

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Xi Phi Chapter
Founded 1926

THE
OMEGA

EXPRESS
ΩΨΦ

*The Who, What, Why, and Where-
abouts of Omega men in Xi Phi, a
Graduate Chapter in New York City*

Vol. 12, No. 2

Rebirth Through Community Involvement

November 2001

75th Anniversary Edition

November 11, 1926 to November 11, 2001

THE HISTORY OF XI PHI

The Beginning:

Xi Phi Chapter is Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's oldest graduate chapter in New York City. It was founded on November 11, 1926 by a group of graduate and professional men dedicated to Omega's cardinal principles.

The Charter Members were Nathaniel A. Burrell, Jr. (Epsilon, 1920), Richard E. Carey, Esq. (Alpha, 1914), Lisle C. Carter, D.D.S. (Epsilon, 1922), Conrad A. Edwards, M.D. (Epsilon, 1923), James T. W. Granady, M.D. (Alpha, 1917) and William H. Pleasants (Alpha, 1911).

The first line to cross the "Burning Sands" into Xi Phi Chapter consisted of eight thoroughly immersed men of distinction who were inducted on November 11, 1926. They were: William H. Allen, M.D., Edward E. Best, M.D., Arthur L. Donnelly, D.D.S., Alexander C. Garner, D.D., Philip J. Jones, Archibald D. Lewis, F. Theodore Reid, M.D., and Ellis B. Weatherless, Esq.

Very active during this period that was referred to as the Harlem Renaissance,

was noted Poet, Essayist, Novelist, Playwright, Journalist and Lyricist Langston Hughes known then as The Poet Laureate of Harlem.

The Present:

In 1982, with approximately 25 Brothers, Xi Phi was reactivated with the intent to re-establish the Chapter as a viable force in New York City and Omegadom.

Brothers elected to lead the Chapter through the reactivation process were Butler B. Dowery, Wade H. Isreal, John L. Staton, Ray Johnson, Henry D. Biggart and Charles C. Thomas.

Through neighborhood clean-ups, voter registration drives, book and clothing drives, feeding the homeless at St. John the Divine Church, volunteer work with the senior citizens of the Greater Harlem Nursing Home, mentoring program for high school males, painting the interior of various churches and scholarship awards for high school and college students, we have found positive ways to give something back to the community.

Community Uplift through Perseverance (CUP), Inc., is our fund-raising arm that allows us to support our charitable activities such as the Black College Tour and scholarship awards.

Our Black College Tour has taken over 450 students from the New York metropolitan area to 16 historically African-American colleges and universities in North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

The Omega Express, first published in the Fall of 1990, and our web site (Fall, 1999) is the voice of Xi Phi chapter that chronicles the activities and achievements of the members of chapter and to make those activities known to the community that we serve.

"Our Rebirth through Community Involvement."



Xi Phi Chapter Charter 1926

Basilei Reflections

Bro. Butler B. Dowery 1983 – 1988



Basileus Emeritus

In the early years, Xi Phi Chapter had housed such notables as Richard E. Carey, Langston Hughes, Nathaniel Burwell and Judge Dennis Edwards and was distinguished for its elitism.

In 1982 Xi Phi was reactivated with the intent to re-establish the Chapter as a viable force in New York City and Omegadom.

The thrust of our programmatic approach was community involvement. Programs developed included Block Clean-Up, Voter Registration, Black College Tour, Urban League Football Classic, Life Membership in the NAACP, Reclamation, Boy's Choir of Harlem Concert and a Scholarship Fund. There was a concerted effort to publicize the Chapter's involvement that helped with the Chapter's Reclamation Program.

Under the banner of "Our Rebirth Through Community Involvement", Xi Phi has become a force in the New York community and in the Second District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Bro. Neville Evans 1995 – 1997 Past Basileus



As the facts remind me, Xi Phi has an abundance of intellectual wealth and great talent. Furthermore, we are working to renew our financial resources. For Xi Phi, the issue is not survival. Rather, the issue is to maintain and to support our highest aspirations and integrity, and to continue to excel at every endeavor upon which we choose to embark. That is our obligation to those who have been creating and recreating Omega since its beginnings, and it is our obligation to future generations of Brothers. As we do this, we should remember that "Friendship is Essential to the Soul" and that we must work to create something better if we truly believe in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Bro. Winder E. D. Fisher 1989 – 1991 Past Basileus



As we begin the fall season, many of our achievements over the past year have resulted in considerable growth, career development and personal attainment by the Brothers of Xi Phi.

I feel constantly pressured to get on with all of the unfinished business and new challenges which require us to exhibit all of the four cardinal principles – Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. Our fraternity will be charged with the responsibility of maintaining the quality of new initiates into the Brotherhood under the constraints of the new Intake Program.

We have also been busy developing fund raising ventures for the upcoming year to finance the many social action programs for which Xi Phi has become known. Your participation and support will ensure the continued success of all our Omega endeavors.

Bro. Kevin J. Woodhouse 1998 – 2000 Immediate Past Basileus



The Brothers of Xi Phi Chapter are committed to progressive action promoting positive change in our community through our Scholarship programs and Social Action events.

From our Dinner Dance to our luncheon cruise and theater parties, we were successful and have put the funds taken in to good use in aiding our community outreach.

Our Voter Registration drives registered well over 125 people to vote. Our Clothing Drive, Book Drive and participation in the Charles R. Drew Memorial Blood Drive gives testament to the Social Action agenda of the Chapter.

The Black College Tour has taken over 450 Junior and Senior High School Students to 11 historically African-American Colleges and Universities .

With God's help we will remain a force for good to our friends and to our community.

Bro. John W. Williams 1992 – 1994 Past Basileus



Xi Phi Chapter has continued to be a vital, growing part of this great Fraternity. We have seen brothers returning to institutions of higher learning and continuing to assume positions of greater responsibility.

We have just completed the first four months of the 1992-93 year and have now formed a tax-exempt corporation, Community Uplift through Perseverance, Inc., to advance programs to benefit African American youth. This accomplishment may prove to be one of the defining moments for Xi Phi.

As we look back, we should also look forward and prepare to strive for success in other venues, including Black College Tour and our annual Mardi Gras.

The men of Xi Phi will need to buckle down and aggressively support these important events.

Bro. Dominick Boyce 2001 - Basileus



I am honored and grateful to have the opportunity to lead the "original" oldest graduate Chapter in New York City.

I have accepted this honor because I believe that Xi Phi is poised to continue building on its exceptional place in the Greater Metropolitan Area, the District and in the Fraternity. I want to do all that I can to enhance the work that the Brothers have already accomplished and that they wish to begin.

What will it take? Time, hard work, commitment, friendship and much more. No good deeds come without sacrifice. If Xi Phi focuses on the quality of its programs and the extent to which these programs are consistent with the core values, cardinal principles and mission of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, we will achieve our aim at the highest level.

The Mission and Goals of C.U.P., Inc.

Community Uplift through Perseverance, Inc. (C.U.P.) is the chapter's not-for-profit corporation that sponsors the fund-raising activities. Money that is generated is used for our social action programs most notable of which is the Black College Tour and direct scholarships.

The mission and goals of C.U.P. is to promote the well being of African-American children and young adults; to promote educational programs through scholarship funds and assistance for the advancement of education and to promote such other programs that are beneficial to the youths and adults of the African-American community in the State of New York.

To solicit, collect and otherwise raise money for charitable, philanthropic, educational and benevolent purposes;

To expend, contribute and disburse collected funds for such purpose, either directly or by contributions to other agencies, organizations or institutions organized for the same or similar purposes.

To raise funds to acquire a building that will be used to carry out the corporation's charitable and philanthropic mission and provide a facility that can be used to benefit the African-American community.

To build a capital fund of such magnitude that the proceeds (interest, dividends, etc.) will be sufficient to support a significant portion of the corporation's charitable and philanthropic activities. Such a fund would serve as the base for our acquisition of the building mentioned above.



The Black College Tour – The Crown Jewel of Xi Phi Chapter

Since 1988 the Black College Tour (BCT) has taken over 500 students from the New York metropolitan area to 16 historically African-American colleges and universities in North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. The program is enhanced by preparatory workshops designed to give students a greater understanding of their career options and the educational requirements needed to fulfill them. Eighty-five percent of the students who participate in the program go on to college. Thirty-five percent of those students choose a college that was visited on the Tour.

Through our continuing mission to uplift and educate, we also work to raise the awareness of parents who may still underestimate the success of a traditional Black institution. For example, today the graduating class of 2000 at Howard University has more National Achievement Scholars than any other school in the country, including the University of Virginia and Harvard University.

Crossed the Burning Sands of Xi Phi Chapter



November 11, 1926

Allen, William H.
Best, Edward E.
Donnelly, Arthur L.
Garner, Alexander C.
Jones, Philip J.
Lewis, Archibald D.
Reid, F. Theodore
Weatherless, Ellis B.

December, 1928

Hanson, Theodore E.

December 1, 1929

Miller, Frederick H.

April, 1984



Carter, Daniel
Cash, John O.
Colter, Leroy
Cook, Donald
Hurlock, Byron O.
Johnson, Leo
Marzette, David
Smith, Duane
Stokes, Harry

April, 1985

Amaker, Donald
Burnett, Darren
Defreitas, Louis
Cooper, Hinton
Clarke, Derrick
Howard, Craig
Roberts, Wilburt
Ricks, Richard



December, 1985

Allen, Clarence
Askew, Jesse
Barrett, E. Clyde
Brinson, Benny
Cuestas, F. Vincent
Ellis, Robert
Gumbs, Maurice
Lambert, Leonard
Prince, Vernon
Ramsey, Joseph
Russell, George
Staplefoote, Gregory
Wade, Jay

November, 1986

Baron, Lyle
Deal, Eugene
Forde, George
Goff, Leroy
Joseph, Cecil
Sanders, Theophalius

April, 1988

Barrant, Neville
Bell, Carl
Charles, Robert
Israel, William
McFadden, Anthony
Roberts, Emile
Tyree, Darryl
Washington, J. Barry
West, Ronald

February, 1990

Aytch, E. Monticello



Britt, Michael A.
Duncan, Wayne T.
Evans, Adam T.
Houston, Robert G.
Johnson, Cornell S.
Lane, Michael W.
Nyabongo, Amoti
Oliver, Melvin J.

April, 1992



Abel, Roger L.
Baker, Maurice L.
Bussey, Rodrick C.
Clarke, Richard
Fair, Jr, Ernest
Hairston, Brian M.
Lopez, David T.
McBride, Jr, T. Edward
Palmer, Jesse A.
Talton, W. Tyrone
Touba, Derrick R.
Wells, Paul

December, 1993



Balmer, Horace
Morgan, Kenneth
Phaire, Chris
Powell, Eric
Ringwood, Michael
Wright, Marc

April, 1995



Bradley, Charles T
Colon, Jay C.
Farmer, Sebastian
Irvin, Dwain
Jones, Donald G.
Oliver, Darrell
Porter, Alvin S.
Smith, Ernest
Thompson, James

November, 1995



Boyce, Dominick S.
Covington, Jeffrey
Smith, Dan
Taylor, Derrick
Walker, Randolph C.
Watts, George K.
Williams, Gregg J.
Witsell, Gerard

November, 1996



Gadson, Robert
Garner Rodney W.
Johnson, Eugene
McDonald, Moriba
Rodgers, James
Wilson, Jim

December, 1998



Hall, Adrian
Mayor, Joe D.O.
Watson, Joseph



February, 2000



Eric Clay
Gregory Harris
Joseph Monsanto
Charles C. Nelson
John Turner

January, 2001



Robert K. Farrow
Leroy Hendricks, Jr.
Jamal Joseph
Lawerance A. Miller
William T. Sutphin



PSALM 133

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down on the beard even Aaron's beard; that went down to the skirts of his garments. As the dew of Hermon, and as dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD commanded the blessings, even life for evermore.

Achievement Week

The Achievement Week program was the brainchild of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and was originally designed to promote the study of African-American life and history. Dr. Woodson believed that an accurate understanding of our history would promote pride within the African-American community and foster great respect from society. Today, the Achievement Week program is used to identify and give due recognition to those individuals at the local and national level who have made noteworthy contributions toward improving the quality of life in the African-American community.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. observes

it National Achievement Week Program during November of each year. Achievement Week is a nationally mandated program of the Fraternity where two outstanding individuals, a Brother and a Community Leader, are recognized and honored for their contributions and achievements. As such, these individuals receive the Chapter's Omega Man of the Year and Citizen of the Year awards respectively.

Each Chapter also recognizes those Brothers who have provided outstanding service to the Chapter during the preceding year. For this service, Chapter Brothers are awarded the Fraternity's National Service Award, also known as the Scroll of Honor.

Since its inception, the Achievement Week celebration has provided a conduit for this great organization to inform the community at large about our accomplishments and the plans we have for the future. The Achievement Week celebration also provides a podium for giving voice to those themes of concern to the community and inviting honorees to offer solutions for those concerns.

As the new century dawns, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Xi Phi Chapter will continue to use this forum to recognize and honor those who participate in the ongoing struggle to make our community a better place.

Omega Man of the Year

- 1984 Henry Sneed
- 1985 Irving Robinson, MD
- 1986 Butler B. Dowery
- 1987 George McDonald, Esq.
- 1988 John L. Staton
- 1989 John H. Williams
- 1990 Winder E. D. Fisher
- 1991 John Hatchett
- 1992 Spencer Pompey
- 1993 Reginald A. Long, Esq.
- 1994 John O. Cash
- 1995 Butler B. Dowery
- 1996 Neville Evans
- 1997 Dominick S. Boyce
- 1998 David P. Gardner
- 1999 Kevin J. Woodhouse
- 2000 T. Edward McBride, Jr.
- 2001 Jeffrey Covington



Citizen of the Year

- 1984 Argie Johnson
- 1985 William Porter
- 1986 Hon. Cecil P. Joseph
- 1987 William Richardson
- 1988 Frankye Everett Graves
- 1989 Hilda Estelle Larrier
- 1990 Hon. C. Virginia Fields
- 1991 Edward Lewis
- 1992 Richard T. Green
- 1993 Robert B. Greene
- 1994 Herbert Whiteman
- 1995 Milton Stroud, Ph.D.
- 1996 Demetria Thomas
- 1997 Bernie Callender
- 1998 Horace Balmer, Jr.
- 1999 Dennis Walcott
- 2000 Evelyn Jenkins Gunn, Ph.D.
- 2001 Howard Dodson, Ph.D.



Social Action Projects



"Walk against Domestic Violence"



Blood Drive



Clothing Drive



Voter Registration w/Carl McCall



Feeding the Homeless



Blood Drive



Voter Registration



Book Drive



Blood Drive



Clothing Drive w/recipients



Project Aspiration



Xi Phi co-sponsors Theater Production at the Schomburg Center



Whitney M. Young Football Classics



BCT Fundraising at the Showman's



BCT Students on return home



OMEGA CHAPTER

Omega Chapter (not to be confused with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.) is the final resting place for all Greek lettered fraternities and sororities. Whenever a brother from Omega Psi Phi passes away a part of our fraternity's star is diminished and a link in our chain is broken. The voices of these brothers will no longer rise in majestic cadence when our hymn is sung. These departed Xi Phi chapter brothers were active, supportive and instrumental in the growth of Xi Phi chapter. Our Fraternity was proud of them in life, and in death, wishes that they be not forgotten. May they rest in peace.

**William Love III
Michael Moore
Gregory Staplefoot**

**Richard Washington
Ben Grant
Herbert Whiteman**

**John Hatchet
Spencer Pompey
Robert "Skip" Moore**

**Lee Palmer Jordan
Gary Johnson
George D. McDonald**



Gary Johnson, Spencer Pompey, Lee Palmer Jordan, Ben Grant and John Hatchet (l to r)



Richard Washington



George McDonald, Gregory Staplefoot, Michael Moore and Herb Whiteman



Founders: Oscar J. Cooper, Frank Coleman, Ernest E. Just and Edgar A. Love (clockwise from top left)



Omega Psi Phi Plot at Howard University



Original Members of Xi Phi (circa 1926)



*Your gentle face and patient smile
With sadness we recall,
You had a kindly word for each
And died beloved by all.*



*You are not forgotten loved one
Nor will you ever be
As Long as life and memory last
We will remember thee*



Xi Phi Chapter Officers for 2001

Dominick Boyce, Basileus
Derrick Touba, Vice Basileus
Jeffrey Covington, Keeper of Records and Seal
Kevin J. Woodhouse, Keeper of Finance
Derrick Taylor, Chaplain
Joe D. O. Mayor, Keeper of Peace
T. Edward McBride, Jr., Editor, Web Master, PR
Kevin J. Woodhouse, Immediate Past Basileus
Neville Evans, Past Basileus
Butler B. Dowery, Basileus Emeritus

Community Uplift through Perseverance, Inc. Board of Trustees for 2001

Winder E. D. Fisher, Chairman
Wade Isreal, Vice Chairman
Neville Evans, Secretary
John O. Cash, Treasurer
Butler B. Dowery, Member
Jerome S. Daniel, DDS, Member
David O. Gardner, Member

The Omega Express

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Chapter Photographer

Kevin J. Woodhouse



From the Editor

Bro. T. Edward McBride, Jr.



This issue of the Omega Express is dedicated to all that have been involved with Xi Phi chapter over the past 75 years. It would be impossible to chronicle all of Xi Phi's history in 7 pages, but what I attempted to show is the highlights of the chapter's activities through photographs.

I was fortunate to have access to Brothers Rudy Powell and Eddie Taylor who attended many meetings and functions of Xi Phi back in the day and provided me with much history prior to reactivation. I was also fortunate to be in possession of two photo albums given to me by the late Gary Johnson when I succeeded him as Chapter Editor. There are some of you that may come across photographs in this issue that you haven't seen in some time, if at all.

I would like to quote Brother Johnson from his first issue of the Omega Express in 1990:

"This newsletter serves as one of several ways in which the Xi Phi Chapter outreaches to our Brothers and Sisters, in and out of our fraternal organization. We want you to be aware of our accomplishments, what we are doing now, and what we plan for the future. You should know this, because we want you to be a part of our future endeavors to uplift our people and community."

Happy 75th Anniversary Xi Phi Chapter.
T.Ed



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Address Correction Requested

"Friendship is Essential to the Soul"
www.geocities.com/xiphichapter