the Almaden Golf & Country Club. The program was hosted by the Pacific Region’s social and networking engagement committee, chaired by Archon Greg Vaughan. According to Regional Sire Archon Kanahl Kendrick, “The objective of ‘A Day of Excellence’ is to strengthen the relationships among the member boulés assigned to the region, while providing an intellectual and cultural experience within each state in the region.” In attendance were Archons from twelve of the nineteen member boulés in the Pacific Region, traveling from as far away as Anchorage, Alaska.

Nicole Taylor, president and CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) was the keynote speaker. The SVCF is the world’s largest community foundation, managing \$15 billion in assets, with annual grantmaking of more than \$3 billion, benefiting 6,000 nonprofit and community organizations. In addition, the foundation is also deeply involved in solving Silicon Valley’s challenges through advocacy, research, policy and grantmaking. Nicole Taylor has more than twenty years of experience leading community foundations and was named to the *Forbes* 50 Over 50 list in 2022. She has also been recognized by Inside Philanthropy as its Community Foundation Leader of the Year.

The program focused on Archons leaving a legacy for future generations through economic

empowerment. Taylor’s presentation introduced the concept of community foundations and their ability to enable wealth management through donor-advised funds. She highlighted strategies that maximize investor returns and minimize tax exposure while directing contributions to investor identified causes. Taylor also shared that community foundations throughout the United States form a sort of philanthropic network where investors can direct contributions to specific communities.

In addition, Archon Ramsey Jay, chair of the Pacific Region’s economic empowerment–wealth creation committee acknowledged the event sponsors, comprising several Archon-owned businesses. These included Power Personnel (Archon Rickey Green, Gamma Chi Boulé), District and Charter Patrol (Archon Joseph Paulino, Epsilon Tau Boulé), Kartunz (Archon Tracy Porter, Epsilon Beta Boulé), Desert Sky Software (Archon Luke Holton, Gamma Mu Boulé), Marysville Toyota (Archon James Colon, Alpha Omicron Boulé) and The Harris Estate Vineyards (Archon Bernard A. Harris, Jr., Nu Boulé).

Regional Sire Archon Kendrick closed the program by encouraging Archons to continue getting to know the best of one another and inviting them to the next “A Day of Excellence” event planned for Las Vegas, Nevada.



PACIFIC REGION MEMBER BOULÉS HOST RECEPTION FOR MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

By Archon Vernon C. Goins II, Grapter, Alpha Gamma Boulé

Archon Coyness Ennix of Alpha Gamma Boulé, Oakland–Berkeley, California, and Archon Larry Williams of Gamma Mu Boulé, Phoenix, organized a reception at the Claremont Country Club in Oakland on August 24, 2024, introducing Darin Atwater, the first African American artistic director of the Monterey Jazz Festival, to prominent members of the community. In addition to demonstrating overwhelming support for the new director, sponsors donated more than \$72,000 to assure the perpetuity of the festival and its jazz education programs. Following the warm

reception, attendees from member boulés were treated to an afternoon of classic, contemporary and modern jazz and instruction. Pacific Region Sire Archon Kanahl Kendrick and Past Grand Sire Archon Rodney Reed were also in attendance.

The Monterey Jazz Festival, the marquee jazz festival in the country, established in 1958, is the longest continuously running such festival in the world. Darin Atwater is the third artistic director and the first Black person to hold the position in its long history. Atwater, a renowned leader at the intersection of art

and education, was trained at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He is a master creator of musical hybrids, having blended American pop, soul, hip-hop, jazz, classical and gospel music into dazzling fusions, traversing virtually every medium, including recordings, live performance, radio and television—literally reinventing the symphony orchestra in America.

Congratulations and special recognition to all the member boulés, whose participation was an integral and indispensable part of this illustrious event.

REGIONAL BOULÉS 2025



CENTRAL REGIONAL BOULÉ
June 13-15, 2025

White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia



SOUTHEAST REGIONAL BOULÉ
August 14-17, 2025

Charlotte, North Carolina



NORTHEAST REGIONAL BOULÉ
September 23-28, 2025

Mashantucket, Connecticut



PACIFIC REGIONAL BOULÉ
October 23-26, 2025

Tucson, Arizona



WESTERN REGIONAL BOULÉ
October 30 - November 2, 2025

Frisco, Texas

SAVE THE DATES

THE BOULÉ FOUNDATION



PAST GRAND SIRE ARCHON AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOULÉ FOUNDATION ANTHONY W. HALL, JR., PAST GRAND SIRE ARCHON WESLEY A. COLEMAN AND ARCHON MITCHELL F. CRUSTO AT THE BOULÉ FOUNDATION GALA IN SAN DIEGO ON JUNE 16, 2024

THE GRANDEST PATRON IN BOULÉ FOUNDATION HISTORY:

Mitchell F. Crusto

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

Kudos to Archon Mitchell F. Crusto of Alpha Alpha Boulé, New Orleans, for his gift of \$650,000 to the Boulé Foundation. Archon Crusto's gift is the largest single donation made to the Foundation to date, setting a new giving benchmark and authorizing the die cut for a new Legacy Award-level medallion in his image.

Who is Mitchell Crusto? He is an Archon, a scholar and a gentleman, an attorney, and a savvy real estate investor, who learned from his mother that "a penny saved is a penny earned plus interest!" That he didn't

inherit those pennies should come as no surprise. Few, if any, Archons have been so blessed. No, he is an Archon, like many of us, who was heir, instead, to the riches of a loving, caring Black community that poured its wisdom, discipline and hopes for the future into him and, through him, into succeeding generations, knowing that they might never see such a future for themselves.

This was how it was for Mitch Crusto. This was how it used to be. For him, as for so many of us, education



ARCHON CRUSTO'S MATERNAL GREAT GREAT GRANDMOTHER, JULIA WILSON PREVOST, FORMERLY ENSLAVED, CIRCA 1870



ARCHON CRUSTO'S MATERNAL GREAT GRANDFATHER, ALEXANDER PREVOST, CIRCA 1890

was key. Pride was a powerful incentive, and shame was a persuasive deterrent. You did not dare risk anything that would bring dishonor to your family name or embarrass your community. Like many of us, Mitch worked hard and stayed focused on the tasks at hand, and that left little time to reflect on or resent what he lacked.

Raised by his mother, who was widowed young, in an inner-city, lower-middle-class New Orleans Black Catholic community, he is the beneficiary of enduring values passed down to and instilled in him with the help of his grandparents. As one of five children, he learned early on to care about and share whatever there was. And somehow, no matter how little, there was always enough, enough to be grateful, then and now, for all that his family, teachers, mentors and community gave him that can never be repaid.

It was enough to take him to a crucial next step: an 8th-grade honors prep program. Each succeeding opportunity was enough, and he endeavored not to waste any of them. As we all know from similar experiences, at each new turn, the paths diverge. And looking back on the choices we made, we can say, like Archon Crusto, that the road taken has made



ARCHON CRUSTO'S MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS, ANITA PREVOST SAULNEY AND RENE JOSEPH SAULNEY, SR., CIRCA 1950



ARCHON CRUSTO'S MOTHER, WILMA SAULNEY CRUSTO WILSON

all the difference. Those chosen roads took him to Yale, Oxford, Yale Law School, and to teaching posts at Loyola University, Washington University School of Law, University of Miami School of Law, Vermont Law School and Washington University Business School. He is the author of *Involuntary Heroes: Hurricane Katrina's Impact on Civil Liberties* and dozens of scholarly essays.

Archon Crusto's perspective is long. Through the eyes of his ancestors, he has seen the lash, backlash and whiplash of white supremacy's impact on Black progress, from the end of Reconstruction to the end of affirmative action and the metaphoric reenactment of his great uncle's lynching in a vat of boiling, liquified sugar in the sugarcoated legalese of the Supreme Court's retrenchment of Black civil rights, freedoms and protections.

His success has been hard won, and he could have purchased "a second home in the Caribbean or filled his garage with several high-profile autos." While he does not begrudge such symbols of success to any, he says he "heard a calling from above," the celestial and providential voices of his ancestors – his deceased grandparents – who supported his development and

instilled in him a different set of values: live below your means, save and forever be in gratitude.

Where would the accumulated financial gain of years of hard work go? Whom would it serve, and how could it do the most good? Whom could he trust more than the community of folk who gave him everything? The answer for Archon Crusto was none other than the Boulé, where he found a home much like the caring community that was seminal in his development, and the Fraternity's giving arm, the Boulé Foundation.

While working hard, saving and sacrificing tend to sound prosaic today in the ears of the prevailing popular culture of celebrity cachet and useless roués used to seeing themselves as the center of attention and entitled to instant gratification, Archon Crusto finds his students "eager to learn and to participate in society." He added, "I think they would appreciate hearing from the older generation about how we faced and overcame adversity. They realize that this is a pivotal moment in the history of our nation."

The antidiversity, anti-equity, exclusion movement is gaining momentum and could quickly culminate in Project 2025's programs and pogroms. The risks



ARCHON CRUSTO AS A MARSHALL SCHOLAR WITH CLASSMATES AT THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT IN LONDON, 1977

are not political abstractions; they are real and imminent, with life-altering consequences for some and possibly life-ending consequences for others. As Archon Crusto cautioned, “Now more than ever, the Boulé Foundation’s support of educational initiatives, especially at our HBCUs, is critical to the survival of democracy itself.”

Inspired by the “Decades of Giving” foldout in the Foundation’s annual report, Archon Crusto pledged, “My aspiration is to jump-start and facilitate the next growth spurt in the corpus of the fund. A foundation corpus of \$150 million within the next three years would make possible grants of approximately \$5 million a year. There is intrinsic value in pooling our monies with the now \$36 million fund, which currently makes grants of approximately \$1.7 million annually to our community, particularly for scholarships and voter education. That is why I wrote a check for \$650,000, following the legacy leadership of Anthony Hall, Calvin Tyler, Thomas Shropshire, James Payne, John Clemmons, Robert Franklin, William Thompson, Harvey Russell and Percy Julian.”



ARCHON MITCH CRUSTO AND ARCHOUSA LISA CRUSTO

IN MEMORIAM



Charlotte L.K. Andrews

Archousa Charlotte Lucille Kersey “Boobee” Andrews, 80, of Gamma Rho Boulé, Ann Arbor, Michigan, passed away on August 2, 2024. Born in Ypsilanti, Michigan, on December 27, 1943, the oldest of two daughters of Charles and Mildred Kersey, she graduated from Roosevelt High School in Ypsilanti, where she was a cheerleader and one of the top members of the class. She moved to Ann Arbor for a short time in 1965 before relocating to East Lansing to attend Michigan State University.

After returning from MSU, she began working for the University of Michigan personnel office in Ann Arbor, where she met her future husband, Archon Archie Andrews. After a few years at the personnel office she enrolled at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, earning her bachelor’s degree in education, and went on to receive her master’s degree in education from the University of Michigan, at the same time beginning her illustrious thirty-year career in teaching for the Ypsilanti public schools.

An avid sports enthusiast, she loved Michigan athletics. She also spent many wonderful retirement years at the family’s seasonal

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Jon Eric Barfield

Remembered as a man with a gentle spirit and loving heart, Archon Jon Eric Barfield, 72, of Alpha Pi Boulé, San Diego, departed this life on July 31, 2024. Born on November 3, 1951, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, to John William Barfield and Betty Jane Barfield, he earned his bachelor’s degree at Princeton University in 1974 and his juris doctorate at Harvard University Law School in 1977. Early in his career he practiced corporate and securities law at Sidley Austin, LLP, one of the nation’s leading law firms.

In February 2012, after a thirty-two-year career, he retired as chairman, president and CEO of Bartech, Inc. – which was founded by his father – an industry-leading professional services firm delivering talent management and managed service provider solutions to Global 1000 firms. In July 1999 a front-page article in *The Wall Street Journal* recognized his leadership, describing him and the company he led as one of “America’s great success stories.” The company employs and manages the daily work assignments for more than 120,000 associates and more than \$4.7 billion in procurement for major employers around

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Fletcher Coombs, Jr.

Just one day before his hundredth birthday, Emeritus Archon and Past Grammateus Fletcher Coombs, Jr., of Kappa Boulé, Atlanta, passed away on July 7, 2024. Born in Atlanta on July 8, 1924, the oldest of three children of Fletcher Coombs, Sr., and Pearl Floyd Coombs, he attended the Laboratory School on the campus of the Atlanta University Center. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in accounting from his beloved Morehouse College in 1950, he received an M.B.A. from the Atlanta University Graduate School of Business in 1953 and a graduate diploma from Indiana University.

Serving in World War II as a supply sergeant and a combat infantryman, he earned the rank of second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve and a Bronze Star for meritorious service in ground combat.

Archon Coombs began his career in 1953 as a teller with Mutual Federal Savings and Loan, which, at the time, was the only Black-owned savings and loan association in Georgia. During his first twenty years he moved from teller to treasurer to executive vice president, becoming the company’s fourth president in

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Norvell Vandervall Coots

Former president and CEO at Holy Cross Health and the Maryland Region of Trinity Health, a well-known physician and a retired brigadier general, Archon Norvell Vandervall “Van” Coots, 65, of Epsilon Boulé, Washington, D.C., died on June 12, 2024, at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore as a result of injuries sustained in a horseback riding incident.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on August 10, 1958, to the late Dr. William Norvell Coots and Theresa P. Coots, he decided to become a doctor, following in his father’s footsteps: “I often sat at his feet, watching his steadfast dedication in his office, visiting the sick in the hospital and making house calls,” Archon Coots said, adding, “I think he would have preferred me to be a banker.”

His mother, prior to becoming director of the Tulsa Urban League, ran a program called Jobs Unlimited in Tulsa. Archon Coots watched her play a role during the civil rights struggle, building strong bridges between Black and white individuals, Christians and Jews, and working for the good of all Tulsans.

He recalled some of the best advice he got from his dad. “Whenever I would fall, my father would always say, ‘Get up boy ... for God’s sake, get up!’ And to

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James E. Craigen, Sr.

A professor at the Howard University School of Social Work for more than forty-three years, Archon James Edward “Jim” Craigen, Sr., 85, of Gamma Boulé, Baltimore, transitioned peacefully to Omega Boulé on July 17, 2024. Born in Memphis on November 6, 1938, the middle child of three children of Lorene Craigen and Isaac “Buddy” Craigen II, he graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1956 and earned a B.A. in sociology from Morris Brown College in Atlanta in 1960. He continued his education at Atlanta University School of Social Work, receiving an M.S.W. in 1962 and, at the behest of Archon Whitney M. Young, Jr., soon joined the National Association of Social Workers. He enrolled in the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School in Texas and, upon completion of the program, returned to Atlanta as a second lieutenant, concluding his military career as a first lieutenant in 1968.

Archon Craigen and his former wife, Ruth Jeanette Brookins, met on the campus of Morris Brown College and had a military wedding at Fort McPherson military base in Atlanta on August 24, 1963.

During his tenure at Howard University he chaired or served on numerous committees, including the executive committee and the Faculty Senate council. His

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Warren Leon Davis III

A fervent believer that education can change the trajectory of citizens’ lives, especially the lives of disadvantaged youth, Archon Warren Leon Davis III, 87, of Phi Boulé, Montgomery–Tuskegee, Alabama, a beloved member of the Alabama River Region, passed away on May 12, 2024, leaving a legacy of compassion and professionalism and an outstanding commitment to education.

Born on February 20, 1937, in Hope Hull, Alabama, the tenth child of the late Warren Leon Davis, Jr., and Katie Bowie Davis, he began his formal education at the Rock Creek Missionary Baptist Church public school at Burkville and completed his secondary education at the Calhoun Laboratory School. He earned a B.S. in secondary education, with a major in mathematics and a minor in history, from Alabama State University in 1960, an M.Ed. in school administration from Tuskegee University, and an Ed.S. in school administration from Troy University in 1976. A lifelong learner, he also completed courses at Alabama A&M University, Talladega College, Case Western Reserve University and the University of Alabama.

Archon Davis taught at many schools throughout his career, including Georgia Washington High School in Mount Meigs,

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Ellis Gordon, Jr.

A renowned community advocate, Archon Ellis Gordon, Jr., 77, of Gamma Zeta Boulé, Pasadena, California, a trailblazer in finance and the founding principal of Gordon/Barash Associates, Inc., a comprehensive financial advisory firm, passed away on August 2, 2024.

Born on March 27, 1947, in New Orleans and raised in Houston, Texas, he graduated from Kashmere Gardens High School, earning a B.A. in economics at Texas Southern University and an M.B.A. in finance and marketing at the University of Illinois. He spent most of his adult life in Los Angeles.

Archon Gordon held positions at such banking institutions as First Interstate Bank, Crocker National Bank, Capital Bank of California and Founders National Bank (now known as OneUnited), where he was the architect of their credit administration division. Among his many achievements was his role as a consultant with the Pacific Coast Regional Small Business Development Corp., where he played a key part in elevating it to one of the leading Small Business Development Centers in Los Angeles.

Demonstrating exceptional skill throughout his career, a man of unwavering faith, resolute when it came to causes that remained near and dear to his heart – including mental health and wellness, carceral justice, economic

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Avarita Laurel Hanson

Founder, visionary, institution builder, host, friend and confidante, proud of her West Indian heritage and grounded in her religious faith, Archousa Avarita “Rita” Laurel Hanson, 70, of Kappa Boulé, Atlanta, passed away on January 22, 2024. A two-time breast cancer survivor, she brought a fighting spirit to every aspect of her life, including her final illness.

Born in Harlem on July 21, 1953, to Earle Lincoln Hanson and Gloria Grace Troupe Hanson, she grew up in Mount Vernon, New York, attended Mount Vernon High School and graduated magna cum laude from the Harvard Radcliffe Institute in 1975. As a member of the University of Pennsylvania Law School class of 1978, she was active in the Black Law Student Association and a researcher for the renowned historian and federal judge Archon A. Leon Higginbotham.

Archousa Hanson’s leadership skills were apparent at an early age. During her senior year in college she founded the Association of Black Radcliffe Women (now the Association of Black Harvard Women). An early member of Harvard’s Kuumba Singers, she continued to support the group, raising funds and hosting concerts at her home for the Harvard Club of Georgia.

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Sybil G. Haydel Morial

Civil rights activist and matriarch of one of the most prominent families in New Orleans, Archousa Sybil Gayle Haydel Morial, 91, of Alpha Alpha Boulé, New Orleans, passed away peacefully on September 3, 2024.

She was born in New Orleans on November 26, 1932, the second of four children of Dr. Clarence C. Haydel and Eudora Haydel. Her father was a prominent New Orleans physician and her mother was a highly regarded schoolteacher. She attended Xavier University Preparatory School and Xavier University, later transferring to Boston University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in 1952 and a master’s degree in education in 1955. At Boston University she met a young graduate theology student who was studying for his doctorate degree. Years later, she recalled being impressed and inspired by Archon Martin Luther King, Jr.’s oratorical skills when she and her friends attended his electrifying sermons after they attended Catholic Mass.

In 1954 she met Ernest “Dutch” Morial during a book club discussion of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*. They married a year later.

After completing her master’s degree, Archousa Morial taught school in Newton, Massachusetts, for nearly four years, afterwards

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Joseph Alphonso Pierce, Jr.

A trailblazer in the worlds of entrepreneurship, the arts and literature in the African American community, Emeritus Archon Joseph “Joe” Alphonso Pierce, Jr., 89, charter Archon of Gamma Phi Boulé, San Antonio, transitioned to Omega Boulé on August 29, 2024. He was born in Marshall, Texas, on August 13, 1935, to Dr. Juanita George Pierce and Dr. Joseph Alphonso Pierce, Sr., both lifelong educators at several historically Black colleges and universities, including Wiley College (now University) and Texas Southern University. Archon Pierce attended the renowned Jack Yates High School in Houston, where he ranked fourth in his class academically and won two state championships in tennis doubles, and he graduated from Texas Southern University in 1957 with a major in chemistry and minors in mathematics and biology.

He earned his M.D. at Meharry Medical College in Nashville in 1961, and after interning at Hubbard Hospital, he joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps, initially serving a year in Korea followed by several months at Fort Ord, California, before being transferred to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

On March 1, 1964, he married Aaronetta Hamilton Pierce in Nashville, and the couple moved to San Antonio, where Archon

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Miriam Elizabeth Pink

A great entrepreneur, Archousa Miriam Elizabeth “Mimi” Pink, 79, of Gamma Zeta Boulé, Pasadena, California, moved on to heaven on July 13, 2024. Born on March 13, 1945, she was the youngest of four children of Luis and Dora Osollo, who had modest means but managed to send all their children to the Catholic school system in Los Angeles. She pursued further education at California State University, Los Angeles.

Archousa Pink, a Mexican American, met and married Archon Tillman Pink, Jr., an African American, during a time when interracial marriages were rare and often frowned upon. Their bond was unwavering and despite societal pressures they never let anything drive them apart in their fifty years of marriage. Together they raised a blended family, eventually influencing the lives of twenty-four children.

Archousa Pink became an executive in the assisted living industry, specializing in memory impairment care for the elderly. Orthodox Jews taught her well. She started by buying an eighty-room retirement hotel in Glendale, the hometown of the actor John Wayne. When she toured for the purchase, there were seventy residents. When she got the keys, there were only ten. For the first six months she had to run the busi-

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Felicenne Houston Ramey

Leaving a legacy of academic excellence, community service and deep love for her family, Archousa Felicenne Houston Ramey, 84, of Gamma Epsilon Boulé, Sacramento, California, a longtime Davis resident, passed away peacefully in her daughter’s home on August 2, 2024. A devoted mother, grandmother, educator and community leader, she spent her final years with her son’s family in Philadelphia and her daughter’s family in Santa Barbara.

Born in Philadelphia to Bertha and George Houston, she was the youngest of five children and the only daughter. Her father, a World War I veteran, affectionately called her “Little Sweets.” His love for classical music inspired her lifelong passion for playing the piano. After his untimely death, when she was eight years old, she took on household responsibilities, helping her mother, who worked long hours as a nurse.

Growing up in the Richard Allen Homes, a government-subsidized housing community in North Philadelphia, Archousa Ramey developed resilience and an appreciation for the strength of her community. Despite financial hardship, she excelled in academics, skipping grades and graduating at the top of her class at the age of 16 from the Scotland School for Veterans’ Children, a

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Alfred L. Reed

After a distinguished career as an educator, principal and college administrator for more than forty years, Archon Alfred L. Reed, 79, of Alpha Mu Boulé, Augusta, Georgia, died on August 30, 2024, after significant illness and hospitalization. Born on March 25, 1945, in Anderson, South Carolina, he earned a B.S. from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina; a master's degree from Converse College in Spartanburg; and an education specialist degree and a doctorate in education from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Known in Alpha Mu as the quiet servant who did not seek the center light but always got the job done with gentlemanly expertise and focused aplomb, Archon Reed thrived on helping students individually and collectively. He was indispensable to Alpha Mu's efforts in presenting more than \$150,000 to area students over the last ten years. Each Saturday morning he and his wife volunteered to prepare young men in Project BBUILD, helping to answer questions about the problems that young people face in today's times.

A beacon of service, he and Archousa Reed shared their love and life together as well as their connection with their beloved Tabernacle Baptist Church. They were actively involved in the dea-

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George Allen Smith

Past Sire Archon George Allen Smith, 81, of Beta Lambda Boulé, Hampton–Norfolk, Virginia, slipped away peacefully into eternal rest on August 9, 2024. Born in Portsmouth, Virginia, on September 16, 1942, he was the middle child of three children of Benjamin Smith and Rosa Catherine Smith, parents who always stressed that education was the key to success. He began his Christian walk at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where in 1966 he married Alma Randall.

Archon Smith received his formal education in the Portsmouth public schools, graduating from I.C. Norcom High School in 1961. He matriculated at Norfolk State College (now University) for three years prior to being drafted into the U.S. Army. After basic training, he was selected for Officer Candidate School and accordingly commissioned as a second lieutenant. After serving in Vietnam as a field artillery officer, he returned to Norfolk State, earning a B.S. in biology in 1972 and his D.D.S. from the University of Michigan in 1977.

He operated a private dental practice in Portsmouth for several years before joining the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service. During his tenure, he was the chief dentist of the North Central Region of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, becoming one of

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James Leonard Sweatt III

After a lifetime of firsts, James Leonard Sweatt III of Alpha Epsilon Boulé, Dallas, entered eternal rest after enduring the final stage of Alzheimer's disease on July 23, 2024, in Herndon, Virginia. Born in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 13, 1937, Archon Sweatt was the only son of Galveston high school principal James L. Sweatt II and Dallas school teacher Jewell Juanita Burnett Sweatt. His parents divorced when he was young, and Archon Sweatt was raised by his mother as – what he liked to call – a “latchkey child” in South Dallas. His mother stressed the value of an education, and his aspirations to enter the medical field took root early. An uncle and two cousins were already doctors in the family. During his early school years, his uncle Heman Sweatt integrated the University of Texas School of Law with the historic 1950 United States Supreme Court decision *Sweatt v. Painter*.

At Lincoln High School, Archon Sweatt was the football team quarterback and salutatorian of his 1954 class. During his senior year, a representative of the National Negro Scholarship Society and Fund administered a test to selected students at all Black high schools in the South to see if they could compete in integrated East Coast colleges. Archon Sweatt and two friends

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Porcher L. Taylor, Jr.

One of the first two African Americans to earn a doctorate from the University of South Carolina, Archon Porcher “PT” L. Taylor, Jr., 98, of Alpha Beta Boulé, Richmond, peacefully departed this life on May 26, 2024, surrounded by family members.

He was born on August 9, 1925, in Jacksonville, Florida, to Porcher L. Taylor, Sr., and Mary Bell Taylor. His father was the founder, publisher and editor of *The Florida Tattler*, one of the few African American newspapers in the South at the time. Archon Taylor worked as a typesetter with his father at Taylor and Son Printing Company, Inc., where the weekly publication shed light on justice issues affecting African Americans in the South. These early experiences fueled his lifelong pursuit of breaking barriers and his attempts to alleviate racism, bigotry and hatred in this country. He was also shaped by his active role in the Boy Scouts, where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. In 1994 he became the fourth Virginian to receive the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the National Eagle Scout Association’s highest honor.

Archon Taylor received his B.S. from Tuskegee University, where he was the starting fullback on the varsity football team and a member of the Tuskegee Institute

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Wendell Carter Thomas

Archon Wendell Carter Thomas, 81, of Delta Tau Boulé, Frankfort, Kentucky, passed away on July 6, 2024, in Louisville. He’d been inducted into Delta Tau on November 19, 2006. Born on May 20, 1943, in Ellisville, Mississippi, he graduated from Kentucky State University (KSU) and later earned a master’s degree at Webster University. He had a fulfilling career, dedicating more than thirty years to Louisville Gas and Electric and then as sergeant at arms for the Kentucky Senate, which he faithfully served until his retirement at the end of the 2023 legislative session. A devoted alumnus of KSU, Archon Thomas was honored with a doctorate of humane letters from his alma mater.

As a coach for Little League football in the Highlands of Louisville for nearly twenty years and a member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Board of Control, he maintained several interests focused on community engagement and service.

In addition to his passion for and support of KSU, Archon Thomas was known for his prowess in competition barbecues, fishing in Canada and his love of mentoring. He balanced his professional life with diverse hobbies, including cooking and bird-watching, each of which he approached with enthusiasm and dedication. He

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Reginald R. Webb

Truly a Renaissance man, with a legacy of transforming lives and uplifting communities, Archon Reginald “Reggie” R. Webb, 76, of Epsilon Tau Boulé, Inland Empire of Southern California, transitioned to Omega Boulé on July 20, 2024. Born on March 25, 1948, in South Bend, Indiana, he spent one year living in the South with his great-grandparents to help on their farm, and in 1959, at the age of 11, he moved with his grandmother to Southern California, where they settled in South Central Los Angeles.

While attending Manual Arts High School, he was mentored by the family minister and also by an elderly friend of his grandmother’s who happened to be Jewish. After high school, in the mid-1960s, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard, and following his discharge he studied political science at California State University, Los Angeles. During that time he became actively involved in the War on Poverty, working for the Greater LA Community Action Agency and rising to a department management position.

In 1973 he joined McDonald’s accelerated management development program and, after honing his skills in the restaurants, transitioned to the corporate division, ascending during his twelve-year tenure to the

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Charlotte Lucille Kersey Andrews, continued

home in what was commonly referred to as “the Eastern Shore” of Mobile Bay, Alabama, where she tended to her much-loved flowers and blooming trees.

Archousa Andrews leaves to rejoice in her memory her husband, Archon Archie Andrews; her daughter, Julie Helm Andrews (Erias) Terrell; her son, Archie Allen Andrews; her sister, Donna Kersey Ethington; a host of extended family members; and her cousin Charles (Janelle) Ramsey, who was always there for her in time of need.

Jon Eric Barfield, continued

the world, making Bartech (now owned by Impellam Group, plc) one of the largest talent acquisition and management firms in the United States.

For the past twelve years Archon Barfield had been president and chief executive officer of LJ Holdings Investment Company, LLC, with interests in venture capital, real estate and human capital services.

A member of the board of directors of CMS Energy, he served as a director of Good Technology prior to its acquisition by BlackBerry, Ltd., in 2015. He was the lead independent director of BMC Software prior to its acquisition in 2013 by a private equity consortium led by Bain Capital. Archon Barfield also served as a director of Motorola Mobility Holdings, Inc., prior to its acquisition by Google, Inc., in 2012; Dow Jones & Company prior to its acquisition by News Corp. in 2007; and National City Corp. prior to its merger with PNC Financial Services Group in 2008.

He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Association of Black Princeton Alumni in 2009, and in 2008 he received the Leadership Award from the

National Minority Supplier Development Council, the highest honor given by that organization to a business owner, recognizing superior achievement in business and excellence in entrepreneurship. He received the 2011 Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, presented to Eagle Scouts who as adults have “continued to live out the integrity and morals rooted in Scouting.”

Also a retired director of several nonprofit institutions, he was a charter trustee emeritus of Princeton University and trustee emeritus of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. He was a retired director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Business Leaders for Michigan, the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, the Boy Scouts of America, Reading Is Fundamental and Kettering University. Former Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm appointed him to the Invest Michigan! program of the Business Leadership Council in 2008.

He is survived by his wife, Archousa Vivian Carpenter-Barfield; his son, Jon William (Stephanie) Barfield; his daughter, Elaine Betty Barfield; two stepdaughters; two granddaughters, two step-granddaughters; and a host of other family members and friends.

Fletcher Coombs, Jr., continued

1973. In 1977 he was honored for his forty-four years of outstanding service and was named director emeritus.

Archon Coombs has held positions in a number of organizations. He was a member of the advisory board for AAA South, director of the AAA Georgia Motor Club, a member of the board of directors and the finance committee for the Sadie G. Mays Health and Rehabilitation Center, president/chairman and finance committee member for the Butler Street YMCA, president of the Community Founda-

tion, director for Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance Co., trustee for Southwest Atlanta Hospital, and treasurer for United Way.

Predeceased by his wife of sixty-five years, Archousa Helen Grimes Coombs, he leaves to cherish his memory his daughters Kei C. Breedlove and Toni C. (Phillip) Burns, M.D.; his grandson, John Fletcher (Shanel) Breedlove; great-grandchildren Taylor, Brody, Grace and Vivian; and a host of friends and family members.

The Fraternity was undoubtedly fortunate to have a man of his caliber within our midst as a fraternal brother for these many years.

Norvell Vandervall Coots, continued

this very day, whenever I have stumbled and fallen, literally and figuratively, or encountered obstacles and have felt like giving up, those words still rally me to keep moving. There’s still more work to do.”

A certified dermatologist, Archon Coots received his M.D. from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and earned a master’s degree in strategic studies from the Army War College in Pennsylvania as well as a certificate in advanced health-care management.

He spent thirty-six years in the military, rising to the highest ranks, serving throughout the world. He said that his father was influential in helping him achieve his goals to become a military doctor. “My father was too young for World War I and too old for World War II, but he used to read me military histories and talk to me about duty, honor and country. He talked about those known as great military leaders, such as General John J. Pershing, Lieutenant George S. Patton and General Douglas MacArthur, to the point that I thought they were my uncles too! There was no way

I was going to be anything but a member of the military.”

He retired as a brigadier general from the U.S. Army in 2016, having culminated his military service as commanding general of Regional Health Command Europe, concurrently serving as the command surgeon for the U.S. Army Europe and the Seventh Army. His career encompassed such roles as deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command, assistant surgeon general for force projection at the Pentagon and surgeon general for the U.S. Forces in Afghanistan. Notably, he held the significant position of the final commander of the historic Walter Reed Health Care System and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., from 2008 to 2011.

Archon Coots presided as board chairman of the Maryland Physicians Care and the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and was a board member of the Maryland Hospital Association and the American Hospital Association. During the challenging times of the pandemic, he further displayed his commitment by being an integral member of the governor of Maryland's COVID-19 task force.

Listed in *Who's Who in America* and recognized by *US Black Engineer* magazine as a Top Military Service Professional, his accolades include civilian and military awards, markedly the Scroll of Merit of the National Medical Association and the U.S. Army Distinguished Service Medal. He received the Order of Military Medical Merit and the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for leadership and faith.

He was also recognized as a valued member of the American Academy of Dermatology Leadership Circle, furthering the academy's mission to advance patient care, education and advocacy in the field of dermatology. This affiliation underscored his enduring dedication to excellence, learning

and collaboration, positioning him as a true luminary in both health-care leadership and dermatology.

Archon Coots was a member of *Becker's Hospital Review's* esteemed list of “105 Physician Leaders to Know” in 2019, as well as “145 Physicians to Know” in 2023. Sponsored by the prestigious American Medical Association, this accolade served as a testament to his profound impact on the health-care landscape.

Reflecting his dedication to humanitarian causes, he held the esteemed title of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great (Military Division). He also was recognized as a Knight of the Order of the White Greyhound and had been awarded the Bessarabian Orders Caritas (Charity) and Renastere (Revival) in acknowledgment of his compassionate initiatives benefiting the orphans of the Republic of Moldova. In 2002 he founded Project Moldova, a program of vocational training for children in the numerous orphanages and boarding schools in that country. Funded primarily out of pocket, this project seeks to give the children a creative outlet of traditional rug weaving, a sense of purpose and a sense of self-worth. Archon Coots traveled to Moldova once or twice a year to check on the progress of the organization, and he maintained contact with one of the children he met while providing dermatological services to the orphanages. Project Moldova is still running today. He was also recognized by Pearl S. Buck International for his contributions to the development of a health-care program for Amerasian orphans in Korea.

A devoted Companion of the Military Order of the World Wars and a dedicated Compatriot of the Sons of the American Revolution, he was an esteemed member of Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities, organizations renowned for their commitment

to service and leadership, and he served as chair of Epsilon Boulé's strategic planning committee.

Archon Coots is survived by his loving wife, Archousa Claudia Coots; two teenage children, Maximilian Coots and Catalina Coots; a sister, Elizabeth Early; a stepsister, Dr. Denise Holland; and a host of extended family members and friends. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

James Edward Craigen, Sr., continued

servant leadership footprint influenced hundreds of students, particularly graduate students and assistants, and his career culminated with the distinction of being named Howard University professor emeritus.

Active in such organizations as the Council on Social Work Education, the Association for Community Organization and Social Administration, and the Maryland Association of Social Service Board, he was cochair of the Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaborative Council, president of Human Services Systems Associates, Inc., vice president for community revitalization and social services of DADSRA Worldwide LLC, a founding board member of the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy, and a member of the board of trustees of St. John Baptist Church.

Archon Craigen was preceded in death by his beloved companion, Patricia “Pat” Smith. The two shared a love of domestic and international travel.

Left to cherish his memory are his former spouse and lifelong friend, Ruth Craigen; his son, James E. “Jay” Craigen II; his daughter and son-in-law, Rhea Craigen, M.D., and Garth Daley; granddaughters Kai Daley, Jaelyn Craigen and Kayla Daley; and a host of loving extended family

members, friends and colleagues whose life he touched over the span of his eighty-five years.

Warren Leon Davis III, continued

Lowes's Adult School and Tuskegee University. He served as a school administrator at Georgia Washington High School, Jefferson Davis High School, George Washington Carver High School, Dunbar Elementary School, Hayneville Road Elementary School, McIntyre Junior High School and Houston Hill Junior High School. A pioneer in his own right, he was the first school administrator in the United States to operate an "Opportunity School" for disadvantaged youths, which was sponsored by the National Education Association. He was also the first Black executive hired by the Alabama Department of Transportation to run a statewide program for young people.

A member of the National Education Association, the Alabama Education Association, the Montgomery County Education Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Phi Delta Kappa, he served as an evaluator for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. President of the Montgomery County Education Association and vice president of the Central Alabama Laubach Literacy Council, he was a board member of the Preservation of the Calhoun High School Properties, an elected member of the State of Alabama Democratic Executive Committee from 1998 until his death and an active member of the NAACP. He enjoyed supporting his wife, Tyna, in the roles of Connecting Link and Carateer.

Archon Davis leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife, Archousa Tyna DeRamus Davis; his daughter, Dr. Wartyna Davis;

his son, Dr. Warren L. Davis IV; his grandson, Tyler Davis; his granddaughter, Tyna Davis; his sister, Barbara Pearson; brothers Nathaniel Davis, Anthony Davis and Raymond Davis; and a host of relatives and friends.

Ellis Gordon, Jr., continued

empowerment, and financial literacy – his service to the Greater Los Angeles community and the nation inspired transformative change. Also a patron of the arts, including music and dance, his commitment illuminated a spirit of positivity, devotion and grace.

He was a board member for the Corridor Economic Development Corp., FRIENDS—the Foundation of the California African American Museum (treasurer from 2003 to 2014), the Bidly Mason Charitable Foundation (treasurer from 2016), the Texas Southern University Greater Los Angeles Alumni Chapter (treasurer from 2001) and his beloved National Alliance on Mental Illness Urban Los Angeles chapter.

Honored as a distinguished member and fifth president of the Los Angeles chapter of the National Black MBA Association, he remains eternally in the Omega chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc.

Archon Gordon is survived by his son, Ellis Gordon III, and his stepdaughter, Maia Campbell. He was predeceased by his wife, Archousa Bebe Moore Campbell, who passed away in 2006.

Avarita Laurel Hanson, continued

On June 14, 1975, she married William A. Alexander, whom she met during their freshman year at Harvard. Throughout their forty-eight years of marriage they have lived life to the fullest, supporting each other's dreams, raising their sons, entertaining friends and traveling internationally.

Archousa Hanson often said that she had "ten careers," ranging from stints in private practice, government and academia to legal aid and advocacy. She began her legal career in 1978 as an associate attorney with Fulbright & Jaworski in Houston, where her husband did his internal medicine residency training at Baylor College of Medicine affiliated hospitals.

In 1982, after they moved to Atlanta, Archousa Hanson worked as a consultant to the Georgia Department of Administrative Services and opened her own private practice. In 1985 she became the pro bono project director of the Georgia Legal Services Program for the State Bar of Georgia. She was clerk to the Fulton County Board of Commissioners from 1990 to 1995, associate judge for the Fulton County Juvenile Court from 1995 to 1997 and executive director of the Examining Boards Division of the Georgia Secretary of State from 1997 to 1999. In 2000 she joined the faculty of John Marshall Law School, where she served as associate dean for academic affairs and chief academic officer for the JD program, taught several classes and played a critical role in the school's obtaining ABA accreditation. From 2006 to 2017 she was executive director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism for the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Since retiring in 2017, Archousa Hanson remained active, teaching legal education courses focused on social justice and the history of African American lawyers, mentoring young leaders, representing visual artists, and doing community service.

As an early member and the fourth president of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA), she was known as "Mama Rita" to three generations of attorneys who continue to benefit from her leadership and generous mentorship. The Black Law Students Associa-

tion at John Marshall Law School now bears her name. During the 1980s she hosted *Legally Speaking*, a public television program that featured female lawyers and lawyers of color.

A stalwart member of Cascade United Methodist Church for twenty-five years, she was a member of the legal ministry, its chair from 2009 to 2012, and she served on the DoCS mentoring program and the culinary ministry. She was also an active member and officer of the Gate City Bar Association, the Atlanta chapter of The Links, Inc., and Jack & Jill of Atlanta.

Archousa Hanson has been honored by many organizations, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the Harvard Alumni Association, the Radcliffe Alumni Association, GABWA, the Gate City Bar Association and the State Bar of Georgia.

In recognition of her continuing service to Harvard College – including her roles as treasurer of the Radcliffe Class of 1975; president of the Harvard Club of Georgia; director of the Radcliffe College Alumnae Association, the Harvard Alumni Association and the Harvard Black Alumni Association; and a member of the Harvard Alumni Association’s Committee to Nominate Overseers and Elected Directors – she was honored in 2022 with a Harvard Medal. More recently, in preparation for her fiftieth college reunion, she helped lead Voices of ’75, an oral history project that included Pass the Mic ’75 for all classmates, as well as an initiative for the women of Radcliffe’s Class of 1975.

Frank, honest, authentic, generous and warm, Archousa Hanson loved entertaining and opening her home to friends. An excellent cook, she perfected gourmet recipes, winning an episode on TV One’s *My Mama Throws Down*.

She is survived by her husband, Archon William A. Alexander, M.D.; her sons Justin Hanson

(Tamu Brown, M.D.) Alexander and Colin Hanson Alexander; her grandson, William Bragg Alexander; her sister Karen P. Hanson; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members and scores of close friends. She was predeceased by her parents and her sister Iona Hanson Warren.

Sybil Gayle Haydel Morial, continued

returning to New Orleans, where she taught in the Orleans Parish school system from 1959 to 1971. She was a dean and an administrator at Xavier University from 1977 to 2005. During retirement, she served on multiple Greater New Orleans boards, including the Amistad Research Center and the Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp.

A tireless civil rights activist, she was subjected to several injustices that motivated her to fight for change. In her 2015 memoir, *Witness to Change: From Jim Crow to Political Empowerment*, she described the indignity of being relegated to the balcony at the movie theater in New Orleans. She also described how she and her childhood friend Archon Andrew Young were chased out of the Isaac Delgado Museum of Art by an angry, club-wielding policeman because the two of them walked into the building. Archon Young later served as Atlanta mayor and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

As a result of the paucity of New Orleans social establishments that catered to Blacks, her family frequently hosted parties at their residence and created a cocoon within the Creole community. It is notable that she earned her master’s degree at Boston University. In 1954 she was told “We cannot accept you because Tulane does not admit Negroes” by a Tulane University dean, and she received a similar reception at Loyola University

of New Orleans. In response to being excluded from the League of Women Voters based on her race, Archousa Morial formed the Louisiana League of Good Government in 1961; its mission was to educate Black citizens on navigating voting impediments like literacy and citizenship tests. Her influence on the Black New Orleans electorate proved vital in 1967, when her husband, Archon Ernest Morial, became the first Black person elected to the Louisiana State Legislature since Reconstruction. Her support also paid dividends when he became the city’s first Black mayor in 1978. He won with 95 percent of the Black vote and 20 percent of the white vote, serving two terms. Archousa Morial remained a celebrated figure in New Orleans and was even encouraged to run for mayor four years after his death. She declined the urgings of many, but their son, Archon Marc Morial, followed in his father’s footsteps by serving as New Orleans mayor from 1994 to 2002. He is the current National Urban League CEO and president.

Archousa Morial is survived by her daughters Dr. Julie Claire Morial, Cheri Michelle Morial (Verge) Ausberry and Monique Gayle (Sandy Leonard) Morial; sons Archon Marc Haydel (Michelle) Morial and Jacques Etienne Morial; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Joseph Alphonso Pierce, Jr., continued

Pierce completed a residency in anesthesiology at Brooke General Hospital. He was assigned to serve as chief of anesthesiology and operative practices at the 2nd General Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, where he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Upon his departure from the army in 1970, Archon Pierce established a private practice in San Antonio as an anesthesiolo-

gist, remaining in that practice for forty years, holding memberships in the Texas Society of Anesthesiologists, the San Antonio Society of Anesthesiologists and the Bexar County Medical Society.

Over the years he amassed an impressive collection of some 6,000 books by African American authors, which has served as an invaluable resource to scholars, general researchers and enthusiasts alike, and he, along with Archousa Pierce and others, founded the San Antonio Ethnic Art Society, an organization focused on promoting the visual arts of African American ancestry.

He was also one of the few, if not the first, African American investors in a sports league, the San Antonio Spurs, believing in the value of grounding the franchise for the long term in the San Antonio community. He was also a charter member of the C.A. Whittier Medical Society, a board member of the African American Museum of Dallas, a life member of the NAACP and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. In 2008, in recognition of his contributions on and off the field, he was inducted into the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and in 2018 he was included in *The History Makers*, a national archive of African American leaders.

He is survived by his wife, Archousa Aaronetta Pierce; two sons: Archons Michael Arthur Pierce and Joseph Aaron Pierce; his daughter-in-law, Archousa Kama Bethel Pierce; and grandchildren Marco, Jasmine and Julian. The Gamma Phi Boulé family will always cherish the warmth of the friendship of this stalwart man.

Miriam Elizabeth Pink, continued

ness alone because her husband had to work another job to pay the bills. After overcoming many

difficulties, they finally ended up with seven retirement communities and forty-two Church's Texas Chicken restaurants.

One of her fondest memories was of the time when Archon Tillman worked at Standard Oil of Ohio and later at British Petroleum in Alaska. She was the only executive wife who did not have a college degree, but it did not make a difference – they loved her. Another fond memory was of the time when the couple had to fight to buy their first home in Los Angeles, where there had been a clause in the deed prohibiting sales to Black people. She raised so much Cain that the bank approved the loan.

Her travels included Africa, Alaska, Aruba, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, England, France, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Hawaii, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and Venezuela. Her hometowns included Anchorage, Alaska; Shaker Heights, Ohio; and Bel Air, Beverlywood, Calabasas, Long Beach, Los Feliz, Marina del Rey, Northridge, Playa del Rey and Woodland Hills, all in California. She often said, "Don't feel sorry for me, I've had a good run," echoing the sentiment of Dr. Jerry Buss, owner of the Lakers basketball team.

Archousa Pink is survived by her husband, Archon Tillman Pink, Jr.; daughters Marina and Nancy; sons Tillman and Christopher; eleven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Felicenne Houston Ramey, continued

boarding school in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

In 1957 she enrolled at Pennsylvania State University, where she studied microbiology, graduating with a B.S. in 1961. During this time she met her future husband, Melvin Ramey, with whom she shared a lifelong partnership.

The couple married on September 5, 1964, and moved to Pittsburgh, where Archousa Ramey completed an M.S. in biology at Duquesne University. When they moved to Davis, in 1967, she pursued a law degree at the University of California, Davis, graduating in 1972. After balancing the demands of law school and raising two young children, she was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1973 and subsequently established her own law practice. As if three degrees were not enough, she decided to get an M.S. in business from California State University, Sacramento, to hone her skills.

She embarked on a distinguished twenty-eight-year academic career at CSUS, holding several roles within the School of Business Administration, including professor of organizational behavior and environment, associate dean and, ultimately, dean. Her contributions extended beyond the classroom when she served as the state coordinator for the American Council on Education.

Throughout her life Archousa Ramey was dedicated to community service, serving on numerous boards and actively participating in her children's education. She and her husband shared a love for track and field, art, and African American culture, curating exhibitions, attending the Olympics, and supporting local artists and athletes.

In retirement, she continued her passion for the arts, writing three books that reflected her commitment to bridging generational gaps and celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans. She also cherished time spent with her grandchildren, hosting "Camp Nana/Grandad" and taking them on memorable trips.

Her husband, Archon Melvin Ramey, passed away in 2017. She is survived by her daughter, Daina Ramey Berry, and her son, David Ramey. She will be greatly missed

by her extended family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

The family has established the Dean Felicenne H. Ramey Memorial Endowment at CSUS for those who feel moved to contribute.

Alfred L. Reed, continued

con's ministry, which raised and dispensed thousands of dollars in scholarship support for students through the annual C. S. Hamilton Scholarship. Additionally, Archon Reed helped direct Alpha Mu's scholarship dispensations by way of the Ike and Justine Washington Scholarship, which has awarded additional tens of thousands of dollars in support to area students – a major passion and fulcrum of service for him. Service to God and service beyond self was his constant mantra. His legacy will continue to inspire, and Sigma Pi Phi and Alpha Mu will remember and honor him in what we do for others.

A longtime member of the Psi Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., he was a devoted Omega Man without question.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Archousa Florida V. Jeter Reed; a brother, Wallace Leon Reed; his godson, Gary (Odara) Jeter; brothers-in-law Garshield (Joann) Jeter, Deothus (Nezzie) Jeter, Steven Jeter and Dennis (Alfreda) Jeter; sisters-in-law Elruby (Julius) Cates, Carolyn Jeter and Sylvia Montgomery; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

George Allen Smith, continued

the top innovators of correctional dentistry in the United States. When he retired from the Public Health Service in 1995 as a navy captain, he had served a total of thirty-two years as a commissioned officer in the uniformed services. He con-

tinued his career at the Virginia Department of Corrections as chief dental director, retiring in 2015. He was later inducted into the U.S. Field Artillery OCS Hall of Fame in Oklahoma.

A man of many interests, he was an avid reader, an educator and a mentor. His favorite pastimes were playing cards, crabbing and golfing. He had an outgoing personality and a genuine love, not only for his family, but for all mankind. He enjoyed entertaining in his home, welcoming family and friends at any time of day or night, taking great delight when his guests partook of his wife's great culinary skill.

Archon Smith held many leadership positions in fraternal and community organizations, including as president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Epsilon Nu Lambda Chapter. He was a member of the Eureka Club of Portsmouth, the National Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, the Old Dominion Dental Society, the John McGriff Dental Society, the American Legion and the NAACP.

Left to cherish his memory are his devoted wife of fifty-seven years, Archousa Alma Randall Smith; his son, Gervan Allen (Heather) Smith; his daughter, Sylvia Smith Jones; grandchildren James Jones III, Jacquilyn Jones and Garrett Allen Smith; his brother, Benjamin (Angela) Smith, Jr.; his sister, Barbara Williams; his sister-in-law, Eunice Randall Crocker; brothers-in-law Clifton Crocker and Melvin Randall; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, neighbors and friends.

James Leonard Sweatt III, continued

took the test and all three passed. He then won a scholarship to Middlebury College in Vermont, where he graduated in 1958 with a degree in chemistry.

On his way home to escort his future wife to her Cotillion Idlewild

debutante ball in Dallas, Archon Sweatt had a rigorous interview at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1958 Archon Sweatt became the only Black student in his class and, later, the first Black student to graduate from the school in 1962 – even though the school had been integrated since 1947. Harvey R. Butcher, Jr., chief of general surgery at Washington University, inspired Archon Sweatt to become a surgeon. St. Louis was still segregated, but he spent most of his time on the campus or in the buildings affiliated with it – which were not segregated. Archon Sweatt made his rounds at the Black public hospital in St. Louis, Homer G. Phillips Hospital, and delivered fifty babies during his obstetrics rotation. Still, a local restaurant refused to serve him during his second year. Archon Sweatt's personal strength led him to become a steward of racial change and a leader by example. Notably, twelve years would pass before another Black student would successfully follow in his footsteps and graduate from the Washington University School of Medicine.

On June 16, 1962, Archon Sweatt married fellow Dallasite Mary Lois Hudson, his debutante, and then immediately began a medical internship at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Mary Lois held a B.A. in music and an M.A. in dance from Mills College in Oakland, California, and would later open the Mary Lois School of Dance in Dallas in 1971. As they moved around the country, Archon Sweatt and his wife were blessed with four children: James IV, William, Alisa Lois and Mary Elizabeth.

Beginning in 1963, Archon Sweatt fulfilled two years of required military service as a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. The following four years in Denver,

Colorado, were spent at the University of Colorado Medical Center (1965–68) in general surgery residency. During his third year, Archon Sweatt decided to enter cardiothoracic surgery after conducting research on heart valve replacement and doing mitral valve surgeries in the tuberculosis unit at Colorado's National Jewish Hospital. Upon his return to Dallas, Archon Sweatt specialized in thoracic surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern and Parkland Memorial Hospital from 1969 to 1971.

Opening his practice in Dallas, and early in his career, Archon Sweatt was appointed to the board of directors of Parkland Hospital in 1975 – the first Black and one of the first physicians to serve on the county hospital's governing body. He served a term as president of the C.V. Roman Medical Society for Black physicians, and in 1995 the Dallas County Medical Society (DCMS) installed him as its first Black president. Prior to this milestone, Archon Sweatt had a record of twenty years of service on DCMS committees, including chairing the board of censors and serving on the board of directors and the Texas Medical Association (TMA) delegation. Archon Sweatt was a member of the Texas Political Action Committee's board of directors, the American College of Surgeons, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American Medical Association and the National Medical Association. He was also a Southwestern Medical Foundation trustee and a past president of the TMA.

In 1996 Archon Sweatt was presented the Middlebury College Alumni Achievement Award. In 2000 he was appointed to Southwest Texas State University's board of regents by then Governor George W. Bush. In 2001 Archon Sweatt was nominated and received the Outstanding Texan Award from the Texas House of Representatives, which recog-

nized him in the 77th Legislative Session's Resolution Number 402. In 2002 Archon Sweatt spoke as the commencement speaker for Southwest Texas State University.

In 2003 Archon Sweatt retired from full-time medical practice but later started medical consulting with the United States Social Security Administration and then the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Washington University created a scholarship to "encourage and support high-achieving postbaccalaureate premedical students who meet the specified criteria" and named it the James L. Sweatt Scholarship. Archon Sweatt also received a plaque and a tailor-made Washington University suit jacket as part of the Alumni Achievement Award he received at the Washington University School of Medicine's awards program in 2020.

In the community Archon Sweatt was president of the Thomas L. Marsalis Elementary School's parent-teacher association when his children were students there. He was a frequent guest speaker for Black History Month at Dallas schools and earned a PTA life membership. At St. Luke Presbyterian Church on Singing Hills Drive in Dallas, Archon Sweatt performed the duties of ruling elder and chairman of the budget and finance committee for many years. A member of many community boards, he served on the board of the Grace Presbyterian Village in the Oak Cliff neighborhood of Dallas. Archon Sweatt particularly enjoyed Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and its providing of scholarships to college-bound young Black men. Other organizations he served with included Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and the Cotillion Idlewild Club. Archon Sweatt also volunteered to present brief messages about general health topics on KKDA-FM radio. By this time Archon Sweatt had also been the emcee for his

wife's dance school recitals for many years.

Archon Sweatt truly embraced a lifelong love of reading and learning, enjoyed good Texas barbecue, and traveled extensively around the world with his wife. An avid golfer, Archon Sweatt earned many trophies from competing in numerous golf tournaments over the years. A true Dallas Cowboys fan, he and his wife attended season games and even watched in person when the Cowboys won Super Bowl XXVII on January 31, 1993.

Archon Sweatt loved his family with a loyal, strong and steadfast devotion and absolutely adored his grandchildren. Indeed, he once remarked that his greatest achievement was becoming a grandfather!

Archon Sweatt was preceded in death by his wife, the late Archousa Mary Lois Hudson Sweatt. He is survived by his four children and their spouses, James L. (Ulysesa) Sweatt IV, William H. Sweatt, Alisa Lois Sweatt (Edison) Rolle and Mary Elizabeth Sweatt (Michael) Jackson; fourteen grandchildren, Imani, Marc, Edison II (Sydney), Myles, Nia, Katarina, Cristina, Remington, Madison, Hudson, Zuri, William, Zahra and Sofia; one great-granddaughter, Hayden Laura; cousins Hemella Sweatt (Lester) Duplechan and Heman (Jo) Sweatt; former daughter-in-law Ana Cristina Santos Sweatt; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Porcher L. Taylor, Jr., continued

ROTC, also known as the Tuskegee Airmen. In 1948 he was among a group of trailblazers who chartered the Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity at Tuskegee. He went on to earn an M.S. from Virginia State University in 1962, and he earned his Ph.D. at USC in 1972.

He retired from the military with the rank of colonel, having served in World War II, the Korean

War and the Vietnam War with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. He received more than twenty military awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star. He graduated from six military schools, including the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

Inducted into the Tuskegee ROTC Hall of Fame, he received the Brigadier General Noel F. Parrish Award, the highest award given by the Tuskegee Airmen. He broke racial barriers as a member of the 555th "Triple Nickels," the army's first and only all-Black parachute battalion; and while in the navy he was among the first African Americans trained at the Great Lakes Seaman's School. In addition to his legendary military career, he served as a professor, counseling director and vice president at Virginia State University.

In 1985 he was selected as one of Tuskegee Institute's All-Time Greatest Football Athletes and was inducted into the Tuskegee Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2014 he was named Virginian of the Year by the Virginia Press Association. An avid community servant, he was a member of dozens of boards and civic organizations and a devoted member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. For thirty-seven years he chaired the Downtown Churches United (DCU) Walk Against Hunger, which in 2017 was renamed the P.T. Taylor/DCU Walk Against Hunger. He has received more than 300 commendations, resolutions, honors and awards.

Archon Taylor is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Archousa Ann Taylor; his son, Porcher (April) Taylor III; daughters Vernita Taylor, Angela (Harold) Butler, Cheryl Taylor and Annette (Bobby) Smith-Lee; five grandchildren; two great-grand-

children; and many other family members and friends.

His interment took place on October 18, 2024, at Arlington National Cemetery, where full military honors were accorded.

Wendell Carter Thomas, continued

and his wife established Fall City Smokers and purchased a professional smoker that allowed him to travel across the country competing in barbecues and winning trophies and monetary awards. One of his competitions was highlighted on the Food Channel.

Archon Thomas leaves to cherish his memory his daughter, April Thomas; his son, Oliver Thomas; three grandchildren; many other relatives; and a host of friends and fraternity brothers. He was preceded in death by his wife, Archousa Ernestine Thomas, and his son Calvin Thomas. His love for his family and friends will forever be etched in the minds and hearts of all who knew him.

Reginald R. Webb, continued

role of regional vice president of Southern California. In 1985 the Webb family became McDonald's franchisees, starting with two restaurants in Pomona and then expanding to Baldwin Park, Claremont, La Puente, Montclair, Ontario and San Bernardino. As trailblazers in Black-owned franchises, they established Webb Family Enterprises as a model of successful franchise ownership, growing the business to sixteen locations in the Inland Empire by the time Archon Webb retired in May 2021. His dedication to education, charitable outreach, health, business and social justice has had a lasting impact.

Deeply committed to the economic empowerment of Black and marginalized communities, he remained focused on helping others rise with him, founding the Cooperative Economic Empowerment Movement to empower Black entrepreneurs in creating generational wealth for their families through business and community collaboration. In December 2021 California State University, San Bernardino, recognized the contributions of Archon Webb and his wife, awarding them honorary doctorates of humane letters.

Archon Webb served on numerous boards, including the Los Angeles Urban League and Pomona Valley Hospital, and in 2004 he received the prestigious 365Black Award from McDonald's, honoring his commitment to strengthening African American communities.

An advocate for higher education, he encouraged his children to earn degrees before they took part in the family business. He joined the University of La Verne Board of Trustees in 2014, actively working on finance committees, generously supporting scholarships and taking time to mentor students through African American campus organizations. "He was deeply engaged, believing in our mission and community service," said Sherri Mylott, vice president of university advancement. "A tireless advocate for the underrepresented, his commitment to service is unparalleled."

A beacon of strength, a loving husband and father, and a true leader, his life was a testament to the power of love and the impact one person can have on so many.

He is survived by his beloved wife of more than fifty years, Archousa René Webb; sons Karim Webb and Archon Kyle Webb; his daughter, Kiana Webb; six cherished grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

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

Grapter guidelines and full submission requirements are available at the Grapter Portal.

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

Spring 2026
Volume 90
Number 1

SUBMISSION DEADLINE*:
December 15, 2025

** All articles documenting Christmas Is for the Archousai events must be submitted on the Grapter Portal by January 15, 2026.*

Please do not email articles and photos.

All articles and photos must be uploaded to the Grapter Portal at sigmapiphi.com.

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.



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